

# 2023-2024 HSFI Cell Phone Policy

## Philosophy and Expectations

At the High School of Fashion Industries, we believe technology is an asset to the learning of students. To support healthy online habits and promote full engagement in the learning process, it is the expectation that all students use their cell phones during classroom time for educational purposes only as directed by their teachers. Cell Phone use during passing time, lunch periods, and other free periods is at the discretion of the student.

## Rationale

Cellphones are explicitly engineered to get us to spend as much time as possible consumed by them. An increasing number of mental health experts are concluding cellphone use amongst all age groups has risen to the level of addiction.“ Addiction can be defined as continuing to seek out something despite negative consequences. Additional research shows that American teens spend on average five or more hours on social media which has displaced beneficial activities such as sleep, hanging out with friends, participating in extracurricular activities, and school work.

The most effective learning takes place in school with teachers while collaborating with their classmates; learning is a social process. Excessive cellphone use for non-educational purposes interferes with community building, engagement, and time management. Students using their phones for distractions isolate themselves from their classmates in the room and their teachers perceive these students as not interested in learning.

HSFI’s cell phone policy is designed to combat the isolating effects of excessive cellphone use while cultivating students’ capacity for self-regulation. HSFI will engage students in lessons on the short-term and long-term effects of excessive cell phone use as well as strategies to have an appropriate relationship with online behavior.

## Ladder of Consequences

Students who violate HSFI's cell phone policy by using their cell phones during classroom time without educational purpose shall experience these consequences.

**Step 1** - Students will receive a verbal warning from their teacher.

**Step 2** - Students will receive a written warning from their teacher.

**Step 3** - Students will be asked to place their phone in a separate location for the duration of the period and receive a phone call home from their teacher.

Students who refuse to comply with steps 3 will result in a discipline referral submitted to the peace center and initially handled by the Restorative Justice Social Worker.

Students also have the ability to self-report themselves, like in golf when you assign yourself a strokes penalty if you know you broke the rules. Students can choose to separate themselves from their phone for the period or the day.

These steps reset each day in each class period – students start the day with a blank slate. Repeated excessive phone use may result in phone calls home and may lead to a referral to the HSFI peace center.

Further consequences can include,

- 1) A set duration (1 day, 1 week, 1 month, 1 marking period, etc.) students will place their phone in a separate location in a specific classroom for the duration of the period.
- 2) A set duration (1 day, 1 week, 1 month, 1 marking period, etc.) students will place their phone in a separate location in all classrooms for the duration of the period.
- 3) A set duration (1 day, 1 week, 1 month, 1 marking period, etc.) students will place their phone in a separate location for the entire school day, i.e. forfeit cell phone privileges during passing periods, lunch periods, and other free periods. Phones will be locked in cell phone charging boxes in the main office.