

# CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Office of the Superintendent, Dr. Ferlondo Tullock

December 3, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am hopeful that you have read or seen the new State Policy governing the possession of personal electronic devices by students. In September 2024, the State Board of Education adopted a new policy that prohibits the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices by students during the school day. This policy was adopted to create spaces, classrooms, where students are free to focus on their teachers and the instruction being presented. In Calhoun County Public Schools, our Board recently adopted the new State policy that, again, restricts students from having access to their personal devices during the school day. This policy does not affect the use of District issued instructional devices.

The implementation of the State-wide policy will begin when we return to the classroom from Winter Break on January 6, 2025. As I did in July and August, prior to the start of the school year, I am asking everyone to adhere to this new requirement by turning off and putting away cell phones and other personal communication devices at the start of the day. Use of these devices can then resume use after dismissal from school. I ask that you not call or text your student during the day to eliminate the temptation of using the phone and possibility of an infraction for not adhering to the policy. Students who are in violation of the policy will have devices confiscated on the first infraction and returned at the end of the school day. Any subsequent infractions will result in confiscation of the device to then be returned to a parent or guardian. I ask that students comply with the request of an employee as refusal to obey can result in a discipline referral for non-compliance, refusal to obey, or disrespect.

Our aim is to provide students with an environment that allows them to focus solely on their academics without the interference of cell phones and other technology. At the start of the school day, students should power off their devices and either store them in bookbags until the end of the day. Calhoun County's policy does allow students to have their devices on school buses for the ride to and from school, on field trips, and to and from sporting events.

We are committed to making this a smooth transition and ask that you direct your questions to your student's administrators. As always, I thank you for your attention in this matter and your cooperation in providing a phone-free environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Ferlondo Tullock', is written over a white background.

Dr. Ferlondo Tullock  
Superintendent

cc: Board of Trustees

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