

Washington Township Public Schools



Eileen Abbott
Central Administration Building
Office of the Superintendent
206 E. Holly Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080
(856) 589-6644, ext. 6401

September 1, 2025

Dear Washington Township Families,

As you know, cell phone use in schools has become a growing topic of conversation not only in New Jersey, but across the country. Here in Washington Township, we have worked carefully over the past several years to update our Codes of Conduct and policies so that expectations around cell phone use are clear, fair, and supportive of student success.

We recognize that cell phones are a part of everyday life. For many students, they serve as a connection to family, friends, and the outside world. At the same time, we also have a responsibility to create a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment. Unfortunately, cell phone use during the school day has, at times, led to challenges — whether through distractions, unapproved photos or videos, or the misuse of social media that can cause conflicts among students.

That's why our guiding expectation is: "No cell, bell to bell." We ask students to keep their phones put away during instructional time so they can fully engage with learning, classmates, and teachers. Our Code of Conduct explains the consequences for misuse, while also giving administrators the flexibility to respond appropriately depending on the situation.

At the start of the school year, each building principal will talk with students about when it is and isn't appropriate to use their phones, with age-appropriate expectations in mind. If a student needs to reach home during the day, they can always use the phones in the main or counseling offices. Likewise, if you need to get in touch with your child, we encourage you to call the school's main office so we can deliver the message directly.

We know how important it is for you to feel connected to your child during the school day, and we deeply appreciate your support as we work to balance that connection with a safe and distraction-free learning environment. Together, we can help our students learn not only academics, but also how to use technology responsibly — an important life skill that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

We wish you and your family a joyful and successful school year ahead.

Warmly,



Dr. Eric M. Hibbs
Superintendent

