

OL Smith Middle School

Dearborn Public Schools



28 August 2022

Dear Viking Families,

We are looking forward to a wonderful first day of school with your students! We hope that tomorrow they come home full of excitement about their teachers, classes and friends. We know that the first day of school can be nerve-wracking and exciting.

Beginning this week, we will be implementing an adjustment to our electronics policy (which is attached to this letter) and reviewing it with your students. OL Smith will be joining other district middle schools in going entirely to an “Away for the Day” school. The goal will be full implementation of the policy by mid-week. Students will be expected to keep their electronic devices locked in their lockers for the school day, from 8:25-3:20. Though this is a minor adjustment to our “not seen, not heard” policy, it is still a change.

We recognize that this new policy may be challenging for students; being that society has grown very accustomed to being “connected” at all times. However from both a distraction and social emotional standpoint, we know that this is in the best interest of our students. We feel this policy will increase student safety, privacy, and encourage more relationship building with others. This is based on its success in other middle schools across the district and the state that have enacted “Away for the day” in the past. As we navigate through these next few weeks, we will be reminding students of the policy, teaching the expectations and sharing the purpose and goals behind the change.

Here is how parents can help make this policy change successful and empower students to be away from their phone during the day:

1. Call the office if you need to tell your student something. Program this number into your phone: (313) 827 - 2800
2. Make lists with your child about what they will need for the following day.
3. Plan ahead about transportation, appointments, daily schedule, etc.
4. If they forget something...let it happen....it's ok. Middle School is a great time to learn these lessons and experience a few setbacks.
6. Encourage your student to problem solve if they might be tempted to text you during the day.
7. Encourage your student to use their teacher, counselor, Assistant Principal, Principal, or any staff member as a resource for problem solving during the day.

We are very excited for the 2022-23 school year and we appreciate your continued support and partnership. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Rummel
Principal
OL Smith Middle School-Dearborn Public Schools



O.L. Smith Electronics Policy



Cell Phone, Electronic Accessories, and Devices Policy

School Phone use is permitted **BEFORE** and **AFTER** school **ONLY**. **Locker Rooms, Bathrooms, and All school offices** are areas where **use is prohibited regardless of time of day**, violation of this is an immediate major infraction.

- ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TO BE AWAY FOR THE DAY from 8:25-3:20 Daily. Devices are to be locked up in student lockers. OL Smith and Dearborn Schools are not responsible for personal electronic devices.
 - **This applies to ALL devices including, but not limited to phones, airpods, smartwatches and other devices.**
 - Leaving a classroom under false pretenses to use a device will be considered a major violation

To eliminate distractions, disruptions, academic dishonesty and theft, we expect parents to respect the educational process by not texting or calling their child during the school day. If there is a family emergency, parents should call the school at 313-827-2800. The following disciplinary actions will occur for students who do not adhere to the policy:

FIRST OFFENSE: Teacher will confiscate electronic device and send it to the office and a phone call home will be made by office staff. As long as the student was cooperative and respectful, he/she will receive the electronic device at the end of the day from the office.

SECOND OFFENSE: The student may still come to the office; however, a parent/guardian listed on the emergency card with proper identification must accompany them at the end of the day to retrieve his/her electronic device.

THIRD OFFENSE: The parent/guardian listed on the emergency card with proper identification must come in and retrieve the electronic device from the office and the student will receive **1 hour** of detention, or community service.

FOURTH OFFENSE: All consequences of the third offense, plus additional hours of detention, or community service, along with administrative intervention.

SMITH WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

REFUSAL TO COMPLY WHEN ASKED TO SURRENDER PHONE TO ANY STAFF MEMBER STUDENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO OFFICE : The student will be given one more chance to turn the electronic device over to the office, providing profanity and threats are not used with staff involved, and the parent/guardian will be notified of the insubordinate behavior. The student will be required to attend a restorative session. A behavior contract will be developed with the student.

TEACHERS: All cell phones that are confiscated need to be turned into the student office before the end of the day.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____