

Jared Shaner,  
Principal

# DIXON HIGH SCHOOL

## Home of the Dukes & Duchesses

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### 2023-2024 Dixon High School Cell Phone Policy Updates

Dixon High School is adjusting its' school wide cell phone policy for the 2023-2024 school year. Although this is not a major departure from what many of our classrooms have done in the past, we do want to share these adjustments with our students, families, and staff as we begin the school year. Historically, we have had cell phone 'zones' within our building. Red zones were areas that cell phones were strictly prohibited, yellow zones were areas where cell phones may be allowed, depending on time and circumstance, and green zones were areas that cell phone usage was allowed at any time. Many of our classrooms were red zones, with teachers switching to a yellow or green zone based on the day, the objectives of the class, the amount of work completed, etc... Restrooms and locker rooms were areas that are always red zones (no phone out for any reason). Before and after school, at lunch, and during passing periods, the building is a green zone. While we will keep the general structure for many of these places, the change for the 2023-2024 school year is that all classrooms will be red zones at the beginning of the period and students will place their phones directly into a hanging 'phone caddy' (see image below) when they enter the room. Several teachers have already used this model in the past, and now we will be consistent with this in all classrooms. Teachers and staff will designate each student a number that will correlate with where they will place their phones in the pouch when they enter the room. The room will be a red zone until the teacher or staff member has students remove their phones from the phone caddy at the end of the period. We anticipate that there will certainly be times that staff will allow students to get their phones during the period. These could be education related, as a behavior reward, or during simple free time at the end of a period.

Although many of our classrooms were red zones in the past, the adjustment of putting phones in the phone caddy in each classroom will be a change for students in some rooms. We encourage our students and parents to visit and read our Frequently Asked Questions (under Documents on DHS website) as we make this change, but the primary reasons we are making this school wide adjustment are rooted in recent research regarding cell phones in classrooms, academic achievement, brain activity, attention, and cognitive task performance. We believe our students will see an increased academic benefit by being able to focus more closely on classroom tasks without the distraction of a cell phone on their desk, in their pocket, or in a book bag at their feet.



We are excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year and cannot wait to have our students back in our classrooms and hallways. Our cell phone policy adjustment is one of many things we are doing at DHS in order to create a positive culture that students want to be a part of and an academic experience that prepares kids for life after high school!

Sincerely,

Jared D. Shaner- Principal