



Northern Cass School District No. 97

Home of the Jaguars



Northern Cass School District 97
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August 11th, 2022

Northern Cass Secondary Learners and Parents/Guardians,

With the start of the 2022-2023 school year approaching, this letter is to inform you of an important school policy change taking place. We will be implementing cellphone free learner centers for all middle school and high school learners. This means during instructional time, cellphones will need to be out-of-use and out-of-sight, off or in silent mode, from 8:30am to 3:20pm, including resources and areas that are an extension of the learning center. Educators may have required locations where cellphones are to be placed during class/instructional time.

For level 9-12 learners Cell phones are not permitted during classes and instructional time, including resource time and areas that are an extension of the learning center.

Level 6-8 learners will check-in their cellphone to their homeroom educators for storage and safe keeping at 8:30am. The cellphone will be locked in a cell phone cabinet we have installed to ensure that each learner's privacy is respected, and the phone cannot be misplaced or tampered with. Learners will be able to retrieve their phones when dismissed for lunch and will be able to keep them for the remainder of the day. Middle School learners will need to keep their phones on silence and put away during their afternoon classes.

Northern Cass is able to provide all learners with a Chromebook, and it is our goal to help learners understand acceptable and appropriate use of technology in order to be good digital citizens. During the last school year phone usage during class/instructional time was brought up in many staff focus groups and surveys as being a hinderance and distraction to learning. Having a consistent school wide policy and banning cellphones in the learning center will help learners stay more present and engaged with their learning.

In the last few years, it has been noted amongst educators as becoming extremely difficult to compete with cellphones in the learning centers, even with the most engaging lessons in place! As a research tool and located on a desk, there is still the temptation to check a phone when it rings, dings, or buzzes, and even the best learners tend to lose focus with these distractions. The same distractions are true for adults. Studies have been shown it can take the brain over ten minutes to reengage after responding to a cellphone distraction. Cellphones are a hinderance to educator classroom management, as it becomes a source of distraction not only for the user, but the educator and other peers in the learning center.

Parents and guardians, please help us in the enforcement of this policy by restricting cellphone contact with your learner to passing periods, lunch, or before or after school when cellphone use is permitted. If you ever need assistance or help getting in touch with your learner during the day, please call the office (701-874-2322) and we will be happy to assist you. Any question please contact Mr. Margerum.

Sincerely,

Doug Margerum
Secondary Principal
Northern Cass School