

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CELL/SMART PHONE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

### Middle School Parents:

- Consider when and how much your child really needs a cell phone. If it is at all possible, collect student cell phones prior to drop off and do not return them until after pickup. Media and developmental experts recommend that you also collect the cell phone at bed time for “re-charging” and keep it for the night.
- If your family determines that there are important safety reasons for your student to have his/her phone on campus for use outside of school hours, please indicate your request on the general permission form in this packet. Then inform your student that the phone must be locked in his/her locker from 8:00am to 3:00pm each day. If you have an emergency message for your student, call the office and we will deliver it. If your student needs to contact you, there is a student phone available at the front office.

### Further Recommendations for smart phones and social media outside of school:

- Please review your student’s phone on a regular and random basis. Make it clear that the phone belongs to you and not to your student. This is not a first amendment protected activity or tool. They are not yet adults. They NEED for us to build some walls around their lives.
- Remove all social media applications from the student phone. Really. Do them the favor of protecting childhood and adolescence from these frequently destructive applications.
- Because technology now expands student to student communication to 24 hours a day, please inform your student that school expectations for supportive and respectful behavior include electronic communications at any time of day – in or out of school.

### At school we will:

- Make sure that every student has, and uses, a school-issued lock for his/her locker.
- Increase our oversight of student behavior and confiscate any cell phones we find during the school day. Confiscated phones will be returned only to a parent at a conference with the Head of School.
- Continue to explore best practices and to educate ourselves and parents about technology, social media, and appropriate ways to protect our students.