



NORTH JEFFERSON MIDDLE

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students of NJMS,

The faculty and staff at NJMS recognize the importance of technology in today's world, and the growing role it plays in the educational setting. However, cell phones have become a major distraction to the learning environment, create safety/harassment issues for students, and are vulnerable to being stolen or damaged.

The following cell phone policy is in effect at North Jefferson Middle School:

No student cell phones, earbuds, air pods, or bluetooth headphones will be allowed to be in use during the school day (from arrival in the building until dismissal), unless specifically directed by a teacher or administrator. This includes smartwatches being used to message or play games. Smart watches are only to be used in the "watch" setting.

Cell phones must be powered off and stored inside backpacks. If a student leaves the room during class for any reason (bathroom, or nurse, for example), they must leave their cell phone in the classroom.

During class, students **MAY NOT** use their phones for calculators, to check the time, music, reading a book, checking their grades or for any other reason. If there is a medical reason to use a cell phone, those correspondences will be made via the nurses office and per a 504 or health plan.

If a student needs to call a parent or guardian during the school day, he or she may use the student phone located in the front office. If a parent needs to contact a student or leave a student a message, that parent is welcome to call the office at (205) 379-4000.

The following recurring issues have initiated this change in our cell phone policy:

- Students taking videos and pictures of other students in the bathroom and/or locker room and sending them to other students or posting them to social media (child pornography)
- Students taking pictures and videos of fights (**now a Class III offense**)
- Students making audio recordings of test reviews and listening to it while taking a test, or taking pictures of a test and sharing it.
- Students taking pictures in the classroom of other students without permission and posting to social media/using SM or TikTok to draw attention to these other students in a negative way (cyberbullying)
- Students sending offensive messages, pictures, videos, or using language that is profane, indecent, obscene, or vulgar (harassment and intimidation)

Should a phone need to be taken up for misuse, it will be confiscated by an adult and given to an administrator to be placed in a safe area. Failure to turn over a phone immediately will result in the student receiving a Class II offense for defiance. If the student feels the phone is being taken due to a misunderstanding, the student may discuss the circumstances with an administrator at a later time, outside of the academic portion of class.

***The chart below indicates the process of discipline for cell phone policy violations:**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Action</u>
1st offense	Device taken up. Returned to student at 3:00. Written warning to be signed by parent and returned the next day.
2nd offense	Device retained in the office for 5 school days. Student must submit by 7:55 and can collect at 3:00.
3rd offense	Device retained in the office for 10 school days. Student must submit by 7:55 and can collect at 3:00.
4th offense	Parent must come collect device and conference with an administrator. Device may be banned from school for remainder of semester.