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*Superintendent*

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*District Treasurer*

Dear Heatly Families,

We hope you are enjoying a safe and restful summer. As we prepare for the new school year, we want to inform you of important updates to our Bell-to-Bell Personal Device Policy that will take effect starting September 2025. These updates align with New York State Education Law §2803, which requires schools to restrict the use of internet-enabled personal devices during the instructional day.

### What the New Policy Means

Effective the first day of school, students in grades PreK–8 are prohibited from using personal internet-enabled devices (such as smartphones, smartwatches, and tablets) from the first bell to the last bell each day. This includes time spent in class, hallways, lunch, recess, and study halls.

All personal devices must be:

- **Turned off**
- **Stored in a designated location, such as a locker or classroom pocket chart (PK–5), or secured in Cell Phone Cabinets (grades 6–8).**

The district is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.

### Allowed Uses

Exceptions will be made in limited, pre-approved circumstances:

- **For documented medical needs**
- **For IEP/504 accommodations**
- **In emergencies**
- **For translation services or caregiver responsibilities (with approval)**

### Staying in Touch During the School Day

We understand how important it is to maintain communication. If you need to reach your child during the school day:

- **Please contact the main office 518-273-1422**
- **Use approved platforms like ParentSquare or district email**

Students may request access to a school phone to contact parents if needed.

### What Happens If a Student Violates the Policy?

We will follow a **progressive response approach**:

1. **First Violation:** Device held in the office until the end of the day; parent/guardian notified
2. **Second Violation:** Parent/guardian must pick up the device  
**Further Violations:** Loss of privilege to bring a device to school; additional consequences may apply per the Code of Conduct

We are finalizing building-specific procedures for student device storage and will share those details with families prior to the first day of school. Additionally, teachers will review and communicate their classroom-specific routines during the opening weeks.

To support a smooth transition to the new **Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Policy**, we will be hosting an informal "**Let's Talk: Bell-to-Bell Expectations**" session where families are invited to meet with me, ask questions, and gain a better understanding of the policy and its purpose. This session will take place on August 27th from 6:00- 7:00 in the school library. We welcome your partnership and look forward to working together to support a focused and respectful learning environment for all students.

We are grateful for your partnership in creating a focused, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students. If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the main office at (518) 273-1422.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stephanie Bouchey

Principal