

## **MINERVA CENTRAL SCHOOL CELL PHONE / PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY # 5322**

**Adopted 12.12.24**

**Updated 7.28.25**

The increased student use of cell phones has had a damaging effect on learning, school culture and climate, and mental health. Minerva Central School is adopting what will be known as the “Off and Away” policy for student cell phones and all Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs). Personal Electronic Devices include cell phones, earbuds/AirPods, smartwatches, and any other electronic communication device.

For grades pre-K-6, such devices must be turned off and stored in, a locker, or secured with a classroom teacher during the school day. Students in grades 7-12 must store their devices in a secured lock box in room # each morning, when picking up their chromebooks. Devices are not permitted anytime between the first bell at 8:00am to the last bell at 2:36pm. Students may pick up devices from room # at the end of the school day. In addition, personal electronic devices are not permitted during detention, in-school suspension, or during the disciplinary process. Due to confidentiality, the use of personal electronic devices is not permitted in the health office, counselor's room, main office, or guidance office.

PEDs must be powered fully off and not in airplane mode. The use of PEDs including cell phones for any reason in school is a privilege. The use of PEDs/cell phones is defined as, but not limited to, talking, messaging, Internet usage, game playing, and any other software usage found on a PED/cell phone.

Inappropriate use of PEDs/cell phones will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to, cheating, sending disruptive messages, searching for inappropriate content, taking and sending unauthorized photos or videos, acts of bullying, threatening, harassing, or menacing in any manner. Students who fail to comply with these rules or refuse to hand their PEDs/cellphones to a staff member when directed to do so will receive additional consequences ranging from detention to suspension from school.

Students seen using their PEDs/cell phones during unauthorized times will be subject to disciplinary action and/or face the loss of the PED/cell phone.

**1st offense:** Electronic device turned into the main office for the remainder of the school day

**2nd offense:** Electronic device turned into the main office, parent/guardian must pick-up device and loss of privilege for 10 days

**3rd offense:** Loss of electronic device and parent/guardian must pick up the device and meet with administration before privileges are restored

**\*\* Dishonesty and insubordination related to cell phone policy violations will be addressed in accordance with the Minerva Central School code of conduct**

Electronic devices required for medical purposes or other special needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The school is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to any cell phones or any other electronic devices.

Parents can contact their student(s) during the school day by calling the main office, and a message will be relayed to the student. All classrooms have phones that can call 911 in case of an emergency. Parents of students in PK-6 can relay messages to their student through classroom teacher approved methods (ie Class Dojo Messaging). Parents of 7-12 students can also contact their child during the school day using the student's school issued email address.

A committee of teachers, board of education members, administration, and students will discuss additional restrictions and/or changes to the personal electronic device policy as needed.