



Audie Murphy Middle School

Future Ready, Audie Strong

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Yolanda Bailey, Principal

Robin Lawrence, Assistant Principal

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Dear Audie Murphy Families:

We are sending this letter to share our **AMMS 2023-2024 Cell Phone Policy**.

Cell phones and other electronic devices have become a way of life; however, in the school environment, electronic devices (such as cell phones) can be a distraction, interruption, and a method of inappropriate use.

There's no bigger classroom distraction than a student with a cell phone. Even on silent, notifications consistently buzz and alert throughout instruction. Just like adults, it is hard for students to not look at their phone or check notifications.

Most teachers will tell you that cell phones adversely affect learning in the classroom, and research backs that up. Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization that promotes safe technology and media for children, reported that "50 percent of teens 'feel addicted' to mobile devices." The report also stated that 78 percent of teens check their devices at least hourly, and 72 percent of teens feel the need to immediately respond to texts, messages on social networks, and other notifications. If you look at nearly any study that analyzes the relationship between phone use, notifications, social media and mental health, it's virtually always a net negative.

Our goal at AMMS is to create a safe, positive learning environment for all of our students. Safety is always our top priority. All classrooms are equipped with phones, and adults in the building have cell phones. Students who need to contact home may do so in the main office.

We thank you for your support as we wholeheartedly believe this will positively impact our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 254-336-6530.

Respectfully,
Yolanda Bailey, M.Ed.
Principal



AUDIE MURPHY MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY 2023 - 2024

To keep the academic environment free from distractions, per Killeen ISD policy, all electronic devices are prohibited during the school day. This includes cell phones, gaming devices, iPads, ear buds, headphones, etc. Students are expected to turn off cell phones and store them in their backpack upon entering the building. Students may turn cell phones back on and use devices once they have exited the building at dismissal.

Telecommunications/Electronic Devices (201) Students may not display, turn on, or use a cellular telephone or other telecommunication device (including Smart Watches as appropriate) on school property during the school day (as defined by the published starting and dismissal times for each campus). Violators are subject to having the device confiscated by a teacher or other school official for a period of time deemed appropriate by the principal (which could extend through the end of the semester or school year) and are subject to disciplinary action. Repeat offenses may result in the loss of the privilege to possess such devices at school. There are certain entertainment/electronic items (including but not limited to electronic recording devices) which are strictly prohibited from the classroom, but which are subject to principal, director, teacher, or sponsor approval in other settings, i.e., cafeterias, commons areas, playgrounds, school buses, or on school-sponsored trips. (See your campus Student Handbook for further details.) Neither the campus nor the district assumes responsibility or liability for loss or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of the device.
(Killeen ISD Student Code of Conduct, 2023-2024)

Students bringing cell phones or other electronic devices for use after school must always keep their cell phone/device off and in their locker during the school day. Phones may not be kept on their person or in shirt/pants pockets. Additionally, ear buds or headphones are not allowed. Any visible cell phone or electronic device will be confiscated, and appropriate actions will be taken.

What happens if a student is caught with an electronic device?

The electronic device will be confiscated and turned into the Assistant Principal's office.

Will there be a warning first? No

Below is the hierarchy of consequences:

1st Offense:

- Minor discipline referral
- Student may pick up their device from the AP's office at the **end of the day**.

2nd Offense:

- Another minor discipline referral
- A parent/guardian may pick up the device from the AP's office at any time, or the student will be allowed to pick up the device **after 5 school days**.

3rd Offense:

- Third minor discipline referral
- A parent may pick up the device from the AP's office at any time, or the student will be allowed to pick up the device **after 10 school days**.

4th Offense & Subsequent Offenses:

- Serious discipline referral for Insubordination with Saturday Detention
- A parent may pick up the device from the AP's office at any time, or the student will be allowed to pick up the device **after 10 school days**.

Students who refuse to hand in their electronic device will receive a serious discipline referral with immediate consequences.