

Cell Phone Use at Maury

Background

Student use of cell phones during the school day disrupts the teaching and learning environment.

Use of cell phones outside of school hours, on school property, also presents concerns about the content that students could stream and share with others.

Overall, increased student engagement and exposure to content online and use of social media can negatively impact the school community, when students are exposed to inappropriate language and/or behaviors (e.g. bullying) that are acted out in class.

Enforcement of the Cell Phone Policy

If a cell phone rings or a student is using one without permission, a Maury staff member will confiscate the phone, send the student (and phone) to the office, and file a discipline referral.

In the event that a student is using a cell phone on school property and a staff member is not present, a Maury community member or student should bring the matter to the attention of the school Security Guard or staff member to address.

After the first infraction, the student may pick up the cell phone at the end of the school day. After the second infraction, the student is required to check the phone into the main office, daily, until the end of the school year. If a third infraction occurs, the item will be stored for pick up after the last day of school in June.

Parental Controls

There are numerous tools available to parents that filter content and monitor a child's activities on connected devices. Below are examples of the types of tools available, from the basic to the more complex, which parents in the Maury community are using:

- Use the **Restrictions setting** on an iPhone/iPad to manage which features, apps, and content can be accessed from an iPhone/iPad. [*Touch "Settings," choose "General," and then select "Restrictions." You'll be prompted for a PIN that gives you access to enable or disable "Restrictions." There you can turn off any features you want.*]
- Review your child's digital footprint by checking the **Google "My Activity" feature** that compiles watch and search history across all Google Apps, including YouTube. It also tracks devices and the apps used.
- Purchase **parental control software** to filter content and schedule access to the internet/apps. Features often include device monitoring, and the ability to use the software on multiple devices. Examples include Conent Watch NetNanny and Circle with Disney.

Cell Phone Policy

- Cell phones are not allowed to be used while the child is in the custody of DC Public Schools unless given specific permission by a staff member.
- Students may bring cell phones to school for the purposes of safety only (e.g. walking to/from school alone).
- Cell phones are to remain turned off and inside backpacks for the entire school day, until the student leaves school property.
- The cell phone policy applies to afterschool activities and field trips that a student may be involved in.
- If a student or adult sees a student in violation of this policy, they should notify a staff member immediately.

Other helpful resources

How to be a Digitally Aware Parent in 2017: <https://blog.securly.com/2017/01/24/how-to-be-a-digitally-aware-parent-in-2017/>

PC Magazine review of Best Parental Control Software of 2017: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2346997,00.asp>