

Cell Phone Usage

The Barnwell Staff is trying hard to create an effective environment for learning while students are at school. In order for this to happen, we need cooperation from parents and students regarding cell phones.

We do understand parents' desires for their student to have a cell phone, and we ask you to understand the disruption that these can cause. We are working hard to come up with a compromise that we can all live with.

At this time, we ask that all phones and electronic devices be turned OFF during the school day. This means the power should be OFF, not just on "silent" or "vibrate." Students should not be receiving messages during the school day on their phones.

In case of emergency, or if you need to speak to your student during the day, please call the main office and we will either deliver a message to your student or will call them to the office to speak with you.

If your student needs to call you, there are phones in every classroom and the office phones are also available. Students have access to phones throughout their day.

We are asking for cooperation with this issue because students are often distracted by their cell phones. Even when students are responsible with their phones, an incoming message in the middle of class is enough to distract the student from the instruction in the classroom. A loud ring tone will disrupt the entire class. Text messaging during class can lead to some poor decisions regarding cheating and sharing answers. Phones with cameras pose a privacy issue for students. Lost cell phones (often reported as stolen) take up a lot of time that would be better spent in the learning process rather than tracking down lost phones. The list of problems surrounding cell phones is long.

Basically, we know there is a legitimate need for many of our students to carry cell phones. We just don't think the need is there during the school day. We would prefer not to see or hear any cell phones during the day. We are asking that all phones are turned OFF and kept in pockets, purses, or lockers. If a Barnwell staff member sees or hears a phone during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and turned into the office. Students can then have a parent pick up the phone in the office.

Let's keep the focus on learning while at school.