

# Longleaf Elementary School

4290 N. Wickham Road  
Melbourne, Florida 32935-2476



Dear Longleaf Families,

The School Board of Brevard County defines when students may use their communication devices during school hours and how they may use them. Policy 5136-Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) may be found on the district website and in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook (pages 27-29). I encourage you to read the district policy in its entirety and discuss it with your student(s) prior to the consistent enforcement on February 27, 2023.

Wireless communication devices have many positive uses. However, in the classroom setting they are an enormous distraction to learning. Multiple research studies cite the negative effects of cell phone use on teenagers, particularly the overuse of social media. We have found that cell phones not only distract students from learning, but also facilitate negative behavior such as:

- Cyberbullying
- Harassment
- Sexting
- Taking photos or videos of students and staff without their permission
- Accessing inappropriate websites
- Arranging meetings with friends in the hallways or restrooms during class time

**Student use of a WCD, including but not limited to cell phones, wireless/wired headphones, and smart watches will be strictly prohibited during instructional time on our campus and riding the bus.** During class students may not use their WCD in any way. This includes using their cell phones for calculators, checking the time, listening to music, reading a book or for any other reason. Our faculty cannot educate students effectively when they are constantly distracted by electronic devices.

While I understand that students may need to bring these devices for before or after school needs, they will need to be powered off and placed in their backpacks during the school day. It is imperative that any student who brings a WCD has a WCD contract on file. We are in the process of verifying that each student is in compliance and our school clerk will be sending home additional contracts soon.

Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to, revocation of their cell phone privilege on campus. The attached document has more specific information regarding Policy 5136-Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) and potential consequences.

We thank you for helping us reduce classroom distractions so that your student(s) can give their complete attention to learning. Please contact me at 321-242-4700 or [Sherburne.jason@brevardschools.org](mailto:Sherburne.jason@brevardschools.org) if you have any questions or extenuating circumstances where a WCD would need to be permitted.

Respectfully,

Principal Sherburne

**Jason Sherburne, Principal**  
*Mark W. Mullins, EdD., Superintendent*  
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