



P.S. 133 - The Bellerose School of Excellence

Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy
(2025-2026 School Year - Revised 8/25/25)

To create an environment conducive to learning by minimizing distractions caused by cell phones and other personal internet-enabled electronic devices, ensure the safety and focus of all students during school the school day, and follow [Education Law §2803](#), effective August 1, 2025, all New York State schools are required to adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds. An "internet-enabled electronic device" is defined as an electronic device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet. Examples of such devices include cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, iPads, and portable music and entertainment systems.

Students will not be permitted to use or access their personal internet-enabled electronic devices upon arrival at school until the end of the school day. The school day is defined as the period from the moment students enter the school building until the last class of the day ends, including during lunch. The school day starts at 8:00AM, and ends at 2:20PM. All students will be able to use school/NYCPS-issued devices during the school day.

1. COLLECTION/STORAGE

- Upon arrival, students must power off their devices.
- Students will provide school staff with their devices for the duration of the school day, and they will be secured and stored in the following locations:
 - Kindergarten: Ms. Corrado - School Aide Room
 - Grade 1,2,3: Ms. Wepler - Ms. Wepler's Office
 - Grade 4: Ms. Ortellado - Ms. Ortellado's Classroom
 - Grade 5: Ms. Tapp - Ms. Tapp's Office

In the event a child comes to school late, they are to bring their device to the main office, and we will ensure it is brought to the proper secure location.

We will ensure all student devices are returned prior to dismissal at the end of the school day.

2. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

- In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, parents or guardians can call the Main Office at (718) 831-4016 to reach their child.

- In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, students may access phones in the main office, and our TEAM will assist them with contacting their parents or guardians.
- In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, the school will use the NYCPS GAMA Messaging application to communicate information to parents or guardians. If you do not receive messages from the school to your e-mail, and/or need assistance in setting up your NYSCA account, please contact Ms. Lamont, Parent Coordinator for assistance.

3. EXCEPTIONS

- Students are allowed to use their device if they have an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan that includes use of an internet-enabled device and do not have a DOE-issued device for such purpose.
- Parents/guardians must contact Ms. Salazar, Assistant Principal at (718) 831-4016 if a student requires an exception for reasons such as: medical monitoring/treatments (for example to monitor blood sugar or other similar circumstances), if student is a caregiver, for approved language purposes (such as translation or interpretation services if no other means are available), or where otherwise required by law.
- The principal/designee may authorize use for an educational purpose.
- Exceptions will be processed and approved within approximately a one week timeframe.

4. DISCIPLINE

- Students who use electronic devices in violation of the NYCPS [Discipline Code](#), the school's policy, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, and/or the NYCPS [Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy](#) ("IAUSP") will be subject to progressive discipline. This means that the disciplinary responses will escalate based on the nature and frequency of the violation. As provided in the State law, a student may not be suspended solely on the grounds that the student accessed a personal internet-enabled device in violation of school policy. Repeated incidents of insubordination (i.e. refusal to surrender or store device) **may** result in a suspension **if approved** by the Office of Safety and Youth Development.

5. OTHER: If lost or stolen

- In the unlikely event that an electronic device is stolen or damaged at school, parents can submit a claim to the Comptroller's Office. More information on submitting a claim is available on the [Comptroller's webpage](#).

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and productive learning environment. If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding these policies, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Paolano at (718) 831-4016.

Sincerely,

Matthew Paolano, Principal

