

Cell Phones and Engaging Students in Learning

For better or for worse, electronics are a part of our culture. Most teenagers spend hours every day listening to music, exploring the internet, and communicating with one another through texting and talking on their cell phones. Have you ever checked how many times your child texts or talks on his/her cell phone per month? Have you ever checked to see what the messages say?

Our secondary teaching staff and administration have noted that the use of cell phones, in particular, has become a pre-occupation with many of our students. Although we have policies and consequences in place to deter the use of cell phones in school, it continues to be a problem. Students find ways to text in the hallways, in their lockers, in the bathroom, underneath their clothing or in their pockets during class. Most of the time, the people that students are communicating with are in the school building. Simply put, when students are preoccupied with communicating through the use of cell phones during the school day, their minds are not on learning!

Cell phone communication between students during school hours is:

- Usually unnecessary
- Affecting student attention to learning
- Affecting student attention to people
- Sometimes damaging and hurtful to individual students
- Not helpful in our efforts to build Christian community at Lansing Christian School

New Cell Phone Policy

At school students are expected to:

- Turn off their cell phone/electronics at the first bell -7:50am until 3:00pm.
- Keep their cell phone/electronics in a locker, in a back pack, or in their car.

A cell phone/electronic violation will occur when:

- A cell phone/electronic device is *seen* or *heard* by any staff member
- There is *any evidence* that a cell phone has been used during the school day.
- Note: A cell phone/electronic violation can occur *without student use*.

Consequences for cell phone/ electronic violation:

- If a Lansing Christian staff member *sees* or *hears* a student cell phone it will be given to the principal and can be picked up by the student at the end of the school day.
- **First and second offense:** Morning zero hour for high school students/after-school detention for middle school students
- **Third offense:** Saturday School and communication with parents

Reminders for parents:

- Please do not expect your child to receive messages from a personal cell phone during school hours.
- Please do not expect your child to text message you or call you on a personal cell phone during school hours.
- If you have an *urgent* message to get to your child, please call the school phone, and we will get the message to your child.
- If your child needs to contact you during the school day, he/she can use the phone in the office designated specifically for student use.

Your partner in Christian education,