

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY**

Niles Preparatory Academy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Governing Authority of Niles Preparatory Academy has determined the use of cell phones/electronic communication devices by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our school.

#### **I. RESEARCH**

Research shows that student use of cell phones/electronic communication devices in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. These devices distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

#### **II. DEFINITION**

"Electronic communications device" means any device that is powered by batteries or electricity and that is capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communications between two or more persons or a communication from or to a person. This includes, but is not limited to, personal cell phone, smart watches, tablets, and any other device that meets the aforementioned definition.

#### **III. APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to the use of electronic communications devices by students while on school property during school hours.

#### **IV. USE OF CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices at all times.

#### **V. EXCEPTION**

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone/electronic communication device for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone/electronic communication device to monitor or address a health concern.

#### **VI. DEVICE STORAGE**

Students shall keep their cell phones/electronic communication devices in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the school, at all times when electronic communication device/cell phone use is prohibited.

#### **VII. DISCIPLINE**

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall follow the Board approved Code of Conduct Policy in addressing the violation. Continued violation of this policy may result in progressive discipline.