

# EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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**Paul S. Gallagher**  
Principal

**Jessica Swaim**  
Assistant Principal

July 8, 2019

Subject: Student cell phones at EMS

Dear Eisenhower Parents & Families,

We hope this finds you all well and enjoying the start of summer vacation. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that during the 2019-2020 school year, all students will be required to keep their cell phones silenced and locked away in their lockers during regular school hours (7:58 am - 2:30 pm). This practice is meant to reinforce our commitment to fostering positive relationships, authentic learning experiences, and a developmentally responsive environment for all students to thrive within.

We appreciate the many parents, families, and staff members who participated in our cell phone survey at the end of the school year. An analysis of responses revealed that 56% of 8th grade families, 65% of 7th grade families and 97% of faculty and staff supported students being required to keep their phones in lockers for the duration of the school day. To ensure the safe-keeping of all personal property, the school will provide locks to all students and require their use during the school day. Further information will be shared with students and families once school is back in session in September. Additionally, a recent article on the potential effects of cell phones on adolescent learners has been linked below.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out using the contact information above. We thank you in advance for your partnership and support and wish you a safe and relaxing remainder of the summer season.

Kind regards,



Mr. Paul S. Gallagher



Mrs. Jessica Swaim

“There’s a Cell Phone in Your Student’s Head” - A 2017 study found that cell phones that were turned off and stashed away silently reasserted themselves—distracting working students anyway ([edutopia.org](http://edutopia.org)). Click for [article](#) or [video](#).