

February 24, 2023

Suntree Elementary Families,

I wanted to take a moment to remind you about the Wireless Communication Devices (cell phone/smartwatch) policy at Suntree Elementary School. The use of Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) is governed by School Board Policy 5136.

One area of particular concern is the growing use of cell phones and smartwatches during instructional time in the classroom setting. Our goal is and has always been to maximize the learning time for our students and ensure a positive learning environment.

Wireless communication devices have many positive uses. However, in the classroom these devices are an enormous distraction to learning. Multiple research studies cite the negative effects of cell phone use on students, 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
- Taking photos or videos of students and staff without their permission
- Accessing unapproved websites
- Arranging meetings with friends in the restrooms during class time

Student use of WCDs, including but not limited to cell phones and smartwatches will be strictly prohibited while students are on campus each day.

My sincere hope is that you have a conversation with your child(ren) about the acceptable time and use of their cell phones and other devices during the school day. Prior to entering campus, students should have their cell phones turned off and stored in their backpacks, out of sight. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary consequences including confiscation of devices and possible revocation of their cell phone/electronic device privileges on campus.

Please review the district cell policy with your student. The district cell policy can be accessed at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/brevco/Board.nsf/Public#>

In addition, the WCD agreement that was signed at registration can be accessed here: <https://www.brevardschools.org/cms/lib/FL02201431/Centricity/Domain/3231/3%20Cell%20Phone%20Contract%20English.pdf>

Thank you for your continued support as we work to reduce classroom distractions and provide our students with the best learning environment possible.

Sincerely,  
Shari Tressler, Ed.D.  
Suntree Elementary Principal