

Fordyce Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

P. O. Box 706

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July 27, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty and Staff:

In the 2022-2023 school year, the Fordyce School District will be rigorously enforcing our cell phone and electronics policy. There will be zero-tolerance for the use of these devices during school hours. Students will be asked to not bring their phones and electronic devices to school. If they are brought to school, they must remain on silent and kept stored in a backpack or purse for the entire school day. They may NOT be used at lunch or between classes. **THEY MUST BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT.** If the phone or electronic device is sighted, it will be confiscated. This includes Smartwatches, ear buds, headphones or any other electronic devices that connect to the Internet or play music. When the last bell has rung and the student does not have afterschool activities on school property, they may get their electronics out and use them. Electronic devices such as cell phones or Smartwatches may NOT be used as calculators or to check the time.

There is absolutely no reason students should have electronic devices at school. They are a distraction to learning and create the following discipline problems:

- *Students taking videos and pictures of other students and posting them on social media
- *Students using phones in different ways to cheat on tests and other assignments
- * Students using phones while in bathrooms and locker rooms
- *Students airdropping random or inappropriate photos during the school day to random people
- *Many conflicts begin on social media or through text messages.
- *Bullying occurs via the social media and text messaging.
- *Drug deals are set up through text messaging.
- *Sexual predators use social media and cell phones to connect with children and under-age teen-agers.

If you have a family emergency, our administration will take the appropriate action to notify your child. The best way to contact your child throughout the day is to call the office for any types of messages or changes to their normal bus/pickup routine. We will make sure your message is delivered to your child promptly. As always, your child's safety is our top priority, and we feel this is a necessary measure to ensure their safety and to optimize instructional time.

The following is our cell phone/electronics policy found in our student handbooks:

"Cell Phones, Messaging, Paging, Music (Audio), and other electronic devices including headphones and ear buds: Inappropriate use of cell phones is a serious problem that threatens the ability of the district's schools to properly and efficiently operate its education program. All devices must be turned off and stored out of site

from the time the first bell rings until the time the last bell rings unless permission is given from school personnel for academic purposes. If the device is believed to be in use at any other time during the school day without school personnel permission, it will be confiscated and appropriate consequences will be assigned.

The consequences are:

1st offense: Student picks up the phone from the principal's office. Parent contact

2nd offense: Student's parent must pick up the phone from the principal's office. Parent Conference

3rd offense: Student will serve an afterschool d-hall. Parent contact

4th offense: Student will serve ISS. Parent contact

Refusal to hand over the cell phone (phone, SIM card, and battery) to a teacher or administrator will constitute insubordination and may result in suspension from school.

Possession of the device will be allowed at the teacher/sponsor's discretion for travel to and from an extracurricular activity.

Students have no right of privacy pertaining to the content contained on any cell phone or other electronic communication devices that have been confiscated. Students who use school issued cell phones and/or computers or other electronic devices for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. (AR LAW 6-18-502) 5.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. If you have questions, contact the building principal:

Anthony Socia, FHS Principal—870-352-2126 sociaa@fordyceschools.org

Lena Rogers, FES Principal—870-352-2816 rogersl@fordyceschools.org

Sincerely,



Judy Hubbell, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Fordyce School District