

## CELL PHONE POLICY



The use of cell phones, cameras, videophones, or other visual recording devices on the school bus is strictly prohibited. The only exception to this policy is using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician and surgeon to be essential for the health of the pupil.

Toy weapons are also strictly prohibited.

If these items are brought to school bus and visible, they will be confiscated by the staff member and turned in to the Dean of Students for that student's grade level. If a student chooses to bring their cell phone or electronic devices, we strongly suggest that it is turned off and placed inside of their bookbag. **EBS will assume no liability for the damage, loss, or theft of these items.**

The sequence of consequences for not following the policy goes as follows:

- 1st offense: Device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the route.
- 2nd offense: Device will be confiscated and only be released to the parent/guardian.
- 3rd and Subsequent Offenses: Device will be confiscated and released to the parent/guardian. Student will be suspended from the bus for five (5) school days (weekends not included).
- Any additional offenses may result in permanent bus suspension.

**Cell phones must remain in bookbag. If driver or monitor sees or hears your child's phone, they will take it. In addition, student may be suspended from the bus. If student refuses to give up the phone, he/she WILL be suspended from the bus.**

### **Reasons using cell phones are NOT ALLOWED while on the school bus**

- Ringtones and loud conversations--can be a major distraction to a bus driver.
- Cell phone use may interfere with bus radios or on-board computers.
- Cell phones have the ability to take pictures and videos, which can inadvertently put the safety and privacy of our guarded students at risk if these pictures are made public via social networking outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.).
- Cell phones play downloaded music, which is prohibited on school buses. Bus drivers need to concentrate when they are driving. Music being played aloud can interfere with the driver hearing sirens from police, ambulance and fire safety vehicles.
- Consistency is key when it comes to cell phone rules. The school bus is viewed as an extension of the classroom--when on a bus students are asked to abide by all rules governing the classroom. Since cell phones are not allowed in the classroom, they are not allowed on the school bus.
- If an accident does occur, premature phone calls or texts from students' cell phones to parents can create unnecessary havoc (i.e., parents rushing to the scene of a fender bender, parents vehicles blocking traffic, parents vehicles interfering with emergency and police vehicles on the scene or getting to the scene, etc.). Our bus drivers are trained every year to deal with on- and off-road accidents.