

Hello Hayden Canyon Charter Families,

If you do not choose to read this rather long message, please read this. No student should bring a cell phone, smartwatch or bluetooth earbuds to school. If they do, they will face disciplinary action.

Some of you might have seen the new cell phone policy publicized on Facebook this past week. I wish to clarify why this policy is necessary and share my reaction if a child is caught using their cell phone at HCC.

Students are using cell phones constantly at HCC. They hide them in their coats, pockets and backpacks then access them on their smartwatch, in the bathroom, on hikes and on the playground and through bluetooth headphones. HCC staff members often take a phone from a student if they see it, as required by policy, but students see this as a game-they hide the phone, say they didn't use it or promise to put it away only to use it again moments later. Once a phone is taken from a student, a parent is required to pick up the phone at the end of the day from the office.

Cell phones are creating a tremendously unsafe and unhealthy environment at our school. Students are taking pictures of other students and using these pictures to intimidate, embarrass and bully. Pictures of students are being posted on social media without parental consent. Students are accessing and sharing sexual content through their phones and using phones to cheat on tests and assignments. When a phone is taken from a student, that phone continues to get multiple texts from other students at HCC sharing inappropriate content. No student needs to have a cell phone at HCC.

Starting Monday, no student should have a cell phone, smartwatch, or bluetooth earphones/buds at Hayden Canyon Charter. The school has 36 land-line phones, 24 walkie-talkies to communicate with our office and a security guard to keep kid's safe. Student communication devices are not needed nor allowed at HCC.

Moving forward, our cell phone policy will be tightly adhered to with additional disciplinary action for repeat offenders. Disciplinary action will include:

- 1st offense-phone will be confiscated and released to the parent at the end of the day
- 2nd offense-student will be in-school suspended for the day and the phone will be released to the parent at the end of the day after a conference with the principal
- 3rd offense-the student will be out of school suspended for a day and not allowed to return until the parent and child conferences with the principal
- 4th offense-the student will be out of school suspended for three days
- 5th offense-the student will be referred to the Board of Trustees for possible expulsion

If a student needs to bring a cell phone to school, each middle school classroom will have a cell phone safe. Students can safely lock up their cell phones with their CREW teacher for the day and retrieve the phone at the end of the day.

Some parents shared with me that staff condone and allow cell phone use in the classroom. I can promise that if a staff member is allowing this, they will be held to disciplinary action for not following school board policy.

For your references, the HCC School Board adopted a cell phone policy in their first year of operation. The policy is listed below.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones are not to be used during the school day. Any cell phones brought on school grounds should be turned off and placed in the backpack when the student enters the building, and should remain there until the school day ends. Phones in the classrooms are not to be used by students. If a student needs to make a phone call, they will be sent to the front office. Consequences for use of phone during school hours

- 1st violation: Phone will be confiscated by the teacher and will be released to the parent at the end of the day.
- 2nd violation: Students will not be allowed to bring the phone on school grounds. If the parent believes there is a reason the student may need the phone before or after school, they may contact the education director for permission. The phone will need to be checked in at the office when the student arrives at school and may be checked out after the school day ends.

This is an easy fix to ensure our students are safe and have a nurturing learning environment. Cell phones have no purpose in our work and students who abuse this policy are stealing this positive educational environment from other students. Please share with your children to leave their phones at home. Thank you!

Bill Rutherford, Principal, Hayden Canyon Charter