



Highland Park Senior High School

Cell Phone Use Expectations

We understand that cell phones are a very important part of our daily lives, however academic success for our students is more important while they are in school. Therefore, HPSHS is not allowing cell phones to be used in classes. Here are our expectations:

1. Cell phones are not allowed to be used in classrooms.
2. They are to remain at home, or locked in lockers. If students choose to carry their phones, they must be completely off--not even on vibrate during class time.
3. Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include exclusion from class time and possible dismissal from school. Parents/guardians will be informed when violations occur.

Q: Why don't we allow cell phones in class during the school day?

1. **We prioritize real human interaction.** We believe that learning the skills of in-person communication and collaboration are much more important. This generation has grown up with computers and cell phones. Students are already good at using electronics -- they do not need social media practice or gaming practice at school. One of the most important skills our students will learn at Highland Park Senior High School is how to get along and work well, face-to-face, with a variety of people.
2. **Electronics are disruptive.** Cell phones ringing and buzzing disrupt both the student and the class. We want students focused on the lesson, not who's calling or texting them.
3. **They get stolen.** Unfortunately, as wonderful as our Highland Park Senior High School students are, phones are stolen. They are attractive items. Leaving them in a locked locker is best if they can't stay at home. While we try to help students problem solve, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
4. **They are addicting.** This generation of students is struggling to learn to think and stay busy with just their own thoughts. Managing boredom without tools or toys is an important life skill that we have little opportunity to practice when the phone is always present. We want our students to be fully present and experience all that school has to offer.
5. **Students don't need them.** Every student at Highland Park is given an iPad for academic use.

We are asking you to not only review these expectations but also to help out by not texting or contacting your student during the school day. Ideally all necessary communication should occur before and after school. [In the event of an emergency, please call the main office, 651-293-8940 and we will get a message to your student as soon as possible.](#) If a student needs to contact a parent, they can ask for a pass to use the phone in the office.