

A Message from your School Community Council:

***All Cell Phones and Watches to remain in Student backpacks during the school day.**

***This includes, before school, during lunch, in the bathrooms, all recesses, on the buses, and all times while on**

Elk Meadows School Grounds.

Parents, we need your help! Governor Cox emailed the Principals and School Community Councils of every Utah school early this year. He wants all schools to participate in a “collaboration that results in cell phone-free learning environments”.

The School Community Council, along with administration and teachers from our school discussed his letter and reviewed the research regarding having cell phone devices in the classrooms. Elk Meadows’ Cell Phone/Electronic Device policy already states that any cell phones, or electronic devices-including watches with cell phone capabilities, be kept in students’ backpacks during the school day.

We are asking that parents review this policy with their children that bring these devices to school. As a council, we are asking that all students do not have any type of electronic device out of their backpack any time while on Elk Meadows Campus. This includes: before school, all recesses, lunch, in restrooms, and after school-including on the bus.

Cell phones provide a large variety of problems at school. They cannot be monitored as to what is being watched, or shown to other students. Phones may have unlimited access to all the dangers of the internet. They ring or vibrate during teaching and distract the class. Students are able to take pictures of other students who might have a “no picture” policy. Smart watches are also a big distraction. They are always available for the students to look at when worn on their wrist. Many times when a text comes through it is from their parent! We need to do better.

We are aware that parents love being able to reach their children during the school day. Instead of sending a text please call the school or come to the front office. They are always happy to send a message to your child’s teacher, or call your child down to the office to deliver a message. Your child may tell their teacher during the school day if there is a reason they feel the need to call home. By asking your child to go through their teacher you are showing them that you trust their teacher. It helps the teacher and school keep track of the students and help them in the appropriate ways.

As a school we will be reminding students of our policy and enforcing it better than we have been doing. The teachers have been frustrated with the distractions and look forward to these devices being tucked away during the school day. Attached are the resources from Governor Cox.

-Elk Meadows School Community Council

Please click on the links for more information

<https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53G/Chapter7/53G-7-S1202.html>

https://www.afterbabel.com/p/phone-free-schools?r=182klo&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email