



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
CHARLES W. HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
601 Carpenter Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119

TO: Parents, guardians, and students
FROM: Mr. Ross, Principal
SUBJECT: **Charles W. Henry Student Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Policy and Act 26**
DATE: August 2022

At Charles W. Henry, we understand the importance of students having cell phones for communication and safety reasons. Unfortunately, cell phones also present a large distraction in school as students send text messages, use social media, take photographs, and record videos of one another. I ask that you reiterate to your students the importance of focusing on school while they are at school.

It is the expectation of C.W. Henry administration that students and parents adhere to the School District's cell phone policy. If a student brings a cell phone, smart phone, or electronic device to school, they do so at their own risk. C.W. Henry Elementary School will take no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged cell phones or any other electronic device. Should a student bring: a smart phone, cell phone, or any device that can take photographs; record, play, or edit audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the internet, **it is CW Henry policy that it must be turned off and out of sight for the entire school day. Phones should not be stored in pants or sweatshirt pockets.** Such devices must be kept in your handbag, backpack, or locker.

It is an expectation that CW Henry parents support the Principal and staff in upholding our electronics policy. Please do your part and do not call or text your student during the school day. If you need to reach your child for any reason, please call the main office at (215) 400 - 3480. The message will be delivered to your child and they are permitted to call you back from the main office phone. Students who use their cell phone or electronic device inside the school building or on the school premises during the hours of 8:45 am and 3:24 pm will be subject to discipline as outlined by the School District of Philadelphia's Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students will be subject to the following school procedure:

FIRST OFFENSE: Phone/electronic device will be confiscated by staff member and turned into the office. All devices are locked in the main office. On the first offense, the device can be picked up by the student in the main office after 3:24pm. This policy serves as official notice. The school will notify parents/guardians of confiscated phone/electronic device via a phone call or an email.

SECOND OFFENSE: Phone/electronic device will be confiscated by staff member and turned into the office. All devices are locked in the main office. On the second occurrence, phone/electronic devices will be returned ONLY to the parent/guardian on file. The device will be held in the main office until a parent/guardian who is listed on the student's record is able to report to the school.

THIRD OFFENSE: Phone/electronic device will be confiscated by staff member and turned into the office. Phone/electronic device will be returned ONLY to the parent/guardian on file after a meeting with the Dean of Students. The student will be placed on a behavioral contract and required to leave their phone at home or turn it into the main office daily.

ANY STUDENT WHO IS USING THEIR CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND REFUSES TO RELINQUISH IT TO A STAFF MEMBER OR TEACHER WILL BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA'S STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.



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Act 26 - Weapons Violation

Pennsylvania Law ACT 26 requires that any student, regardless of age or grade level, found to be in possession of a weapon on school property, in a school program or event, or traveling to or from a school or school program or event (including school buses and public transportation) be subject to arrest and expulsion from the School District for at least one year.

The law defines a weapon as “any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, laser pointer and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury.” The law does not require that the student use or try to use the weapon. Furthermore, weapons carried for self-defense are not exempt from the provisions of the law. Possession includes weapons found on the person as well as in school bags, desks, or lockers.

The law requires that when a weapon is discovered:

- School officials must detain the student
- Philadelphia Police must be called and they may arrest students age 10 or older
- The student must be suspended
- The school may recommend that the student be expelled from the School District of Philadelphia