



ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cell Phone Policy Information



Dear Students,

As a St. Thomas staff we have recently noticed a rising number of students feeling anxious, worried and even depressed. We have had a large number of incidences where students have been targeted online through social media both in and out of school. As well many students throughout the day have been distracted in class and have had their phones taken away during class time. This has resulted in many negative interactions with students.

Here at St. Thomas our hopes is that you will thrive both academically and socially. We as a staff care about your academic and emotional health. This is why we have decided to implement a school wide cell phone policy.

Sincerely, St. Thomas Staff

Let's talk about WHY?



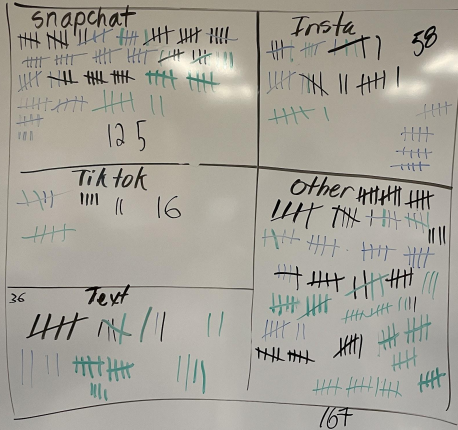
Why? Here's some compelling data...

Ten classes experimented with the number of interruptions that happened in class from cell phone use. The average number of interruptions was a shocking 1540 in a single class period. It is shown through research that even having cell phones within a close proximity impacts your learning and can in turn impact your grades. We want to ensure that everyone at STA is learning in the best environment possible.

Along with interruptions in class and learning, which is our primary concern, there are a great deal of conflicts, bullying, threats and worrisome occurrences that are affecting students mental health.

Data Continued...

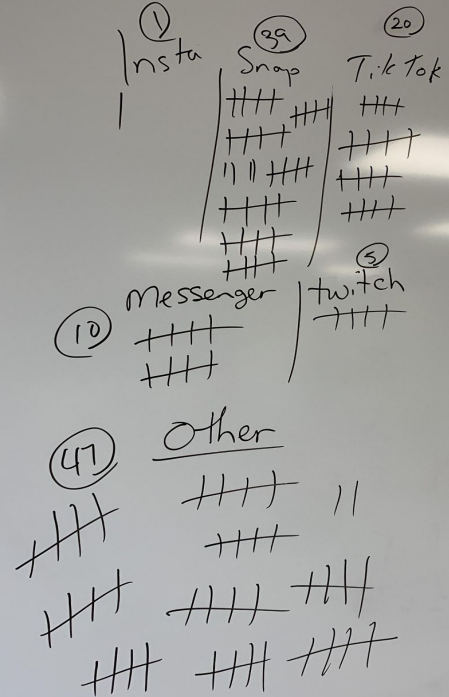
15 minutes



Total: 402

478 Gaming notifications in a 6 hour school day!

Stuff2



Policy Guidelines



Policy Guidelines

- We will be implementing our new cell phone policy on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021
- This applies to all classes at St. Thomas
- This applies to all students at St. Thomas
- Parents have been informed that this policy is starting at St. Thomas.

Policy Guidelines

Mobile phones/smart watches/earbuds should be 'off and away in lockers' during the hours of 8:45am-12pm and 1pm-3:23pm. If any device is seen or heard during these times, the student will be asked to take their mobile phone/smart watch/earbuds to the office. This will include devices tucked in clothing, in bags, or in binders.

Policy Guidelines

1. If a teacher sees that you have your phone in the classroom you will be asked to bring your phone to the office.
2. Walk down to the office and inform the office staff that you have been asked to turn in your cell phone. Your teacher will call the office to let you know you are on your way.
3. You will be directed to place your phone in the phone locker.



Policy Guidelines

4. Once you place your phone in the locker give the key to the office staff.

5. They will make note of your phone being brought to the office.

6. At the end of day go back to the office to retrieve your phone.



Please note that the office staff is very busy at the end of the day. You are expected to wait patiently.

Policy Guidelines

Delivered devices will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first and second instances. Should there be a third occurrence, a call will be made home requiring a parent/guardian to collect the child's device.



Policy Guidelines

- After three offences, should this continue to be a challenge, further discipline will follow.
- Students are still able to use their devices prior to school, during lunchtime, and after school. Parents will be informed that we would appreciate it if they would contact their child during these times.
- In the case of any special needs or family emergencies, we have a landline that is answered from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Failure to adhere to guidelines

First Offence: Cell phone/smartwatch/earbuds are turned in until the end of the day and can be picked up at the office at the end of the day.

Second Offence: Cell phone/smartwatch/earbuds are turned in until the end of the day and can be picked up at the office at the end of the day.

Third Offence: Cell phone/smartwatch/earbuds are turned in until the end of the day and parents are notified to pick up the phone. Phone will not be returned to student.

Fourth Offence: School Administration will work with you and your parents to determine next steps. This will be treated as a discipline issue at this point as the student is failing to follow school wide expectations.

FAQ: Questions and Answers



Q: Will this be the expectation in every class, every day?

A: Yes

Q: Are teachers allowed to be on their phones?

A: Teachers are required to have access to their phones in case an emergency arises.

Q: Can I have a Smartwatch or other wireless devices in the classroom?

A: No, the same expectations apply to Smartwatches, Wireless Headphones and other Smart devices.

Q: Can I access social media on other devices (ex. Chromebook?) during instructional time?

A: No

Q: What if I am caught with my cell phone, Smart Watch or earbuds and refuse to give it to the office?

A: This will be treated as a discipline issue which will likely result in additional consequences.

Q: Can I listen to music on my phone while I work during instructional/class time?

A: No, your phone will be in your locker.

Q: What if my phone is in my backpack?

A: Your phone should be stored in your locker. If a teacher sees your phone you must bring it to the office.

Q: When does this policy officially start?

A: 8:45am on Tuesday, November 30th

Q: Can I go to the office early and get my phone if I ride the bus at the end of the day?

A: No.

Q: Can I bring my own chromebook to school to use during instructional time?

A: Yes, this may be allowed at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Please ensure that you speak to your teacher if you would like to make arrangements to bring in your own chromebook.

Q: Where can I find the details of our policy?

A: On our school website, and on the letter that was sent by school administration to your RDCRS email address and to your parents on November 24th.

Thanks for listening!