

BARD HIGH SCHOOL EARLY COLLEGE

A partnership between Bard College and the New York City Public Schools

Use and Possession of Cell Phones

In order to preserve the academic culture of BHSEC and to prevent the use of phones for illegal or unethical purposes (e.g., cheating), the school policy towards cell phones is as follows:

Student cell phones must be turned off and remain out of sight at all times, including during class time, before and after school, during free periods, during school activities, or when directed by school staff. Cell phone use is not permitted in the cafeteria, school bathrooms, changing rooms, the library, or school yard. While students are permitted to possess cell phones on school property, **students may not use cell phones at any time, except when given permission by an instructor for academic use in class (i.e. use as a calculator, as a reference tool.) Students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings of classes without the permission of the instructor.**

If the cell phone is used, activated, or displayed at an unauthorized time, the cell phone may be confiscated and the student may be subject to disciplinary measures pursuant to the NYC DOE Code of Conduct. Students who refuse to turn over a phone to a faculty member, member of the school staff, or member of the administration may be subject to further disciplinary action.

If a faculty or school staff member confiscates a student's cell phone, the device will be stored in the principal's office or other secure location and returned to the student at the end of one school week. Cell phones will be returned to parents who come in to school for a conference.

School officials shall not search the contents of the student's cell phone absent reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated or is violating the law or a school rule. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has committed or is committing a serious violation of law or school rules and regulations (e.g., use of cell phone to cheat, possession of drugs or weapons) and there is a reasonable suspicion to believe that a search of a cell phone will reveal evidence of such a violation, school officials may search the cell phone. The extent and scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age of the student and nature of the infraction. Efforts shall be made to limit the search to only those applications on the cell phone that would contain evidence of the suspected violation.

I understand the school policy surrounding the possession and use of cell phones and will abide by the school policy.

Student' signature, Grade, Date

Parent's signature, Date

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1 718 361 3133

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