

## Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices

Following are three excerpts from our Student Handbook:

---

### **“SAFETY AND CELL PHONES”**

*“An unsafe situation occurs whenever a person feels a threat to their health and well-being; this includes illness or injury.*

*In general, when a child feels he/she is in an unsafe situation where trusted adults are present, the first action must be to inform the closest adult. This holds true at school, where the staff of the school are charged with maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.*

*In this age of cell phones, parents give their children phones and emphasize that it is a tool to help keep them safe. But it should be emphasized to the child that the first action when at school must be to inform the closest adult. If a student uses the cell phone to contact a parent, valuable time is lost because a parent is too far away to correct the unsafe situation. School staff members are capable and in a position to correct unsafe situations swiftly.” (A good safety measure is to have your child enter the Robert Andrews School phone number as a Speed Dial on his/her phone, in order to contact the school in case of emergency at school.)*

---

### **“TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION”**

*“For student convenience and non-important calls, we do have a Pay Phone located on the wall across from the office. Students may access this privilege outside of the instructional part of the day. Students who are ill or injured are to use the office phone so that both the student and the office staff are able to speak to parents. Students are unable to accept non-emergency phone calls from parents during class. To ensure the safety and care of all students, ALL calls home must be made through the office. Texting and cell phone use is not permitted as per divisional policy. See “Safety and Cell Phones” on following pages.”*

---

### **“School-Wide Expectations”**

*“... student use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not permitted. (RETSD Policy JICJ). Electronic devices will be confiscated if seen or heard and parents will be informed. There will be escalating consequences for repeat offenders.”*

=====

In addition to the above concerns, the unauthorized use of a cell phone/electronic communication device in the school is very distracting to the students and potentially disruptive to students' learning. The general guideline in the school for staff is if we see it or hear it, we confiscate it. The consequences are:

First Time: The student picks up the device and a letter at the end of the day. The letter outlines the problem and the consequences for repeat incidents. The letter has a tear-off slip for parents to sign and have returned to the Office for our records.

Second Time: The student picks up only a letter and tear-off slip for parents. The device remains in the Office until the end of the day that the tear-off slip is returned.

Third Time: Arrangements are made for a meeting with parents about solving the on-going problem, at which time the phone is returned to parents.