



**Mifflin Middle School**  
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*Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*

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Dear Mifflin Middle School Families,

The Mifflin Administrative Team hopes your summer has been relaxing and that you have been able to spend quality time with your family and loved ones. As we near the start of the new school year, we would like to introduce to all of you a change in expectations regarding cell phone use by students during school hours. **Cell phones must remain in lockers from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** During conversations with staff, students, and parents, it has been determined that this increase in cell phone use has hindered the educational process throughout the school day, making it increasingly more difficult to keep students engaged and focused on crucial curricular activities.

Post-pandemic, we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of mobile devices by students throughout the school day. *During this timeframe, we have also experienced a dramatic rise in cyberbullying, with often out-of-school conflicts carrying over into the school. We also want to limit the impact of social media in our school and its adverse effects on our kids.* By limiting the amount of time students are on their cell phones, we aim to increase the amount of time students are engaged with their classroom activities and limit the amount of time students spend in the office.

The expectation this school year will be that at **7:30 AM, students will silence their devices and place them in their lockers before entering their homeroom class. Throughout the school day, cell phone use will not be permitted. Students will not have access to their cell phones during their lunch periods.**

We strongly encourage families to make plans with their children before the beginning of the school day for after-school plans. If your child must call home, there are telephones in every classroom that students are welcome to use with their teacher's permission. Health concerns can be addressed using the telephone in the nurse's office. **In the case of a family emergency, the office staff will certainly give your child a message or have them return your call.**

If a student is found using a cell phone, the **consequences** will be as follows:

**1st Offense:**

- The student will be asked to place their cell phone in their locker.
- The parent or guardian will be notified.

**2nd Offense:**

- The cell phone will be held in the office until the end of the day.
- The student may pick up their cell phone at the end of the day.
- The parent or guardian will be notified.

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry, familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

3rd Offense

- The cell phone will be held in the office until the end of the day.
- A parent or guardian will pick up the cell phone after a meeting with the student and a school administrator. The student will be subject to a one (1) day in-school suspension.

**Additional offenses will be considered an act of insubordination. A student that refuses to comply with a request to surrender their cell phone by any member of the faculty or staff and/or administrator will be considered insubordinate.** Rules governing insubordination will apply as outlined in the Guide to Student Success. [Guide to Student Success / Guide to Student Success \(ccsoh.us\)](http://ccsoh.us)

*We encourage you to talk with your child about these new expectations before the start of the new school year.* We will also address this change with students on the first day of school. We appreciate your support as we try to provide each student with the optimal educational experience.

Respectfully,

Teri J. Coward-Burns  
Principal