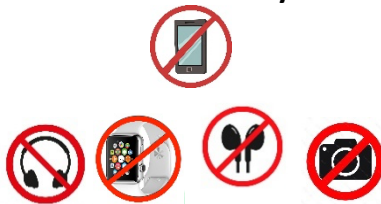


# AMIGOS POR VIDA FRIENDS FOR LIFE

## Public Charter School

*An Amigos Por Vida - Friends for Life Housing and Education Corporation School*

### Prohibition on Student Use of Personal Communication Devices on School Property During the School Day



Multiple studies have documented the harmful effects of cell phone and social media use on student well-being and academic progress. As a result, Texas law requires public schools to prohibit the use of personal communication devices during the school day on school property.

To comply with Texas House Bill 1481, and to support the quality of our learning environment, Amigos Por Vida -Friends for Life Charter has adopted the following policy on personal communication devices.

#### OFF AND AWAY

**Devices:** Prohibited devices include all cell phones, video or audio recording devices, smartwatches, headphones, earbuds, neckband devices, personal laptops, and iPads.

**Time:** Applies to all students in Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade during instructional time, ancillary, electives, clubs, arrival and dismissal, lunch, recess, after-school activities, and Saturday tutorials.

**Location:** Applies to all areas of the school buildings, including but not limited to: Classrooms, Cafeteria, Hallways, Restrooms, Gymnasium, Playgrounds, and Parking Lots.

#### Procedures:

- Devices must be turned off before entering the school building.
- Devices will be collected by the first-period teacher and stored in secured lockers.
- Devices will be returned at the end of the instructional day.
- Exceptions will be granted as required by law for documented medical needs, IEP/504 plans, or emergencies.
- Discipline measures will be in place for violations.
- Phones will be allowed during school-sponsored events & games in the evenings and weekends.



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## **School Liability When a Device is in the School's Possession**

APV-FFL will **Not** be responsible for lost, stolen, or unattended devices. Bring them at your own risk.

If a personal communication device is in the possession of the school, the school will take appropriate efforts to keep the device appropriately stored and free from damage. However, parents should note that the school specifically refuses any liability for devices that are damaged or lost while in the school's possession. Parents will not be compensated for lost or damaged devices.

## **Policy Violations and Consequences:**

### 1<sup>st</sup> offense

\$15 fine

Verbal warning

Parents or guardians can pick up the device from the front office.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> offense

\$15 fine

Parents or guardians can pick up the device after **2 days** from the front office.

1 lunch detention.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> offense

\$15 fine

Parents or guardians can pick up the device after **4 days** from the front office.

1 lunch and 1 after-school detention.

### 4<sup>th</sup> offense

\$15 fine

Parents or guardians can pick up the device after **6 days** from the front office.

2 Saturday detentions.

The TEA guidance also allows districts to dispose of unclaimed confiscated items 90 days after providing written notice to the student's parent or guardian.



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