



## Ridgeview Global Studies Academy

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Executive Director: Ralph H. Frier

Assistant Director: Sam Johnson

Board Chair: Joseph Izzo



July 31, 2025

Dear Ridgeview Families,

We hope you and your family had a restful and rewarding summer. As we prepare for the start of the 2025–2026 school year, we want to share important information regarding a new statewide cell phone policy that all Florida public schools, including Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, are required to follow.

### **Overview of the New Florida Cell Phone Policy**

The State of Florida has implemented updated legislation HB 1105 (effective July 1, 2025) designed to promote academic focus, minimize distractions, and protect student well-being during the school day. As part of this new law:

- Students may not use cell phones during the school day.
- All mobile devices must be silenced and stored out of sight during class times.
- Social media access is prohibited during the school day on both personal and school-issued devices and networks.

### **Ridgeview's Implementation (K–8 Specific)**

At Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, our priority is to create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment. In alignment with state guidelines, we will implement the following expectations for K–8 students:

- Students (K–8) should leave cell phones and smartwatches at home. If a student must bring a phone for after-school use, it must remain powered off and stored in their backpack during the school day (7:45 am – 3:15 pm).
- Smartwatches with messaging or calling capabilities fall under the same expectations as phones and should not be used during the school day.
- If a student is found using a phone or smartwatch during the day, it will be confiscated and held in the front office until a parent or guardian can pick it up. Repeat offences will result in progressive discipline.

### **Ridgeview's Implementation (9-12 Specific)**

- Students (9-12) can use wireless communications devices outside of instructional time or if directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes, in an area the teacher designates.
- If a student is found using a phone or smartwatch contrary to this policy, it will be confiscated and held in the front office until a parent or guardian can pick it up. Repeat offenses will result in progressive discipline.

### **Exemptions**

- Exemptions are included for students with medical requirements for the use of a wireless communications device "based on valid clinical reasoning or evidence."

### **Family Partnership**

We kindly ask for your support in reviewing this policy with your child and helping them understand the importance of limiting device use during the school day. Our staff is committed to enforcing these rules with consistency and compassion.

We understand that communication with your child is important. If you must message your child during the day, please call the school's front office and we will ensure the message is delivered promptly.

**Elementary Office: (863) 419-3171**

**Secondary Office: (863) 419-3170**

Thank you for being our partner in promoting a focused and healthy learning environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

*Sam Johnson*

Sam Johnson,  
Assistant Director

Ridgeview Global Studies Academy