Learn4Life High School-Charleston

Cell Phone Policy 2024-2025

Our goal at Learn4Life High School-Charleston is to foster an environment where students can focus on learning and develop the self-management skills needed for academic and personal success. While cell phones can be valuable tools for communication and learning, their use can also distract from the educational process. To support a focused and productive learning environment, we have established the following cell phone policy, in accordance with the South Carolina Model Cell Phone Policy, Proviso 1.103.

Proviso 1.103. (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) To receive state funds allocated for State Aid to Classrooms, a school district shall implement a policy adopted by the State Board of Education that prohibits access to personal electronic communication devices by students during the school day. For purposes of this provision, a personal electronic communication device is considered to be a device not authorized for classroom use by a student, utilized to access the Internet, wi-fi, or cellular telephone signals.

1. Classroom Settings/Instructional Time

- Cell phones, and other devices used as a phone must be turned off and out of sight during all instructional periods, including lectures, group work, independent learning, and teacher-led activities.

2. Independent Learning Time (Flexible Periods)

- Learn4Life will provide a learning device to all students for support during independent learning time and academic achievement (e.g., research, managing assignments, or using educational apps) or for a limited, brief personal check-in.
- Social media, gaming, and streaming are not permitted during school hours, even during independent learning periods.

3. Hallways, Common Areas, and Lunchtime

- Students may use their cell during lunch/dismissal to ensure transportation is arranged, provided they do so responsibly and do not disrupt others.
- Respect for Privacy: Taking photos, videos, or audio recordings of others is strictly prohibited, in accordance with school privacy policies.

4. General Guidelines and Reminders

- Emergency Contacts: Parents and guardians should call the main office for urgent or emergency communication through the main office during class time to avoid disrupting instructional time.
- Self-Responsibility/Accountability: Students are responsible for keeping their cell phones secure. The school is not liable for lost or stolen devices.

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for Violations: If students use their cell phone or other non-school issued device during instructional time, the teacher will confiscate the device until the end of the day. Repeated offenses may result in additional consequences, including parent/guardian contact, parent meeting, or suspension.

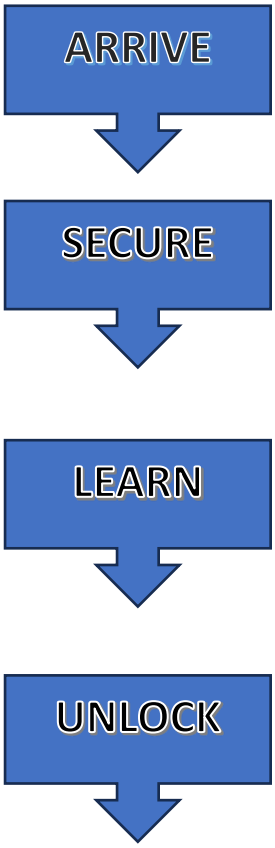
Consequences for Misuse: Damage or loss of school issued technology will result in a fine issued to the student/parent, with a requirement of pay before a device is reassigned or fixed and reissued.

This policy is intended to provide students with the opportunity to manage their phone use responsibly and to support a positive, focused learning environment. We appreciate the cooperation of students and parents in upholding these guidelines.

Turn Over

Cell Phone Policy Implementation & Procedures

In accordance with the South Carolina law, "FREE to FOCUS" proviso 1.103 students are PROHIBITED from using a cell phone or other non-school issued devices during the school day. At Learn4Life this includes the 4-hour daily learning period for both AM cohort and PM cohort.



1. **ARRIVE:** Upon arrival student will be scanned. Before entering the "phone-FREE Zone" the student phone will be placed in a "SAFE Pouch".

2. **SECURE:** Once the phone is secured in the SAFE Pouch, students will be able to enter the Phone-Free Zone. Student will maintain possession of their phone, in the SAFE Pouch for the remainder of the school day.

3. **LEARN:** Student will engage in quality, focused Academic time. Student will have access to school-issued Chromebook, or desktop computer if your Chromebook is damaged.

4. **UNLOCK:** At the end of the Learning Period, the SAFE Pouch will be unlocked for students to access their phones.

    - AM Cohort @ 11:40AM during lunch/dismissal
    - PM Cohort @4:00PM during dismissal preparation

<u>TIPS for Success</u>

Emergencies: To use your phone in an urgent situation, step outside of the Phone-Free Zone, and request permission to unlock your SAFE Pouch. Parent should call the main office.

Student Accountability: Student will be charged for damaged ($5) or replacement ($15) pouch. Students who damage the pouch and does not pay will turn their phone in at the front desk to be locked up daily.

Consequences: Students who refuse to use the pouch properly will not be allowed to enter the Phone-Free Zone/Learning environment and will be sent home for the day.

Planning Ahead: We recommend that parents and students plan ahead and pre-arrange transportation to pick up students promptly at the end of the school day.

AM Cohort: 8:00AM-12:00PM **PM Cohort: 12:15-4:15PM**

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