

Proposed Changes to SVTHS Cell Phone Policy
Approved by SVTHS School Council on Thursday, April 10, 2025
Approved by SVRVTSD School Committee on Tuesday, April 29, 2025

5-19 Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices

Students may not use cell phones/personal electronic devices (i.e. smart watches, tablets, etc.) during the school day, **which begins when the homeroom bell rings at 7:24am**. Students may only use their cellphones/personal electronic devices for social purposes before school, during **their assigned lunch block**, and after school. During **their assigned lunch block**, students may use their devices in the cafeteria and other assigned areas only. Even when authorized to be in possession of cell phones or personal electronic devices, students are prohibited from using their devices to photograph, video record or audio record any individual on school grounds. ~~without the specific informed consent of the individual~~. Disciplinary consequences will be given to students who violate this rule. In an emergency, parents/guardians can contact the Dean of Students at **(978)-667-2111 ext. 1508** ~~(978)-671-3639~~.

Students must store their cell phones/electronic devices in a location that is not visible between classes. Cell phones/electronic devices must be turned OFF before students enter any classroom or vocational shop. Staff will confiscate any cell phone or electronic device (a) that rings, vibrates, or is used for any reason without teacher permission, or that (b) becomes visible between classes or during a class without permission. In response to either of these prohibited conditions, a student's refusal to surrender a cell phone or electronic device when asked will constitute insubordination.

In the event that a cell phone or electronic device is confiscated, the following disciplinary actions will follow:

- First offense. The device will be held at the Dean's office until the end of day. One office detention will be issued.
- Second offense. The device will be held in the Dean's office until the end of day. Two office detentions will be issued.
- Third offense. The device will be held in the Dean's office until the end of day. Three office detentions will be issued.
- Fourth offense. The device will be held in the Dean's office until the end of day. Four office detentions will be issued.
- Fifth offense. The device will be held in the Dean's office until the end of day. One suspension may be issued. The cell phone/electronic device will be returned only to the student's parents/guardians during a conference with the Dean.

Students are not permitted to audio-record take photos or videos of staff or students without their consent. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disciplinary action.

Exceptions to this general policy shall be provided to accommodate documented disabilities.