Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to West in the fall. As educators, we are committed to providing the best learning environment for our students, which involves fostering focused and productive classrooms. With this goal in mind, we are writing to inform you about classroom cell phone guidelines that we will be implementing this year.

Our students learn and grow when they are fully present and actively engaged. They cannot do this if they are always attached to their phones. Technology keeps students from spending time with their peers, managing face to face conflict, focusing on their studies, and actively participating in classroom discussions and debates. West teachers have wonderful activities and curriculum experiences planned. As students are constantly distracted by a barrage of texts, emails and social media notifications, these experiences are losing their value and our academic environment is suffering. At the end of this letter, we have included a list of references that support these assertions for your review.

To improve our classroom experience, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the following guidelines will be implemented in select cohort members’ classrooms:

1. Cell phones must be turned off or switched to silent mode during school hours, including class time unless explicitly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.
2. Cell phones will be securely stored in cell phone pockets or in classroom cell phone lockers (provided by the teacher) to prevent distractions during classes.
3. The use of cell phones for non-academic purposes, such as texting, gaming, or social media, is strictly prohibited during class time.
4. In the event of an emergency, students may use designated school phones or seek permission from a teacher to access their cell phones.
5. Students may not wear earbuds to listen to music during the class period. There may be times when they access earbuds to watch content related videos.

We kindly request your support and cooperation in reinforcing these guidelines at home. There are a variety of services that allow parents to regulate internet access during the day which will further reduce the temptation to use the phone during the school day. By working together, we can create an optimal learning environment that fosters concentration, active participation, and academic achievement.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the cell phone guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact me at [astone@cbsd.org](astone%40cbsd.org). We value your input and appreciate your partnership in ensuring the success of our students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Alison Stone

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Central Bucks High School West

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