

Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices

Following are three excerpts from our Student Handbook:

“SAFETY and LEARNING and CELL PHONES”

“An unsafe situation occurs whenever a person feels a threat to his/her health and well-being; this includes illness or injury.

“In general, when a child feels he/she is in an unsafe situation, where trusted adults are present, the first action must be to inform the closest safe adult. This holds true at school, where the staff of the school are charged with maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.

“In this age of cell phones, parents give their children phones and emphasize that it is a tool to help keep them safe. But it should be emphasized to the child that the first action for safety when at school must be to inform the closest adult. If a student uses the cell phone to contact a parent first, valuable time is lost because a parent is too far away to correct the unsafe situation. School staff members are capable and in a position to correct unsafe situations swiftly.”

(A good safety measure is to have your child enter the Robert Andrews School phone number as a Speed Dial on his/her phone, in order to contact the school in case of emergency at school.)

“Parents must not be communicating, by text or by voice with their child, during school time as this creates a distraction for the child (checking the phone, anticipation of a call/text, etc.). People may think that “multi-tasking” is acceptable but studies show that multi-tasking results are of a lesser quality, and that distractions do hamper the ability to concentrate and to learn properly. (See the RA website, Documents & Forms – Teaching & Learning – Multi-tasking & Learning)

“A final comment: We are closely following the RETSD Policy JICJ on cell phone use, a portion of which states:

“Unless otherwise directed by the teacher/school, student supplied personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during instructional time.” (Instructional time at RA is from the time the student enters the school until the last bell of the day.)

“School officials, including classroom teachers, may confiscate student supplied personal electronic devices from students if they are used for unauthorized purposes

or at unauthorized times. Repeated unauthorized use may lead to further action as determined by the school.”

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“TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION”

“We have a special phone in the office specifically for students to call parents. Students who are ill or injured are to use the office phone so that both the student and the office staff are able to speak to parents. The school office does not interrupt the learning during classes for non-emergency phone calls from parents. To ensure the safety and care of all students, ALL calls to and from parents must be made through the office. Texting and cell phone use is not permitted as per divisional policy. See “Safety and Learning and Cell Phones” on page 3.” of the student/parent handbook.

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“School-Wide Expectations”

“... student use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not permitted, except under direction and supervision of the teacher. (RETSD Policy JICJ).”

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