



Moniteau School District Implements Phone-Free School Day



Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, Pennsylvania has joined a growing number of states taking action to reduce distractions in the classroom by restricting student use of personal electronic devices during the school day. Research continues to demonstrate that limiting access to cell phones and similar devices during instructional time improves student engagement, increases academic achievement, strengthens social interactions, and promotes a safer learning environment. In support of these efforts, the Moniteau School District will implement a phone-free school day for all students.

Starting when students enter the school building each morning and continuing until dismissal at the end of the day, cell phones, smart watches used for communication, earbuds, headphones, and similar personal electronic devices must be powered off and stored completely out of sight. Students may not use these devices during class, in the hallways, during lunch, study halls, or at any other time during the school day. The goal of this procedure is simple: to help students remain focused on learning, build meaningful face-to-face relationships with peers and staff, and minimize distractions throughout the school day. By removing the constant interruption of personal technology, students can be more engaged in their classrooms and fully participate in the school community.

The District recognizes that some students have documented medical needs or approved accommodations requiring the use of personal electronic devices. Students with an approved medical plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or other documented accommodation may use their devices as specifically outlined in their individual plan. Device use must be limited to the intended and approved purpose.

Parents and guardians who need to contact their child during the school day are asked to call or email the school's main office. Office staff will ensure that important messages are delivered promptly. Likewise, students who need to contact a parent or guardian may do so with permission from their classroom teacher by bringing their device to the main office for use or by using the office telephone. We appreciate the partnership of our students, families, and staff as we implement this important change. Together, we can create learning environments where students are fully present, actively engaged, and prepared for success both inside and outside the classroom.