



GATEWAY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

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JASON S. FINNIE
Principal

ANTHONY P. SABONIS
Assistant Principal

June 14, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to inform you of a change we are making in the Middle School and High School Student Handbooks beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Though we remain a district open to students bringing their own electronic devices, and provide network access to those compliant with our Acceptable Use Policy, student use of cell phones will no longer be allowed in classrooms unless required as part of their coursework (approved by administration). With a 1 to 1 ratio of Chromebooks to students in grades 6-10, and laptops available in grades 11 and 12 (by 2019 all grades will have Chromebooks), cell phones are rarely needed for instructional purposes, and far too often are the source of classroom distraction or disruption of the school environment. Students will be allowed access to their cell phones during passing time and lunch, and parents can always reach them in an emergency by contacting the Middle School/High School office at 413-685-1102.

Though we hope there will be no need for this, please be aware that the consequences for students' failure to follow this policy do include confiscation of their phone for varying lengths of time:

- 1st Offense- Warning, confiscation (returned to the student at end of school day)*
- 2nd Offense- Confiscation (returned to parent/guardian)*
- 3rd Offense- Confiscation (returned at end of semester)*

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about this change, and thank you for your support in helping us maintain a positive and constructive instructional environment.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Finnie
Principal