



July 20, 2022

Dear Enlarged City School District of Middletown Families,

It is my hope this communication finds you doing well and enjoying the summer months! Our goal continues to be providing each of our young people with opportunities to learn and grow in an optimal academic-focused environment. To do this, we need to ensure we are working together to make safety a priority and limit as many distractions as practicable.

We will be kicking off the 2022-2023 with a refreshed set of expectations on cell phone use in schools. In order for our collective school community to rally around our vision, we need your support.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the following will be in place on all school campuses grades K-12:

- cell phones** must be **turned off and put away** during the **school day**
- Scholars may only access their cell phones prior to the start of the school day and then again after the school day ends
- Scholars will not have access to their cell phones at any point during the school day (this includes during study hall and lunch periods)**
- Scholars are not permitted to use cell phones during passing times**
- To ensure the integrity of assessments, all students are prohibited from having cell phones in a classroom or other location where an assessment is being administered.

We are providing this communication early in the summer so our families and young people have time to plan. I strongly encourage families to make communication plans this summer and discuss the plan openly as a family. Our scholars will not have access to their cell phones during

the school day. They will only be able to use their cell phones prior to the beginning of the school day and for after-school activities.

Our school-based offices are always available as a resource to our scholars and families. In the event you have an urgent matter, our office staff will get a message to your child or have him/her return your call. If a scholar must call home, they should go to the main office to place a call.

We know we are better when we work to support one another. Again, please review these expectations as a family and use the summer to put communication plans in place. Our young people will be expected to engage with these expectations in positive ways and follow the guidelines we have outlined. Any scholar who violates these expectations will be held accountable to the District's Code of Conduct. We will make it a practice to collect cell phones if they are being used during the school day and a parent/guardian will be required to come to the school to pick up the device if collected. Cell phones will not be handed back to a scholar after it is collected.

We thank you in advance for your partnership with our school and your continued support in order to provide a safe and productive learning environment where our focus is learning and growing together in a positive environment.

Respectfully serving,

Amy Creeden, Superintendent of Schools