

Pittsburgh  
Science & Technology  
Academy 6-12

Angelique Benjamin, Principal  
Terri Alessio, Assistant Principal

107 Thackeray Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-529-7620  
Fax: 412-622-5991



[www.pghschools.org](http://www.pghschools.org)

Parent Hotline:  
412-529-HELP (4357)

TO: SciTech Scholars and Families

FROM: Angelique Benjamin, Principal

DATE: August 25, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023-2024 Cell Phone Policy

Dear SciTech Scholars and Families,

I hope that you are well and excited to start the 2023-2024 school year. The SciTech faculty and staff are looking forward to seeing our new and returning scholars on Monday, August 28, 2023. In preparation for their return, please take a moment to review the 2023-2024 SciTech Cell Phone Policy below. Please direct any questions to Mrs. Benjamin at [abenjamin2@pghschools.org](mailto:abenjamin2@pghschools.org).

Warm regards,  
Angelique Benjamin, Principal

### **Pittsburgh Public Schools**

#### **111. Possession of Electronic or Telecommunication Devices.**

Students may possess electronic devices only as permitted by Board policy and school rules. School-based Discipline Committees may establish such restrictions in a manner consistent with Board Policy 216 – Electronic Devices. Specific information regarding electronic device restrictions will be provided to students and parents/guardians in advance of implementation of any restriction. Electronic device restrictions shall not apply when a student (1) is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance, or rescue squad; or (2) has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member. Students who violate the electronic device restrictions may be subject to disciplinary action and confiscation of the device.

### **SciTech Cell Phone Policy**

Grades 9-12 will enter the building through the Bouquet Street entrance.  
Grades 6-8 will enter the building through the Thackeray Street entrance.

Cell phones will be collected daily, secured during the school day, and returned to students at dismissal. Students who violate the electronic device restrictions may be subject to disciplinary action and confiscation of the device.

- **Cell Phone Collection Procedure:**
  - Students will turn in their phones at bag check according to their 6<sup>th</sup> period class.
  - All cell phones will be collected if a student has multiple cell phones.
  - Students will place their phones in a metal phone case equipped with a key lock.

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- Only teachers are permitted to collect cell phones from students (Students are not to collect, distribute, or handle any other phone.)
- Day-to-day substitutes are not to collect, handle, or distribute any cell phones.
- Cell phone lockers will be redistributed during the last 10 minutes of class of 6th period.
- Students will retrieve their cell phone from the locker on their way out of school at dismissal.
- Teachers will return the cell phone lockers to the office at the end of each day before signing out.
- Tardy students will turn in cell phones to the main office upon their arrival, if there are any questions, please see administration ASAP.

- **Exceptions:**

- Any student that is a member of a volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue squad, please see administration regarding your phone privileges.
- Any student that has a medical condition, please see the administration regarding your phone privileges.
- Students with an immediate relative with a medical condition, please see the administration regarding your phone privileges.

- **Special Handling of Cell Phones:**

- Students that have a sporting event or any other activity will be required to turn their phone into the "activity case" that will be provided. Students will be able to retrieve their phones when they are being dismissed for their respective sporting event or activity.
- Cell phones will be approved for classroom use based on a teacher's request to use the phone for a specific academic purpose. Teachers who want cell phones to be used for a specific class must complete a request form and take an activity case to store the phones before and after they are used. Classroom activity cases will be returned to the main office for the end-of-day cell phone distribution.

- **Violation of the Cell Phone Policy**

- Refusal to turn in a cell phone will result in a referral to the administration. Parents/guardians will be notified if a student refuses to turn in their phone and disciplinary action will be under the discretion of administration and based on a progression of intervention.
- Students that are still in possession of their cell phones after arrival at school will be asked to turn in their phones immediately upon request. The parents/guardians will be notified, and disciplinary action will be under the discretion of the administration and based on a progression of intervention.