

South St. Paul Secondary School  
Cell Phone and Electronic Expectations for Grades 6-8

While cell phones and other electronics seem to be an extension of our bodies, we are not allowing them to be used in school between the hours of 7:45-2:30 pm. Here are our expectations:

1. Personal phones and electronics are not allowed to be used at South St Paul Secondary School for grades 6-8.
2. They are to remain at home or locked in lockers. If students choose to carry their phones, they must be completely off--not even on vibrate.

1st offense	The cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by a staff member. The student can get the device back from that staff member at the end of the school day.
2nd offense	The cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by a staff member. The student can get the device back from Mr. Baker at the end of the school week.*
3rd offense	The cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by a staff member, and the student will be given a lunch detention. A parent/guardian must pick-up the device at the end of the school week.*
4th offense and more	The cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by a staff member. A parent/guardian will need to meet with their student and an administrator to pick-up the cell phone/electronic device.*

\* A parent/guardian may contact an administrator and make an appointment to collect their child's cell phone/electronic device at any time.

Q: Why don't we allow cell phones in class/lunch/bathrooms/halls during the school day?

1. We prioritize real human interaction. We believe that learning the skills of in-person communication and collaboration are much more important. This generation has grown up with computers and cell phones. Students are already good at using electronics -- they do not need social media practice or gaming practice at school. One of the most important skills our students will learn at SSP Secondary is how to get along and work well, face-to-face, with a variety of people.
2. Electronics are disruptive. Cell phones ringing and buzzing disrupt both the student and the class. We want students focused on the lesson, not who's calling or texting them.
3. They cause drama. Students tend to say things online that they would never say out loud. We don't need extra drama at school.
4. They get stolen. Unfortunately, as wonderful as our South St. Paul Secondary students are, phones are stolen. They are attractive items. *Leaving them in a locked locker is best if they can't stay at home. While we try to help students problem solve, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*
5. They are addicting. This generation of students is struggling to learn to think and stay busy with just their own thoughts. Managing boredom without tools or toys is an important life skill that we have little opportunity to practice when the phone is always present. We want our students to be fully present and experience all that school has to offer.
6. Students don't need them. Every student at South St. Paul Secondary is given a Chromebook for academic use.

We are asking you to not only review these expectations but also to help out by not texting or contacting your student during the school day. Ideally all necessary communication should occur before and after school. In the event of an emergency, please call the main office, 651-457-9408 and we will get a message to your student as soon as possible. If a student needs to contact a parent, they can ask for a pass to use the phone in the office.

South St. Paul Secondary School  
Cell Phone and Electronic Expectations for Grades 9-12

South St. Paul Secondary expects all staff, students, visitors, and parents to abide by the following cell-phone use rules at all times:

1) Cell phones (and all other personal electronic devices—including earbuds) are prohibited in all classrooms during all class times during the day. Personal cell phones in classrooms while the class is in session is a distraction that impedes student learning. And since all SSP students have access to a school-issued Chromebooks for use in class, there is no valid reason for students to be using their personal cell phone or other electronic device in classrooms while classes are in session.

*\*Phones and electronics will be collected and left in the office if there is repeated use. A parent /guardian will need to come to school to pick the phone up.*

2) Please discuss this with your student. Do not call or text students during times when students are in classes. If you need to reach your student with an important message while your student is in class, call the main office at 651-457-9408 and we will contact your student—asking them to call you or text you when they are finished with class. Calls or texts to students while class is in session gets in the way of student focus and learning and negatively affects all students in a classroom.

3) South St. Paul Secondary High is not responsible for following up on or investigating reports of loss or theft of personal cell phones or other electronic devices. Students who bring cell phones and other personal electronic devices to school with them and use them where allowed in the building do so at their own risk. We highly recommend that students keep personal cell phones out of sight, preferably locked in a locker, during the school day.

4) Students may use their cell phones during passing times when they are not in class and during lunch in the cafeteria —as well as before 7:45 AM and after 2:30 PM.

Q: Why don't we allow cell phones in class during the school day?

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2. Electronics are disruptive. Cell phones ringing and buzzing disrupt both the student and the class. We want students focused on the lesson, not who's calling or texting them.
3. They cause drama. Students tend to say things online that they would never say out loud. We don't need extra drama at school.
4. They get stolen. Unfortunately, as wonderful as our South St. Paul Secondary students are, phones are stolen. They are attractive items. *Leaving them in a locked locker is best if they can't stay at home. While we try to help students problem solve, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*
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