



# BETHLEHEM

## AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### EAST HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

2005 Chester Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-2797  
610-867-0541

June, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of an important update to our district's Personal Electronic Device Policy, effective May 19, 2025, for the upcoming school year. This revised policy aims to create an optimal learning environment for all students by minimizing distractions and fostering greater focus during instructional time.

In today's interconnected world, we recognize the role personal electronic devices, including cell phones, play in daily life. However, extensive research and our own observations highlight the significant impact these devices can have on student engagement, concentration, and academic performance when used inappropriately during school hours. Our goal with this updated policy is to cultivate a learning environment where students can fully engage with their teachers and peers, absorb information more effectively, and develop essential focus skills.

**East Hills Middle School's procedures, as defined in the student and staff handbook, are in alignment with the district's Policy 237: Personal Electronic Devices. The policy is as follows:**

- **Cell phones must be silenced and not on person** (e.g., placed in backpacks, lockers, or designated classroom areas) from the start of the school day until the final dismissal.
- Students will not be permitted to use their cell phones during instructional periods, breakfast, lunch, recess, or transition times.
- We understand the need for communication. In case of an emergency or if you need to reach your child, please contact the school office, and we will ensure your message is delivered promptly.

We believe these adjustments will significantly enhance the learning experience for all students by reducing distractions and promoting deeper engagement in academic activities. This policy is designed to help students cultivate stronger self-regulation and focus skills, which are invaluable not only in their academic journey but also in their future endeavors.

We understand that adapting to new policies can take time, and we appreciate your partnership in reinforcing these expectations with your children. Your support in discussing the importance of focused learning and responsible device use at home will be instrumental in the successful implementation of this updated policy.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our school or the district office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to create the most effective learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

David M. Horvath