



A Message to Olathe Elementary Families

Dear Elementary Families,

As we prepare for another exciting school year, we want to share an important change that will affect every school in Kansas. Beginning the first day of school, a new state law requires personal electronic communication devices to be turned off and securely stored during the school day from 8:55am to 3:55pm.

Although the state law is new, the goal is one we all share. We want every classroom to be a place where students are engaged in learning, connected with their teachers and classmates, and free from the distractions that often come with personal technology. Research and experience continue to remind us that students learn best when they are fully present.

We know this will be an adjustment for many students and families. Our approach is rooted in teaching expectations, partnering with families and applying those expectations consistently across all Olathe elementary schools. Before school begins, please discuss with your child the new requirement that all personal devices be turned off and securely stored during the school day. We appreciate your support and partnership in helping students understand this new expectation.

Students who bring personal electronic communication devices – including cell phones, smart watches, wireless headphones or earbuds, smart glasses, tablets not issued by the school, and similar devices – must keep them turned off and stored in their backpack and locker, a school-designated storage area, or another location approved by school administration. Any violations of the law and associate policy will incur the following consequences.

Offense	Response
First	A staff member will ask the student to turn off the device and place the device in their backpack and in their locker. Parents will be notified of this offense by the classroom teacher.
Second	A staff member will ask the student to turn off the device, and the device will be sent to the principal's office. The device will be held in the administrator's office until the end of the day. The device will be returned to the student before leaving the building. Parents will be notified of this offense by the classroom teacher.
Third	A staff member will ask the student to turn off the device, and the device will be sent to the principal's office. The school administrator will contact the parent/guardian. The device will be held in the office until a parent or guardian can come up to the building to retrieve the device. Parent/guardian will sign the Personal Technology Commitment.
Fourth and additional	May be considered Incurable Conduct and may result in additional disciplinary action in accordance with the <i>Code of Student Conduct</i> .

Thank you for your partnership as we comply with the new state law. Together, we can create learning environments where students are fully engaged, connected, and prepared to make the most of every school day.

Olathe Elementary Principals