

POLICY ON CELL PHONES, MUSIC/MOVIE PLAYERS, CAMERAS, HANDHELD GAMES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Long Hill Township Board of Education passed a new policy in May of 2008 which strictly prohibits the use of cell phones, music and movie players and other electronic devices at school. School personnel will confiscate any electronic device which fits into this category that is either seen or heard during regular school hours. The confiscated item will not be returned to the student. Rather, a parent will be required to retrieve the item personally at the main office. Students whose items are confiscated will also face disciplinary consequences for repeated offenses. Items that are specifically prohibited from being used at school are:

1. Cellular phones/ beepers/pagers
2. Ipods and other music/movie players
3. Cameras
4. Handheld game systems
5. PDA's

In the past we did allow the students to use their music players during the early morning gathering time (8:00-8:15) and certain teachers allowed the students to listen to their music during their (non-academic) classes. However, due to this new policy we can no longer permit this privilege.

The new policy **does not** state that students **may not bring** these items to school. It simply says that these items **may not be used at school during regular school hours**. So, students may choose to bring their phones, mp3 players etc to school for use after school, after athletic events or student activities. However, the Board of Education's policy (5131.7) specifically states:

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cellular phone and other electronic devices. The BOE shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or electronic device, or for unauthorized calls made on or other unauthorized use of cellular phone or electronic device.

Disciplinary Consequences

First offense-

Item is confiscated and parents are required to retrieve it at the main office.

Second offense-

Item is confiscated and the parents are required to retrieve it at the main office. The student will serve one after school detention.

Third offense-

Item is confiscated and parents are required to retrieve it at the main office.
The student will serve one week of after school detention

Subsequent offenses-

Item is confiscated and parents are required to retrieve it at the main office.
Student may be required to serve in school or out of school suspension

Certain instances of misbehavior using phones or cameras will require school officials to notify law enforcement and may therefore have consequences more severe than those delineated above.