

Dear Senior Academy Community,

Studies have shown that student distraction and inattention due to cell phone use during instructional time presents a significant barrier to student learning and adversely affects the school learning environment. We've determined that a strong student cell phone plan is a vital component of a well-managed classroom and a productive learning environment. To support our students' learning and classroom instruction, ***the Senior Academy will implement a school wide phone protocol for the 2024-2025 school year*** to ensure consistent application of student cell phone use rules throughout the school. As a part of this protocol, students will place their phones in a designated lockable cell phone holder at the start of each class period every day. Students will not be allowed to access their phones during class, including restroom breaks during instructional time. Students will be allowed to access their phones during class changes and at lunch.

We recognize that many families and students have become accustomed to constant, immediate contact during the school day. With this protocol, both students and parents/guardians will have to adjust to the fact that students will only be able to send and answer text messages during class changes and at lunch. This may require a change in communication routines and expectations for some families. We ask that families help support us with our goal of reducing cell phone use by not asking students to reply to texts or other non-Drew email messages during class. In cases where parents need to reach students right away and sending an email message to the student's Drew email is not sufficient, we request that parents call the main Yates Campus number (470-355-1200) to reach the school receptionist. If no one answers, send an email to our Campus Receptionist, Ms. Knight (deresha.knight@drewcharter school.org), and our Administrative Manager, Ms. Edwards (khalilah.edwards@drewcharter school.org), with the student's name and grade level in the subject line. In the event of school emergencies, students' cell phones will be in the classroom and administration will provide instructions to teachers to return students' phones when appropriate.

For more information on implementation of this protocol, please review the following document:
 Classroom Cell Phone Expectations .

Accommodations will be made for students with specific medical needs on a case by case basis.