



THURGOOD MARSHALL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

JUSTICE, ACCESS, GROWTH

Cell-Phone Policy at TMMS

"It's All Good At Thurgood"

Purpose

At **Thurgood Marshall Middle School**, we are committed to creating a focused and inclusive learning environment that honors our core values of Justice, Access, and Growth (JAG). In alignment with the **New York State Education Law §2803**, **personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, and other internet-enabled devices are not allowed for student use during the school day**. This policy supports our students in being present, respectful, and engaged learners who are ready to grow—the **Jaggy Way**.

NYS Education Law §2803

Effective **August 1, 2025**, NYS law mandates that all K–12 public schools implement policies that prohibit student use of non-school-issued internet-enabled devices during the instructional day (also known as "bell-to-bell"). **This includes passing periods, lunch, and recess while on school grounds.**

Exceptions are permitted for:

- Medically necessary devices (e.g., health monitoring)
- IEP or 504 Plan accommodations
- School-issued devices used for instruction

TMMS Policy Overview

Permitted:

- Carrying a phone to school (turned off and secured)
- Using school-issued Chromebooks/devices for class
- Emergency use with staff permission

Not Permitted:

- Using personal devices during the school day
- Recording, messaging, or social media usage on school grounds
- Smartwatch communication or gaming

Daily Procedures

1. **Upon Entry:** All students must turn off and secure their devices in the approved storage locations at scanning.
2. **End of Day:** Students may retrieve their phone from the approved storage location at the time of dismissal.



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Policy Enforcement

Our staff and students work as a community to ensure a focused and safe school culture. **Violations will be handled consistently, following this structure:**

Infraction	Consequence
1st Violation	Device confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian . Reminder of the policy shared.
2nd Violation	Device confiscated. Parent/guardian pickup required. Student serves lunch detention .
3rd Violation	Device confiscated. Parent meeting required. Student receives 1-day in-school suspension .
4th Violation	Progressive discipline and potential restriction from extracurriculars or school-wide events .

Refusal to turn in a phone during scanning or when requested is considered insubordination and may result in additional disciplinary action per the RCSD Code of Conduct.

Support

- **Secure Storage:** All students are assigned secure storage locations for devices only accessible to administrative personnel.
- **Family Contact:** Families can reach students by calling the main office. Students may call home with staff permission.

Jaguar Commitment

By following this policy, we at TMMS

- Uphold **Justice** by creating equal classroom access for all students.
- Promote **Access** by ensuring all learners stay engaged and distraction-free.
- Encourage **Growth** by helping students build self-discipline and awareness.

Let's make every day count—device-free and distraction-free!

For questions about this policy, contact the TMMS Main Office or your grade-level administrator.