

## 7021 - Cell Phone Policy

The Odyssey Charter School, Inc. Board of Directors recognizes the importance of communication and collaboration and provides several types of device access at the school for students to be productive in their learning. The Board also recognizes the importance of students communicating with parents/guardians in an emergency and provides access to school phones in each classroom and phones in the school clinic and administrative offices.

Pursuant to the Technology in K-12 Public Schools law ([CS/HB 379](#)), which took effect on July 1, 2023, [section 1006.07\(2\)\(f\), Florida Statutes](#), now provides that "a student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. A teacher shall designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time." *\*Wireless communication devices include but are not limited to, cell phones and/or auxiliary/ancillary devices such as watches and ear buds.*

To keep the focus on academics and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the school enforces the following regarding personal cell phone use on school campus:

- Cell phones and all mobile devices shall be TURNED OFF when entering school campus.
- **Cell phones and all mobile devices shall be kept in a student's backpack – not in clothing pockets.**
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used in a classroom, library, common areas, or restrooms.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used during transition times or between classes.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices can be turned back on at the end of school day, after the last bell, and used to communicate directly with parents/friends who are assisting in transportation.
- If a student needs to make an emergency call during the day, they are to ask a teacher permission, get a pass, and come up to the administrative offices.

### **The following actions will be taken if a student violates Odyssey's cell phone policy:**

- Consequence #1 – Staff member takes phone for the class period.
- Consequence #2 – Staff member takes phone to the Dean to hold for the entire day. Student is responsible to retrieve phone from the Dean at the end of the day.
- Consequence #3 – Staff member takes phone and gives it to the Dean. Dean calls parent for pickup. If parent does not pick up, cell phone will be held for 3 days. Student is responsible to retrieve phone from Dean at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

At no time shall Odyssey Charter School, Inc. be responsible for theft, loss or damage of cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto school property. Failure for a student to comply with the cell phone policy may result in suspension.