

## **CELL PHONE, SMART WATCHES, AND AIR POD, EARBUDS, HEADPHONE USAGE**

**In response to State Bill 139, the following policy has been updated and approved by our school board:**

It is the policy of the Woodall Board of Education that a student may possess a personal electronic device while on school premises, or while in transit under the authority of the school, or while attending any function sponsored or authorized by the school upon consent of both the student's parent or guardian, and the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. Students may be issued a device by the school district such as a laptop, tablet or other electronic device. School-issued devices or school-approved devices are exempt from the requirements of this policy and shall be utilized only for educational purposes by students.

**Students are prohibited from utilizing cell phones and personal electronic devices while on the campus of a public school district from bell to bell.** Exceptions may be made as follows:

1. Emergency use of cell phones or personal electronic devices by students during the school day. Emergency use includes situations where immediate communication is needed for safety or urgent personal matters. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Medical Emergencies – Calling 911 or a parent if a student or someone nearby is having a severe health crisis (e.g., asthma attack, allergic reaction, seizure).; or
  - b. Natural Disasters or Lockdowns – Communicating with law enforcement or family during events like tornados, fires, lockdowns, or other emergencies affecting the school; or
2. Use of cell phones or personal electronic devices by students who use them to monitor health issues. This includes, but is not limited to, glucose monitoring which may occur multiple times during the school day; or
3. Students with special needs may use cell phones or personal electronic devices during class time or during the school day if their IEP, Medical Plan, or 504 Plan explicitly requires it as assistive technology for medically or educationally necessary purposes. To qualify for this exception, the use must be listed as a documented accommodation necessary for instruction or communication within the student's IEP, Medical Plan, or 504 Plan.

**“Bell to bell” means the time between the first bell ringing at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day to end instructional time (this also includes our afterschool program).**

**“Personal electronic device” means a personal device capable of connecting to a smart phone, the Internet, or a cellular or Wi-Fi network, or directly connecting to another similar device. Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, smart watches, smart headphones, ear buds, laptops, tablets, and smart glasses. Personal electronic devices shall not include school-issued or school approved devices that are specifically limited for use in classroom instruction.**

Students found to be using any personal electronic device for any illegal purpose, violation of privacy, or in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations shall be subject to discipline and the device may be confiscated by the administration of the school district. Any personal electronic device that is confiscated will be returned to the student at the end of the school day or to a parent/guardian at a conference. Students violating this rule may be disallowed from carrying any wireless telecommunication device following the incident unless the device is utilized to monitor a health condition. Students found to be in possession of or using a personal electronic device in violation of the rules shall be subject to disciplinary action under the student discipline policy, including confiscation of the device pending parent/guardian conference, detention, or suspension. Punishment for violation will be determined by the administration on a case-by-case basis.

Students may bring cellphones to school. However, **phones, smart watches, AND air pods, earbuds, headphones (listening device) must be turned totally off (not on silent or vibrate) and kept in bags during the school day. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST SMART WATCHES, as well as all listening devices, BE LEFT AT HOME AND NOT LEFT TURNED OFF IN BAGS.**

- . “Kept out of sight during the school day” means a cell phone/smart watch/listening device must stay in a student's bag, not on their person or in their pockets.

Students found to be in possession of or using a personal electronic device in violation of the rules shall be subject to disciplinary action under the student discipline policy, including confiscation of the device pending parent/guardian conference, detention, or suspension. Punishment for violation will be determined by the administration on a case-by-case basis.

Consequence for a violation of cell phone/listening device usage policy may include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Student comes to the office with the phone and fills out a cell phone violation log sheet, leaves the phone in the office in the designated place for the remainder of the day, and student picks up the phone at the end of school.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Student comes to the office with the phone and fills out a cell phone violation log sheet. Student meets with principal to call parent. Parent is notified that the student may no longer bring cell phone to school and parent must pick up cell phone from the office.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses: Student will receive a discipline referral and report to the principal.

**Woodall Public Schools is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen phones, smart watches, or listening devices.**