



March 21, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are aware Mayor Bill DiBlasio and Schools' Chancellor Carmen Farina lifted the ban on cell phones at schools, a policy affecting 1.1 million students. The change will better enable parents to stay in touch with their children, **especially before and after school.** The current cell phone policy is as follows:

1. During the school day (from the time a student arrives in school, until the end of school) the cell phone must be turned off and cannot be visible.
2. While students are riding DOE buses the cell phone policy is in effect just as if the student was in a classroom during the school day.
3. The only reasons for school personnel to ask a student to surrender a cell phone would be:
a - if the cell phone rang or vibrated (which would mean that the phone was turned on), or
b - if the teacher saw the cell phone (which would mean that the phone was visible).
4. If a student is found to be in violation of the cell phone policy the following protocol will be followed:

- **1st Violation:** The phone will be taken from the student and returned at the end of the day.
- **2nd Violation:** The phone will be taken from the student and the parent is contacted to pick up the cell phone.
- **3rd Violation and Subsequent Violations:** Student will be subject to the NYC DOE Discipline Code for insubordination and possible suspension from class.

Safety of our students is all of our business. Together we are able to increase safety and promote responsible "Digital Citizenship" among students. Please have conversation with your child about the proper uses of cell phones. As a school we will conduct assemblies around "Digital Citizenship."

Cell phones are very valuable and the school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones. In an effort to safe guard students we are offering a cell phone check every morning:

Students can check cell phones in the morning upon entry. Students will receive a receipt and retrieve the phones at the end of the day. The school at that point will be responsible to safeguard those phones that are securely checked. Students who check their phone can always contact their parents using phone in the main office.

I will be addressing the school cell phone policy at the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 25th. If you have any questions or concerns I will address them at that time or as always please contact me directly by calling the school.

Yours truly,

Matthew Barone
Principal