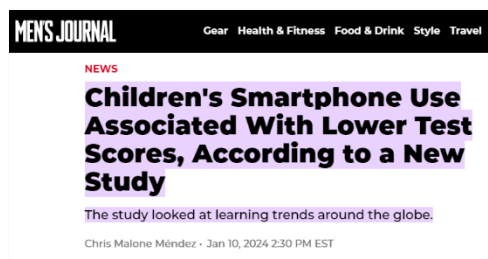


# Personal Device Access Policy

The impact of social media and smart phone use on the health and well-being of youth is undeniable. Where personal devices present an opportunity for education to move in a positive, more-engaging direction, that same technology has been demonstrated as a threat to the academic performance of our students leading to many of the following:

## Mental Health:

- Depression & Anxiety
- Low self-esteem & Self-perception
- Self-soothing
- Isolation
- Addiction



## Achievement & Behavior:

- Distraction & Avoidance
- Violence & Bullying
- Plagiarism (Cheating)
- Lack of Knowledge Retention
- Loss of "Student Skills"
- Lower Test Scores

Charles County Policy is clear on mobile or personal device use in schools,

*"Students may bring their phone or device but once school begins the device must be powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and must remain in a non-visible, secure location, with the exception of lunchtime or during an approved activity period."*

As a teacher, I am not able to monitor all, specific student phone use. Because this use has become a significant problem for student achievement and mental health, these rules will now apply:

- Students will be required to place their phones in the "Phone Home" box at the opening period bell and collect it following the final bell of the period.
  - If a student unwilling to place it in the box, they are expected to have the phone off and out of sight (to include no playing of audio, air pods, etc.)
  - Any use of the device during the class period will be considered **Academic Dishonesty** and the appropriate level of response (consequences) will be applied, as the teacher is unable to know for certain for what purpose the student may be using it. (Certainty is maintained by placing the mobile device in the box.)
  - Continued use after the first offense will follow the **Disrespect** levels of response.

For more information, please see the [Charles County Code of Student Conduct](#).

The impact of phones and social media on student mental health and academic performance is strikingly negative.