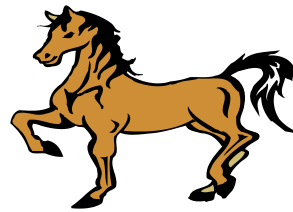


Colts Corner



Cell Phone Policy Needs To Be Reviewed

In order to clarify procedures on the use of cell phones, it is important to review district policy and practices. Hopefully this will result in universal adherence and maximize our efforts to provide a safe and orderly school environment. As indicated in *District Policy 5516-Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECRD)*, “a pupil is not permitted to have turned on or use an ECRD on school grounds during the school day or when the pupil is participating in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity.” There have been widespread violations of this policy, jeopardizing school safety protocol and challenging behavioral standards. In certain situations students are bypassing the school nurse and contacting parents directly to report illnesses. As a result, parents report to school and request to take their sick child home, while staff members are unaware of the concern. Rest assured, if a child is ill, they belong home, and we will work

with parents to arrange pick up. Having students assume this responsibility and circumvent established procedures is not acceptable.

If a child contacts a parent either by text message or a cell call, please notify the school and we will take the necessary assistive action. We live in an age of instantaneous communication, but the level of interruptions to the instructional sequence has become a serious concern. As parents, you are aware of your child’s needs; multiply this by 544 students and you begin to understand the challenges of a day at PRM. Over the next week we will be reinforcing Policy 5516 (see the following pages for a copy of the policy) and advising students of potential consequences. Cell phones will be confiscated and detentions issued, a situation we would like to avoid. It would be greatly appreciated if you could review with your child the protocol for use of cell phones in school.

Supporting Students During Test Taking

Supporting our middle schoolers through test taking is an important step in giving our children the tools to succeed. Whether they take a test in the classroom or complete the New Jersey state assessment, here are some strategies that students should keep in mind when completing a test:

- If you do not understand the directions or what the question is asking, ask for help.
- Read each question and all the possible answer choices before marking anything.
- Don’t spend too much time on one question. Do your best to give yourself enough time to answer all questions.
- Do not change your answers unless you are uncertain about your first choice
- Try not to guess blindly. Try to eliminate at least one choice before choosing an answer.

March 22 and 24:
KHS Scheduling For
Current 8th Grade
Class

March 23:
Career Day

March 25 and 26
PRM School Play

March 29:
Oratorical Speech
Contest

April 15:
Science Expo

Dates To Remember

April 18-22:
Spring Recess

May 3-6:
NJ ASK Grades 6-8

May 9:
Ryan’s Story

5516- Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECRD)

The Board of Education believes pupils and/or school staff members should not be subject to having a video or audio recording taken of any pupil(s) or school staff member(s) for any purpose without the consent of the pupil, the pupils parent or guardian, and/or the school staff member. In addition to protecting the privacy rights of pupils and school staff members, the Board recognizes such recordings can be disruptive to the educational program. In addition, inappropriate recordings of educational material, pupil assessment instruments, and/or pupil assessment reviews can be used to compromise the integrity of the districts educational program or lead to academic dishonesty in the event such recordings are stored and/or transmitted to other pupils. Therefore, the Board of Education adopts this Policy regarding pupil use of electronic communication and recording devices.

Electronic communication and recording device (ECRD) includes any device with the capability to audio or video record or is capable of receiving or transmitting any type of communication between persons. An ECRD includes, but is not limited to, cameras, cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, laptop computers, electronic readers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), two-way radios, portable fax machines, video broadcasting devices, and any other device that allows a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information.

A pupil is not permitted to have turned on or use an ECRD on school grounds during the school day or when the pupil is participating in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity. A pupils personal ECRD may only be used on school grounds in an emergency situation or with the permission of a school staff member supervising the pupil in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity. Any audio and/or video recording by a pupil using their personal ECRD with permission of a school staff member while participating in a curricular or school-sponsored activity where other pupils or staff members are present shall require the permission for such recording from any other pupil and their parents or guardians and/or staff members whose voice or image is to be recorded. This Policy is not intended to prohibit appropriate use of electronic devices for authorized or approved official curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activities such as yearbook photographs, staff member/teacher-directed and approved activities, classroom presentations, and athletic events and drama production filming. A pupil authorized or approved to use an ECRD may not use an ECRD to access internet sites or view information or internet-based material that is inappropriate or would be blocked from pupil access by the school districts acceptable use of computers and networks policy. Nothing in this Policy is intended to prevent a pupil from using their personal ECRD and recording school-sponsored co-curricular activities as a non-participant when the activity is open to the general public.

For the purposes of this policy, school grounds means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and structures that support these buildings, including, but not limited to, administrative buildings, kitchens, maintenance shops, and garages. School grounds also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and other recreational places owned by the local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

An ECRD used in violation of this Policy will be confiscated by a school staff member or Principal or designee and the pupil will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

A pupil shall not bring or possess any remotely activated paging device on any school grounds, including on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function, at any time and regardless of whether school is in session or other persons are present without the express written permission of the Principal. The pupil must submit a written request and establish to the satisfaction of the Principal a reasonable basis for the possession of the device. The written request must include the purpose for the pupil possessing and/or bringing the device on school property and the date or dates in which the pupil requests to possess and/or bring the device on school property. The written request must also include the date in which the pupil will no longer need to bring and/or possess the device on school property.

The Principal upon reviewing the request from the pupil, will make a determination. The determination will be in writing and if approved, written permission for the pupil to bring and/or possess a remotely activating paging device will be provided to the pupil. Permission will only be provided for four weeks.

The pupil must submit a new request if the time in which permission is given to bring and/or possess a device expires. The pupil that is granted permission to possess and/or bring the device must be in the possession of the device at all times. The Principal or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent of Schools and the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile justice agency if a pupil brings or possesses a remotely activated paging device in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.8 and this Policy.

A pupil who is an active member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad may bring or possess a remotely activated paging device on school property only if the pupil is required to respond to an emergency and the pupil provides a statement to the Principal from the chief executive officer of the volunteer fire company, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad authorizing the possession of the device by the pupil at all times and that the pupil is required to respond to an emergency.

The Principal or designee will confiscate the remotely activated paging device, take appropriate disciplinary action and shall immediately notify the Superintendent of Schools and the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile justice agency if a pupil brings or possesses a remotely activated paging device in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.8 and this Policy.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.8

Adopted: 18 March 2002
Revised: 30 April 2009; 27 January 2011