

Oliver Wolcott Tech 2026-27 Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones and electronic devices can be an excellent instructional tool and knowledge resource, when used appropriately. However, research has shown that students' usage of cell phones and social media, when not part of the instructional lesson, prohibits learning and engagement. In order to preserve the teaching and learning experience, this MEMO serves as policy for cell phones and electronic devices.

While students are in class, cell phones are to remain put away and out of sight, as there is no cell phone use permitted during instructional time.

Note: Teachers may use their discretion to allow cell phone use when it has a direct, positive educational impact for a lesson. Additionally, teachers may choose to collect cell phones at the start of class and return them when class ends; if a teacher establishes this rule, it will be fully enforced by administration.

Regardless of the teacher's individual classroom approach, students are not permitted to use cell phones without explicit teacher permission.

Students are allowed to use their phones during the following times:

- Cafeteria before school and during lunch
- Hallways during passing times

If a student uses a cell phone without permission or creates a disruption during class time, the school's progressive discipline procedures will be followed. Continued non-compliance or repeated violations will result in disciplinary action, including phone confiscation, parent meetings, and potential suspension.

Cyberbullying - An emerging form of bullying is the use of technology to threaten, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, insult, or harass. Technology enables aggressive expression toward others and does not rely on physical strength or physical contact. By using a cell phone or the Internet, a student can quickly and aggressively spread rumors, threats, hate mail, or embarrassing photos through text messages, emails, or instant messages. Please note that the Discipline Policy states that the Misuse of Electronic Devices, Threatening/Bullying/Hazing, or Harassment is a violation and can be the basis for discipline on or off campus.