

LaFayette Junior-Senior High School
Cell Phone Policy

We recognize the prevalence of cell phone use among teens and respect it as a means of communication in a busy family. Students often have before and after school commitments and a cell phone enables parents and other family members to be aware of each other's plans. We therefore permit cell phone use prior to the first bell of the day (7:58 am) and after the last bell (2:45 pm). At all other times cell phones must be in the students' locker recognizing the student responsibility for loss or theft. The decision was made based on the following concerns shared by the New York State School Board Association;

- Cell phone and wireless technology has expanded the issue beyond nuisance telephone rings to text messaging, MP3 players, digital photographs and videos and Internet usage.
- Cell phones have memory into which information can be stored.
- Cell phones can be used to send test answers to friends.
- Cell phones can be used to record information to be used as "cheat sheets."
- Cell phones can be used to photograph (and upload) inappropriate pictures of students.
- Cell phones can be used to harass and bully.
- Cell phones used in class/assembly is at least distracting if not disruptive.
- Cell phones can be used to arrange a drug deal, plot a bomb threat, set up others to fight.

If a student is believed to be carrying/using a cell phone during the school day, he/she will be asked to surrender it. If it is a first offense and no other violation of the school code of conduct and/or the academic integrity policy has been violated, the student will receive a warning and may retrieve the phone at the end of the school day. However, any subsequent offense will require that a parent/guardian come to the building to retrieve the phone and additional discipline may be warranted.

Thank you for understanding and respecting our need to regulate cell phone use in school.