

Hereford High School

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Dear Hereford Families,

As a school community, our primary focus is student achievement and success. In recent years, as technology has advanced and become more prevalent in our daily lives, cell phones have become one of the biggest impediments to student productivity and focus. In addition, cell phones and social media are now the primary vehicles for negative peer interactions. Numerous academic studies in the fields of education and brain research have shown that cell phone usage can negatively impact student achievement and mental health.

In order to create a more effective classroom environment for teaching and learning, we will be establishing clear expectations for student phone usage during instruction. We need your support with ensuring that students understand and abide by these expectations, because ultimately it is their success that is at the center of this shift.

Student Cell Phone Expectations:

- Cell phones are not to be used during instruction. They may only be used at teacher discretion.
- Cell phones should be silenced or off during class/enrichment.
- Cell phones should be away during class/enrichment.
- Cell phone use is permissible before homeroom, in the hallways during transitions, and during lunch periods.

This shift will initially be difficult for our students, as they are accustomed to the frequent communication and immediate gratification made available to them through their cell phones. Students who are not able to abide by the expectations will be subject to disciplinary interventions in alignment with the BCPS Student Code of Conduct. Please know that I greatly appreciate your support with helping our students navigate these expectations. I am confident that this shift will have positive impact on student achievement, focus, and overall state of wellbeing.

Go Bulls,

Robert S. Covert
Principal



Raising the bar, Closing gaps, Preparing for our future