

PS/MS 219 “CELLPHONE POLICY” 2017-2018

SCHOOL-BASED POLICY OF PS/MS 219 FOR USE OF CELL PHONES, COMPUTING DEVICES, AND PORTABLE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are permitted to bring the following electronic items to school: 1) cell phones; 2) laptops, tablets, iPads and other similar computing devices (“computing devices”); and 3) portable music and entertainment systems including video recording and photographing devices, such as iPods, MP3 players, PSP, and Nintendo DS, etc.

A. The use of cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems at school is subject to the restrictions below.

During the school day:

1. Cell phones and computing devices portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used while on school property.
2. Cell phones and computing devices portable music and entertainment systems may not be visible, held, turned on, or used, during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination. The same rule is in effect for earphones.
3. Cell phones, computing devices, portable music and entertainment systems ***may not be present*** in the same room and area during administration of any NYS Regents Examination. The same rule is in effect for earphones. Arrangements will be made to collect, store, and return devices for Regents testing.
4. Use of cell phones, computing devices, portable music and entertainment systems and other electronic devices during the administration of state standardized examinations is governed by State Education Department Rules. The same rule is in effect for earphones.
5. Cell phones, computing devices, portable music and entertainment systems may not be held, visible, turned on, or used during school fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises. The same rule is in effect for earphones.
6. Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may not be taken to or used in bathrooms. The same rule is in effect for earphones.
7. Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may not be visible, held, turned on, or used, during outside activities such as but not limited to recess, physical education, and/or trips off campus.
8. With approval by the Principal or his designee, students may use their cell phone or device to call or to make contact parents or guardians or adults listed on that student’s “Blue Card” in a designated area in the office or counselor’s office.

B. The use of cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems at school is subject to the restrictions below.

During after school activities and after school programs:

- Cell phones may not be held, turned on or used, during instructional time, except for instructional and educational purposes with the explicit approval of the Principal.

- School-sponsored activities: the same rules apply as for during the day. Reminder, earphones or other speaker devices including built into a device may not be in use or worn in ears or on outside clothing at any time in the building. Case by case exceptions may be made by the Principal.
- Students may use their own device for their own entertainment **as they leave the building such from the lobby**. No sound should be heard from a device within the building.

C. Additional notes regarding cell phones and technology

The school recognizes and acknowledges parents' concerns and desires to maintain communication with their children via cell phones. Please keep in mind:

- No child is ever denied a request to contact a parent or guardian during the day. Staff accommodates all requests in a timely manner. When necessary, and in certain circumstances at the request of staff as stated above, with permission of the Principal, students may make this type of call with their own device under supervision in the office or counselor's offices.
- Students will have opportunities to print their work at school on school hardware. Students may use a flash drive or if staff is willing, from an online storage system such as Google Docs or DropBox.
- **PS/MS 219 cannot be responsible for damages to devices or lost or stolen devices. Students bring Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems at their own risk.**

D. Confiscation and return of electronic items

School-based policies must describe the procedures for the confiscation, storage and return of electronic devices. In determining whether to confiscate an electronic device, schools should consider the nature of the violation. Where appropriate, measures should be instituted in a progressive fashion. Such measures may include in order, but are not limited to:

- warnings
- confiscation of item and return at end of school day
- confiscation of item and return following parent conference
- confiscation of item and return following student entering into behavioral contract
- confiscation/return to parent and revocation of privilege to bring item to school.

E. Discipline

School-based policies must state that students who use cell phones, computing devices, and/or portable music and entertainment system in violation of any provision of the DOE's Discipline Code, the school's policy, Chancellor Regulation A-413, and/or the DOE's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy ("ISUSP") will be subject to discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.