



Cell Phones, iPods, Earbuds, Headphones and Other Personal Electronic Devices at EHMS  
“No Display During the School Day”

In the fall of 2013, the Middle School Site-Based Team met to discuss cell phones, personal music devices (such as iPods), earbuds/headphones and other similar electronic communication devices and their use at EHMS. This school-based policy was developed with the building administration governing the use of cell phones and other similar devices. The policy will go into effect in January 2014. There will be a one-week grace period from 6 to 10 January 2014 during which staff will offer reminders and warnings; there will be no formal consequences in this period.

The East Hampton Middle School acknowledges parental concern for the safety and well being of their children while they are attending school or school-sponsored activities. It also appreciates the parental belief that students’ possession of cell phones enhances their safety and security. The school determines, however, that student misuse of cell phones and other similar electronic devices may:

1. Undermine the learning environment;
2. Pose a safety hazard during announcements or emergencies;
3. Disrupt academic instruction and distract students;
4. Compromise the integrity of students testing;
5. Increase disciplinary problems;
6. Violate privacy rights of students and school staff;
7. Increase the school’s exposure to opportunistic litigation and potential legal liability as well as involved individuals;
8. Restrict or limit person-to-person interactions.

In light of the foregoing, EHMS will permit student possession and use of cell phones and other devices as set forth below. Students may possess cell phones and other devices at the Middle School subject to the following restrictions:

1. ***Students shall not display cell phones during the instructional day;***
2. Students who wish to call home or make a telephone call are permitted to use the landline telephone in the Main Office dedicated for this purpose;
3. Students’ cell phones shall be in either silent mode or off and kept on their person (completely hidden from sight in a pocket or backpack) or in their school lockers.

For the purposes of this school policy, the term “instructional day” is defined as the moment a student enters the school building until the final dismissal bell. This includes, but is not limited to study halls, lunch break, class changes and any other structured or non-structured activity that occurs during the normal hours that school is in session.

The publication of this policy serves as a first notice to students for disciplinary purposes. Failure to adhere to the terms of this regulation will result in the following progressive discipline:

1. First offense - The cell phone shall be confiscated and must be picked up by the parent from the Dean of Students in person. The parent/guardian must retrieve the cell phone.
2. Second offense - The cell phone shall be confiscated and must be picked up by the parent from the Dean of Students in person. **In addition the student will be assigned a detention.**
3. Third offense - The cell phone shall be confiscated and must be picked up by the parent from the Dean of Students in person. **In addition the student will be assigned three lunch/recess detentions.**
4. Fourth offense – The cell phone shall be confiscated and must be picked up from the Principal in person; in addition, a meeting with the parent and student will be scheduled. **In addition, the student will be assigned one day of ISS (In-School Suspension)**

Students are solely responsible for the care and custody of cell phones and other electronic devices. The Middle School shall not assume responsibility for damage, loss or theft of any student’s cell phone or other electronic device. The school is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices. Further, EHMS shall not assume responsibility for damage, loss or theft of any cell phone that is confiscated according to this regulation.

In emergency situations, exceptions to the prohibition of the use of electronic communication devices may be granted by teachers or administrators. Also, a student, at the request of his/her parent, and with permission of the Principal, may possess an electronic communication device for health or extraordinary reasons. Use of the device must be in accordance with the agreements between the requesting parent and the Principal.

Finally, teachers may temporarily allow the use of a personal electronic device or mobile phone for a particular lesson or teacher-directed activity.