



ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS

Ashland High School • 1440 King Road • Ashland, Ohio 44805 • 419-289-7968 • FAX 419-289-8218

July 25th, 2023

Dear Arrow Families,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you are enjoying your summer break. I'm writing to communicate with you about an important update to our school policy on personal electronic devices beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. After careful consideration and research, Ashland High School will adopt a school-wide policy restricting the use of personal electronic devices in the classroom. Personal electronic devices, and cell phones in particular, should be put away for the entirety of class time. We understand that technology has become an important part of our daily lives, but firmly believe that limiting its use during class time will help our students academically, socially, and emotionally. Research shows that by minimizing distractions, students are more likely to absorb information, think critically, and ultimately improve their ability to learn.

We also recognize our responsibility to teach our students good digital citizenship as they transition out of high school and into adulthood. For this reason, you will see that there are still opportunities to use personal electronic devices during certain times of the day. For example, our students will have access to school-issued Chromebooks for each individual student this year for use during class as directed by their teachers. For our students who may use personal electronic devices to track a medical condition, this will still be permitted provided that our district nurse has approved it.

A copy of our policy has been attached to this letter for you to review with your student. In addition to reviewing the policy with your student please limit your contact with your student to the times during their day when personal electronic devices are permitted. If your child is sick during class and needs to contact you, please encourage them to come to our clinic to make that contact. We greatly appreciate your help and support as we make this transition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Packard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Packard
Principal
Ashland High School

Ashland High School Personal Electronic Device Policy

Personal Electronic Devices are classified as phones, tablets, laptops, earbuds, headphones, smartwatches, and similar devices.

Violations of the personal electronic device policy will result in the device being confiscated by school personnel with progressive consequences. Smartwatches are still permitted but teachers may confiscate them at any time they determine they are being used to text, call, or play games. Teachers may also require students to remove smartwatches at any point during a class period to preserve academic integrity.

Before School:

Personal Electronic Device use is permitted.

During Class Changes:

Personal Electronic Device use is permitted except for earbuds and headphones. Earbuds and headphones must be out of the ears and completely off the head.

During Class:

Personal electronic device use is not permitted unless requested by the teacher for an educational purpose. Devices are expected to be put away and out of sight.

During Study Hall and Arrow Time:

Personal electronic device use is determined by the teacher and may be dependent upon student behavior and grades.

During Lunch:

Personal electronic device use is permitted.

After school:

Personal electronic device use is permitted.

Progressive Consequences

Offenses are tracked across all classes.

1st 3 offenses	Personal electronic device is confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the period.	The parent is contacted after the 2nd offense by the staff member.
Next 3 offenses	Personal electronic device is confiscated and placed in the office to return to the student at the end of the day.	An administrator contacts the parent after the 5th offense.
Next 3 offenses	Personal electronic device is confiscated and placed in the office. A parent or guardian must pick the phone up.	An administrator contacts the parent after each offense.
Further offenses	Personal electronic device is left at home or in the office during the school day and further offenses may result in other school discipline.	A parent meeting with the administration is required.