



Away For The Day: Student-Owned Electronic Communications Devices

New Policy for the 2026 - 2027 School Year

As we begin the 2026 - 2027 school year, the Whitepine Joint School District is implementing our “Away for the Day” expectations for student cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices. Our goal is to help students be present, engaged, and ready to learn while creating a school environment that supports positive face-to-face relationships and student success.

What does " Away For the Day" mean?

Upon **entering** a school building, students are expected to store personal electronic devices in their lockers, cubbies, or backpacks. Students may not use personal electronic devices for two-way communication in school buildings during the day. This includes devices such as:

- Cell phones
- Wireless headphones
- Other personal devices capable of sending or receiving messages or communication

Students must also follow any additional expectations established by their classroom teacher or school.

What if I need to reach my child?

If you need to contact your student during the school day because of an emergency, please call the school office. School staff will relay the message or bring your child to the office so they can speak with you in person. This helps us ensure that important messages reach students while maintaining a focused learning environment.

A few important reminders:

Students are responsible for safeguarding their personal items they bring to school. The District is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed student-owned devices.

Photographing or recording others using an electronic device is not permitted. In certain cases, video may be produced to highlight school events, and the school district must obtain permission to use those photos in any publication. Students choosing to photograph or record others without permission may receive disciplinary action.

Using an electronic device to cheat on an assessment, project, or assignment may result in disciplinary action.

Please remember that students with an IEP or 504 Plan will be permitted to use an electronic device if it is required by the plan.

 What happens if the policy is not followed?

Access to personal electronic devices at school is a privilege, not a right. Violations may result in consequences including detention, confiscation of the device until retrieved by a parent/guardian, administrative meetings, or loss of the privilege of bringing the device to school. More serious or repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

We know that changes in routines can take some adjustment, and we appreciate our families partnering with us as we establish these expectations. Away for the day is about more than phones. It is about helping students be present, build relationships, protect privacy, and make the most of each school day.

Together, we are preparing students who aspire to achieve their full potential.