

Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Communication Devices

Maintaining an environment where students can focus on their academic success is important at Tamanend Middle School. Policy 829, Personal Electronic Communication Devices (PECD), notes that unless a **teacher determines otherwise**, PECD's must be turned off upon entering any instructional area. It also states that many PECD's have 3G/4G mobile broadband connections to the Internet, students use of such connections to access resources/websites that are blocked by the district is prohibited. Because of this objective, we seek to minimize distractions which can impact on work in the classroom and elsewhere in our building. An important example here is how we address the issues of cell phones and personal electronic devices on campus.

Tamanend follows the CB middle school policy regarding cell phones and PECD's. Note the following:

- The use of cell phones/PECD's during the school day is prohibited, unless a **teacher determines otherwise** from the time students arrive to school until dismissal at 2:30 p.m.
- Students are directed to turn off their cell phones/PECD's when they arrive at school.
- Students are directed to put their cell phones/PECD's in their lockers. Cell phones/PECD's are not to be taken out during the school day.

Using a cell phone during the school day interferes with the expected and necessary connection between the school and its students. As always, parents can contact their child through the office.

Please note the following:

- **If a student has a cell phone/PECD out during the school day, the consequence (after the student is directed to place the device in his or her locker) for the first time occurrence is a one-hour detention. Any subsequent occurrence will result in a two one-hour detentions and denial of the privilege to bring a cell phone to school for as long as one marking period.**

Problem solving throughout the school day is an important part of the maturation process for young adolescents. Parents place their trust in the school to give direction and structure; and to help students grow and learn independence. We ask that the only text or voice messages you send to your child during the school day are those which can be checked after 2:30 p.m. If a message absolutely must be given to your student before the end of the school day, please call the school office. We also ask that you monitor the usage of the cell phones\PECD's which you give your child to ensure that it is not being used at any time during the school day.

Cell Phones and other PECD's are wonderful technological devices with many benefits. However, for our students during the school day, they must be turned off and placed in the locker so that it is not a distraction from their learning. Thanks for your help.