



July 9, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Technology has made our world fast-paced, connected and exhilarating. On the other hand, it can be a distraction for students in the classroom and negatively impact student learning. Therefore, the school district would like to provide a balance of these two things as we strive to have our students engaged and achieving their potential. On June 11, 2018, the school board changed the policy regarding student cellphone usage during the school day.

TODD FELHOFER

*District Administrator
7-12 Principal*

tofelhofer@greenwood.k12.wi.us

JOE GREEN

*Elementary Principal
Director of Teaching & Learning*

jogreen@greenwood.k12.wi.us

JENNI MAYENSCHN

Dean of Students/Athletic Director
jemayenschein@greenwood.k12.wi.us

JEAN ZIMMER

Director of Business Services
jezimmer@greenwood.k12.wi.us

**GREENWOOD
MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL**

306 W Central Avenue
PO Box 310
Greenwood, WI 54437-0310
Phone: (715) 267-6101
Fax: (715) 267-6113

**GREENWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

700 East Division Street
PO Box 310
Greenwood, WI 54437-0310
Phone: (715) 267-7211
Fax: (715) 267-7209

***Meeting the needs of
every student, every day***

Beginning on September 4, 2018, Middle School students in grades 7-8 may use their phone before and after school. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones at any time during the school day, including study hall. Phones, head phones and ear buds should be kept in student lockers during the school day.

High School students (grades 9-12) may use their phone before and after school, during lunch, and during RICE (RtI), if they are not requested for academic support by a teacher. Phones, head phones and ear buds should be kept in student lockers during scheduled class time, including study hall.

Research continues to identify the impact of increased cell phone usage on student learning and student well-being:

- The presence of one's cell phone reduces available cognitive capacity and impairs cognitive functioning. [University of Texas study]
- Teacher instruction is negatively impacted by student cell phone use. [Western Kentucky University study]
- Removing cell phones from classrooms led to significant growth in student achievement. Restricting cell phone access reaps the same benefit as adding 5 days to the school year. [University of Texas study]
- Study from London School of Economics found that students who did not use their phones during instruction scored more than a full letter grade better on tests than those students who were actively using their phones.

As it is our mission is "to meet the needs of every student, every day" to best prepare them for college and career, it is clear from the research that cell phones work counter to this goal.

I know this change will be challenging for some students, but if we are truly committed to improving student achievement, we need to remove a major barrier to student learning.

The consequences for cell phone violations have not changed. They will be included in the Student Handbook, posted on district webpage and reviewed with students during the first week of school.

If you have any questions, please contact the district office.

Sincerely,

Todd Felhofer
District Administrator/7-12 Principal