



Cell Phone Policy Update

America's Finest Charter School believes that cell phone usage should be limited during school hours as well as during the after-school program.

America's Finest Charter School has the following guidelines in place in the current Student Code of Conduct:

K-8 Campus

Cell phones must be turned off and NOT visible during school hours or they will be kept by the classroom teacher until the end of the school day. This includes recess and P.E. as well as After School Programs. If a student continues to use their cell phone during school. In addition, the phone can be taken away by the principal for unauthorized use and may be picked up by a parent or guardian. The principal may have a meeting with the family and student.

High School Campus

Students are only permitted to use cell phones or other mobile communication devices outside of the instructional day or when permitted by the faculty for instructional purposes. During the instructional periods of the day, cell phones must be turned off and kept out of sight. Students may use their communication devices during lunch and passing periods. We strongly recommend that parents and students communicate during non-school hours to confirm personal plans and/or arrangements and advise the school in writing when necessary. A detention will be issued if students use their cell phones when it is prohibited and could lose the privilege of cell phone usage. In addition, the phone can be taken away by the principal for unauthorized use and may be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Cell Phone usage to Harass or Cyber-Bully a student is against the policy of America's Finest Charter School on both campuses. Students could lose the right to have a cell phone on campus if they engage in the following:

Bullying is also one or more acts by a pupil or group of pupils directed against another pupil that constitutes sexual harassment, hate violence, or severe or pervasive intentional harassment, threats, or intimidation that is disruptive, causes disorder, and invades the rights of others by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment, and includes acts that are committed personally or by means of an electronic act, as defined.

An "**electronic act**" is defined as transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device, including but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

Harassment

Students will express themselves in a polite and non-violent manner and treat each other with dignity and respect. Harassment, bullying, or any form of intimidation or exploitation, is prohibited. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Adopted 3/6/2020



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AB 272 provides that a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a smartphone at school:

During an emergency situation or as a response to a perceived threat of danger.

When a teacher or administrator gives permission to a student to possess or use a cell phone, subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the person giving permission.

When necessary for the health or well-being of a student, as determined by a licensed physician and surgeon; and,

When possession or use of the cell phone is required pursuant to a student's individualized education program (IEP).

First Reading: March 6, 2020

Second Reading: _____

Date Adopted: March 6, 2020

Board President or Secretary Signature: Helene A. Rubin