

Continuing a Discussion around a Cell Phone Policy

February 18th 2025 School Board Meeting

Updated Cell Phone Policy and Procedures

Based on public comment from the Jan. 28th 2025 School Board Meeting, I have put together some revisions for the policy and LHS Procedures.

These updates were based on:

- The School Board still wanting to see a change in cell phones at LHS.
- The Administrators looking for a workable solution for staff and the management of devices in classrooms.
- Responding to concerns raised by both parents and students at the last meeting.

Change is hard. It's always good to have a transparent process, and take everyone along with you - so we can make that change together.

“The Why”

No Changes Since Jan. 28th Meeting

Cell Phones, or other personal electronic communication devices, should not disrupt the learning environment or be a distraction in the Londonderry School District. We want our students to learn how to use personal electronic devices in a responsible manner and the use of these devices should not be a barrier to the student’s education during school hours.

We can put more effort into “the why” if desired

K to 8 Stays the Same - it is Working Well Right Now

The use of personal electronic communication devices is prohibited in the classrooms in grades K to 8 in the school district. These devices should be stored in a student backpack or locker. Violation of this policy will be referred to building administrators.

No changes since Jan. 28th Meeting

We need to work collectively to help LHS
make a change.

*It's always harder to change during a school
year when the culture is already in motion.*

“What” is the desired change at LHS

Define the problem devices we are seeing out in classrooms when they shouldn't be out because they are distracting the learning:

Personal electronic communication devices include but are not limited to: cell phones, tablets, iPads, earbuds, headphones, smart watches, and e-readers.

~~The Solution that limits the conflict and effort on all sides to change:~~

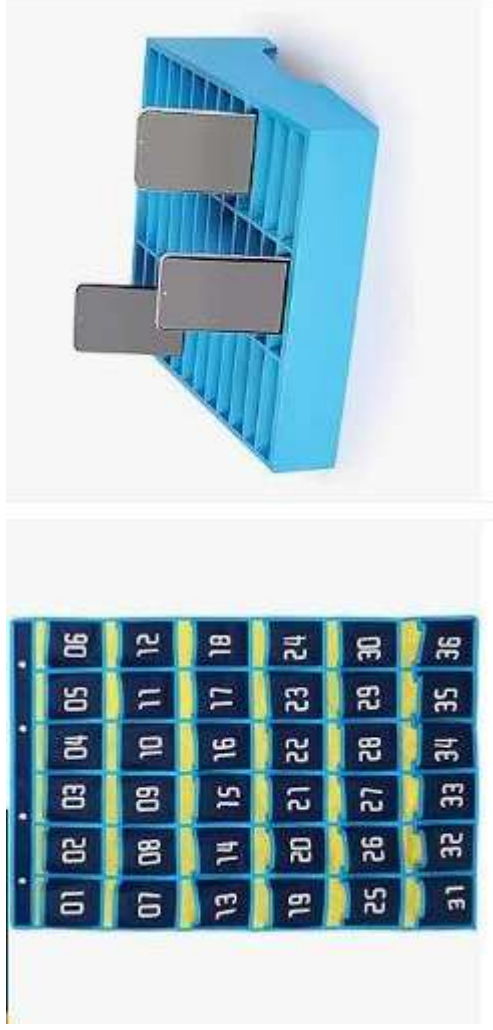
~~The School Board recommends that these personal electronic communication devices not be brought to school:~~

~~*The use of personal electronic communication devices is prohibited in any credit bearing class at Londonderry High School. All student personal electronic devices will be stored in the district supplied containers within each class the student attends for the entirety of the academic period.*~~

Updated Solution on Cell Phones at LHS

The use of personal electronic communication devices is prohibited in any credit bearing classroom at Londonderry High School. These devices should be stored in a student backpack or out of sight in a credit bearing classroom. Violation of this policy will be referred to building administrators for appropriate and immediate consequences.

If a Violation Occurs



If a cell phone comes out, then the student will be directed to place it in the cell phone “jail” - where they will lose it for the remainder of the period.

Students will also be referred to their house office for an after-school detention.

The Need for a Consistent Response from Staff

One of the problems right now has been inconsistency when cell phones are out.

Effective classroom management is expected of teaching staff to ensure students comply with this policy.

In this plan, violations lead to administrative detentions after school.

Depending on the size of the violations that occur on any day when we start to make this change at LHS - there could be lag time in the follow through because many issues come to a LHS House Office on any day.

LHS will need some time to make sure staff is ready to make the shift, then follow through on the shift and the extra effort it will require.

When Devices Can Be Out at LHS

Students at Londonderry High School may access their personal electronic communication device during lunch in the cafeteria, during passing periods, and in non-credit bearing study halls (common areas) provided it does not become a distraction for other students or staff.

Students will be expected to immediately comply with any staff member's request to cease use of their personal devices in the common areas as they deem appropriate. Students who do not comply will be subject to further disciplinary action.

No changes since Jan. 28th Meeting

Other Necessary Language

The school district will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any personal electronic communication device brought to the school.

Taking pictures, recording videos, or recording conversations without consent at any time during the school day is strictly prohibited.

Additionally, it is prohibited for students to take, store, disseminate, transfer, view, or share obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing. Any student found to have engaged in such conduct may be reported to local law enforcement authorities and may face criminal penalties in accordance with applicable law. School administrators may refer such matters to local law enforcement if the administrator believes student action in this regard involves illegal activity (e.g., pornography.)

No changes since Jan. 28th Meeting

Adjusted LHS Procedures

In order to minimize distractions, increase engagement, and have a positive impact on learning, the use of cell phones is **prohibited** during class time in a **credit bearing class**. ~~Students are required to place their cell phones, with the sound off, in numbered slots in the classroom phone hotel when they enter their classrooms. Phones are to remain in the hotel for the duration of the class, including when using the restroom or on a hall pass, and may be picked up at the end of class.~~ **Cell phones should be stored away at all times while in a credit bearing class and not be accessed by students. Students who violate this rule will lose the privilege of their phone for the remainder of class and be referred to their House Office for an administrative after school detention.**

The use of cell phones is generally permitted outside of the classroom in common areas such as hallways and the cafeteria. Cell phones are also generally permitted in non-credit bearing study halls and in the library media center if used silently.

Devices must always be used responsibly and respectfully and should only be visible during the times and locations listed above. Failure to comply with a teacher request regarding a student's cell phone or personal electronic device will result in administrative consequences such as the issuance of an after-school detention.

The school district will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any personal electronic communication device brought to the school.

LHS will need time to work through updated language around procedures

Tentative Timeline

- Hopefully LHS Teachers and Administrators can make this change at some point in March of 2025 - and use the rest of this year as a pilot to work out any potential kinks and then reinvest in updated plans for the upcoming school year as needed in August.
- If tonights conversation goes well:
 - We can purchase the cell phone holders for LHS classrooms.
 - Work through the updated expectations to make sure ALL classrooms are ready.
 - Work through referrals coming to the House Office - potentially in large numbers at first until expectations are reset.

If a Pilot Doesn't Work this Winter and Spring Maybe We Explore YONDR



1. When the students come to school they place their devices in their assigned YONDR pouch.
2. They scan them to lock them for the entire day.
3. They scan them on the way out of school to unlock them.
4. The scanners are placed at the major entrances & exits and House Offices if needed.

We did find some examples of some local schools using this approach successfully. However, implementation would be \$40K to \$50K at LHS with ongoing costs for replacement pouches in time.