

Dear High School Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to share an important update regarding cell phones and personal electronic devices (PED).

The TCAPS Board of Education selected to implement an "Away for the Day" policy which has shown positive impacts on learning and student interactions in schools. The primary goal of the updated Board Policy 5136 is *"to enrich the learning environment by reducing external distractions, enhancing student focus, and fostering social interactions."*

At the high school level this policy will limit cell phone usage during all instructional times for all students. Here are the policy details regarding cell phone usage for all TCAPS high schools:

- Hallways & Cafeteria
  - Cell phones, Airpods, headphones and personal electronic devices (PEDs) MAY be used during passing periods, during lunch and before/after school.
- Classrooms
  - Cell phones, Airpods, headphones and PEDs MAY NOT be used at any time. All cell phones MUST be checked into classroom cell phone pockets at the beginning of each class period. Cell phones, Airpods, headphones and PEDs MAY NOT be used in the library during class periods.
- Bathrooms & Locker Rooms
  - Cell phones, Airpods, headphones and PEDs MAY NOT be used at any time.

When expectations are not followed, students will be asked to place their cell phones, Airpods, headphones or/and PEDs in a secure envelope. They can be picked up at the end of the school day from the students' office. Repeat violations of this policy will result in additional consequences.

We believe that by minimizing distractions and promoting face-to-face interactions, we can create a more focused and positive learning environment at TCAPS high schools. Thank you for supporting a focused learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

John R. VanWagoner II, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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