



<i>New Summit Charter Academy</i>	<i>Policies and Procedures</i>
Policy Name:	NSCA Board Policy on Student Cell Phone Usage
Policy Number:	JICJ-NSCA
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Category:	Student Policies
Author:	Compliance Officer
Approval:	NSCA Board of Directors

## Introduction

According to a study by Common Sense Media, teenagers receive a median of 273 electronic notifications a day, with nearly a quarter of them coming during school hours. One in five students receives more than 500 notifications per day. Some students reach for their phones more than 200 times during the school day. All this time spent acknowledging and/or responding to notifications could be spent establishing and nurturing personal relationships with peers and teachers.

## Objective

The objective of this policy is to create a conducive learning environment and to foster the development of interpersonal relationships among students and staff at NSCA by prohibiting the use of mobile phones during school hours.

## Policy Statement:

Students are prohibited from using mobile devices, including smartphones, smartwatches, and online tablets, during school hours at NSCA. School hours refer to any time when students are on school premises, including but not limited to class time, break times, study hall, lunch, and any school-sponsored activities unless otherwise specified by a teacher or school administrator for educational purposes.

## Rationale:

1. **Promotion of Interpersonal Relationships:** Excessive mobile phone use can hinder face-to-face communication and interaction among students and staff. By limiting mobile phone usage during school hours, we aim to encourage meaningful connections and the development of strong interpersonal relationships among peers and staff members.
2. **Minimization of Distractions:** Mobile phones can be a significant source of distraction for students, impacting their focus on learning activities and classroom engagement. Prohibiting mobile phone usage during school hours helps to minimize distractions and create a more conducive learning environment.
3. **Promotion of Physical Activity:** Discouraging mobile phone use during break times encourages students to engage in physical activities and socialize with their peers, contributing to their overall well-being and health.
4. **Enhancement of School Safety:** By limiting the use of mobile phones, particularly during emergencies, we can ensure clear communication channels and a more effective response to potential safety concerns.

## Implementation

1. **Communication:** This policy will be communicated to all students, parents/guardians, and staff members through school handbooks, the school website, and during school orientations at the beginning of each academic year.
2. **Students** can have cell phones at school but must secure them (i.e., powered off in their lockers, backpacks, or bags) during the school day. Students shall not access their phones from the start of classes until the student's day is over. This is to include any use in classrooms as an instructional tool.
3. **Staff** may use cell phones when students are not present or in emergencies. Students are not allowed to use online smartwatches. Students should be aware that if a school staff member

sees or hears a cell phone during the school day, he/she will take the phone (or request that the student take the phone) to that school's front office. The phone may be retrieved after school.

4. Enforcement: Teachers and school staff will enforce this policy consistently and fairly. Students found using mobile phones during school hours will be reminded of the policy and asked to comply. Persistent violations may result in disciplinary actions outlined in the school's disciplinary policy.
5. The disciplinary consequence for non-compliance will be graduated and is articulated in JICJ-NSCA-R NSCA Disciplinary Policy Regarding Student Use of Cell Phones. It is important to note that this approach ("See it, Hear it Take it") does not preclude student possession of their phones, except in cases of non-compliance, when phones have been sent to the office. Any consideration for medical exemptions should follow the processes outlined in JICJ-NSCA-E Medical Exemption Form for Student Use of Cell Phones.

#### Revision History

Date	Revision Details	Revised By
5/15/2024	Approved	Board, Executive Director