WESTHAMPTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

CELL PHONE POLICY

A few years ago, in an effort to address the ongoing challenge of dealing with cell phones in schools, I met with teachers, students and parents to come up with enforceable and realistic procedures. As it is unrealistic to ban cell phones from schools entirely and cell phones have become part of our culture, we felt the need to create a building policy that is more aligned to the 21st century student. That said, our core mission is to educate each student that walks through our doors and create the greatest amount of opportunities for that student. In addressing the cell phone use in the building, we believe we are also addressing the academic climate of the high school. Building off of last year’s success, let’s review the guidelines.

As students return to school on September 6th for their first day, they will be no longer be prohibited from using their cell phones in the cafeteria. Additionally, there will be fewer restrictions in the hallway as students move about from class to class. In both instances, cellphones must be used responsibly and should not cause undue distraction. Life is about compromise and responsibility. As students age up to high school and through high school, they will be required to work together and take on more. With this new freedom comes responsibility. Students, as always, need to be in class on time and prepared as they enter each classroom. This will be enforced from day one. All cell phones need to be turned off before students enter the classroom. There will be zero tolerance for cell phones in the classroom. Students who are unable to use their cell phone responsibly will be held accountable. The first time students have their cell phone confiscated by an administrator or faculty/staff member; students will be able to pick up their phones at the end of the school day. The second offense will necessitate the parent/guardian picking up the cell phone at the end of the school day.

This building level endeavor will continue to be monitored and evaluated as we go through the school year. It is the belief that this “give and take” with students will lend itself toward fewer distractions in the classroom and increased learning opportunities. We also believe this is a chance to discuss socially appropriate behaviors dealing with electronic devices.

We strive to create an environment where students feel listened to, respected and empowered. We also need to maintain the positive environment that exists where faculty and staff are listened to and respected. Working together through conversation and ongoing dialogue in all areas regarding education will continue to put Westhampton Beach High School as one of the premier high schools on Long Island.