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Carrie Ehrhardt, Principal

Notification of New Cell Phone Rules Being Put In Place at PTHS

March 20, 2019

Dear Parents of PTHS Students:

Like many schools, we have been struggling to manage student cell phone use during class. In most classrooms, student cell phones have become a distraction to the educational process, as students are unable to maintain focus on the instruction, due to the ongoing urge to send or read messages. Schools around the country have begun taking action to create cell phone free educational environments, and we believe it is time as well. While we would prefer that our students have the ability to use their phones responsibly, and only as allowed during the school day, we have come to the conclusion that the temptation for cell phone use during class time has become too strong. And therefore we are implementing more stringent measures to control cell phone use during instructional time at our school.

These new procedures and consequences will begin on **Monday, April 8**, at PTHS.

**Procedures:**

- \*A cell phone holding device will be placed in each classroom/instructional area/office.
- \*Teachers will use the first minutes of class to have all students set their phones to silence and put them in the cell phone holder.
- \*If a student chooses to secure their phone in a backpack, that is allowable, as long as the phone is set to silence and the student does not try to retrieve it from the backpack.
- \*Students will not be able to retrieve their phone until the end of class.

**Consequences:**

- \*A student who is caught using their cell phone during class, or in the hallway during a class period, will have it removed and taken to the office.
- \*A parent/guardian will need to come in and meet with the Principal or Dean, for the phone to be returned.
- \*After a second offense, the phone must be turned into the office before school, each day, and will be held by administration until the end of the school day.

Occasionally, teachers will allow the students to utilize their phone for instructional use. However, this practice will not be a daily occurrence, so students should be expecting to turn their phone in to the holder, each class period, unless otherwise directed. In most cases, the classroom Chromebooks will provide better technology access for the students, and will help teachers insure that the technology is being used for the appropriate purpose.

Prior to Spring Break, teachers will be discussing this new protocol with students, so they are aware of these expectations, and have an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you for supporting this change in our policy. We are excited to see the increased focus by students and the return of instructional time that our teachers will be gaining.

Sincerely,

  
Carrie Ehrhardt, Principal  
Port Townsend High School