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Cell Phone Expectation Change

To the parents/guardians of Harrisville Central School students,

I hope that your summer has been relaxing and you have been able to spend quality time with your family.

As we near the start of the new school year, I would like to introduce to all of you, a change in expectations regarding cell phone use by students, during school hours. In the past few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of mobile devices by students throughout the school day. Upon conversations with staff, students, and parents, it has been determined that this increase in cell phone use, has become a hindrance to the educational process throughout the school day making it increasingly more difficult to keep students engaged and focused on crucial curricular activities. During this same timeframe, we have also experienced a dramatic increase in the number of instances of cyber-bullying and student discipline associated with cell phone usage.

With the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, HCS is introducing a new set of cell phone expectations for students. By limiting the amount of time students are on their cell phones, we hope to increase the amount of time students are engaged with their classroom activities and limit the amount of time students spend in the office. We are also hoping to limit the impact of social media in our school and the negative impact it has on our kids.

Students are expected to silence their phones upon entering the building at 7:45 a.m. Throughout the school day, cell phone use will not be permitted, except when authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes and during a student’s lunch period. Cell phones are expected to be off and away at all other times.

If a student is found to be in possession or use of a cell phone, the phone will be confiscated, placed in a labeled envelope, and delivered to the office. The consequences will be as follows:

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| <p>1st offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- Cell phone held in office until the end of the day. --- Student will sign for the cell phone at the end of the day in the office. --- Parent or guardian notified. <p>2nd offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- Cell phone held in office until the end of the day. --- A parent or guardian will need to sign for the cell phone at the end of the day in the office. <p>3rd offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- Cell phone held in office until the of the day. --- A parent or guardian will sign for the cell phone after a meeting with the student and principal. The student will be subject to a one (1) day in-school suspension. |
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Additional offenses will be considered an act of insubordination. A student that refuses to comply with a request to surrender their cell phone by any member of the faculty or staff and/or administrator, will be considered insubordinate. Rules governing insubordination will apply as outlined in the student handbook.

We hope you understand our stance on technology and in particular, cell phones and we highly encourage you to talk with your child about these new expectations before the start of the new school year. We will also be addressing this change with students on the first day of school and this will also be reflected in our updated Student Handbook. As always, we appreciate your support as we try to provide each and every student with the best educational experience possible.

All the Best,

Robert N. Finster
Superintendent of School

Eric M. Luther
7-12 Principal/Athletic Director