



1458 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075

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Christina Riggio, Principal

Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices

Dear MS 177 Families:

In accordance with the revised Department of Education policy regarding cell phone use, we wanted to share with you MS 177's policy for personal electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, iPads, portable music devices, and entertainment systems.

Student possession and use of electronic devices in school is permitted only under the circumstances described herein.

All students may use these devices before school begins and after school ends *outside of the school premises* (this includes the yard). These devices must be kept out of sight in the students' backpack and turned off during the instructional day, including on-site lunch and recess, before/after school programs, and during school-sponsored activities, such as field trips.

Unauthorized use of such devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment.

All students granted the privilege to go off-campus for lunch must remain in a group of 3 while off-site. At least one student within the group must have a cell phone whose number is provided to school administration in case of emergency. The purpose of cell phones during this time is strictly for safety and communication. Cell phones should not be used for any other purpose during this time. Students must adhere to the following guidelines regarding cell phone use during off-site lunch.

- The use of social media during lunch is strictly prohibited.
- Taking pictures is prohibited.
- Students should refrain from using cell phones or other electronic devices while in transport or public spaces, especially as this may attract unwanted attention from others in the surrounding community.
- Any student found to be using social media, taking pictures, or conducting themselves in an unsafe way during off-site lunch will have their off-campus lunch privileges revoked.

As a reminder, **anytime** a student uses cell phones, computing devices, and/or portable music and entertainment system in violation of any provision of the DOE's Discipline Code, the school's policy, Chancellor Regulation A-413, and/or the DOE's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy ("ISUSP") they can be subject to discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.



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In the event a student is found using a cellular phone in violation of this policy the school will consider the consequences, such measures may include but are not limited to:

- student will be given a warning
- confiscation of cell phone and return at end of school day
- confiscation of cell phone and return to parent/guardian following a conference
- revocation of privilege to bring item to school.

THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OR DAMAGE OF ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY OF STUDENTS OR VISITORS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO CELLULAR PHONES.

Thank you,

MS 177 SLT