

ECS PHONE POLICY 2025-2026



Help our students to connect by disconnecting:

"Common Sense Media released a report in 2019 that surveyed a representative sample of 1677 families from all regions of the United States. Their report found 8–12-year-old's experience almost five hours of screen exposure each day, and teens are viewing screens for an average of almost 7 ½ hours each day. These numbers do not include time the children are using screens for school work."

At ECS, our desire is for students to be fully present in their **academics and spiritual formation**. We want them to be attentive to the teacher, their classmates, and the subject—not social media or outside distractions.

In support of this vision, and in response to rising concerns about excessive screen time, **ECS is implementing a No Cell Phone Policy during the school day for all students, K–12.**

This decision also aligns with **Florida House Bill 1105**, signed into law by Governor DeSantis, which **prohibits cell phone use during the school day for students in grades K–8, effective July 1, 2025**. At ECS, we have chosen to extend this policy to **high school students** as well to maintain a consistent, distraction-free environment across all grade levels.

ECS Phone Policy Guidelines

- Phones must be **silenced and kept in backpacks** at all times during the school day.
 - **No phone use is permitted** during class, chapel, lunch, recess, hallway transitions, or breaks—**unless a teacher specifically authorizes use for a learning activity**.
 - Students may **not check messages, scroll social media, or take calls** during the day.
 - Parents who need to reach students should contact the **school office directly**.
 - Smart watches may not be worn at school.
 - Phone use is permitted at the end of the school day after 3PM
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Discipline & Consequences for Violating the Policy

We approach discipline with grace, clarity, and consistency. Students who do not follow the phone policy will be subject to the following steps:

1. **First Offense:** Verbal warning from teacher or staff
 2. **Second Offense:** Phone is taken to the office; student picks it up at the end of the school day
 3. **Third Offense:** Phone is kept in the office; parent must pick it up from the principal
 4. **Fourth Offense:** Phone must be turned in to the principal's office and the parent must pick up the device; the student will not be permitted to bring it to school for the rest of the quarter
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Our Partnership with Parents

ECS is committed to helping students develop healthy boundaries with technology—focusing their attention on relationships, learning, and growth. Removing the distraction of phones during the school day helps students **engage deeply with their academics and pursue spiritual growth.**

Thank you for your support in this effort. Together, we can help students thrive in a learning environment free from the distractions of digital life.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.