



Jefferson Joint School District #251

Every Student Can Learn and Succeed

3850 E 300 N

Rigby, ID 83442

(208) 745-6693 / (208) 745-0848 (fax)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Jefferson County School District 251, we hold the vision and mission in high regard, striving to uphold its values.

Vision

"We are a community dedicated to student learning, nurturing informed and productive citizenship, and preparing all youth for success in college and career."

Mission

"The mission of Jefferson County School District 251 is to provide each student with a high-quality education."

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we wish to share an important update regarding our cell phone policy. Research indicates that excessive use of cell phones and other electronic devices can impede the emotional well-being and academic progress of students. Hence, cell phone usage will be restricted during school hours, including class time, passing periods, and lunchtime. Rigby High School and Jefferson High School each have an open campus at lunch; therefore, students will be allowed to use personal electronic communication devices during that time.

Students will be expected to power off their phones and securely store them in backpacks, lockers, or a designated place in each classroom to maintain focus and create a productive learning environment.

Research and feedback from educators nationwide emphasize the significant harmful impact of excessive use of cell phones and/or social media. Here are key points to consider:

1. **Reduced Distractions:** Cell phones can disrupt concentration and academic performance.
2. **Promotion of Social Interaction:** Limiting cell phone use encourages face-to-face interactions, fostering a cohesive classroom environment.
3. **Mitigation of Social Media Influence:** Excessive social media use contributes to anxiety and sleep disturbances. By restricting access during school hours, we support students' mental well-being and healthier social interactions.
4. **Enhanced Focus on Learning:** Without phone distractions, students can better concentrate on lessons, enhancing comprehension and retention.

While we acknowledge the importance of communication, especially during emergencies, students may access their phones before and after school. In case of in-building emergencies such as a lockdown situation, staff will allow students to use cell phones to contact parents/guardians. Should a parent need to contact their student, they may call the school office, and staff will get a message to the student or have the student come to the office to speak with parents.

We believe this change will enhance student learning by minimizing distractions and improving focus during instructional time. We anticipate questions from the community and urge everyone to review the FAQs and research and data page located on our district webpage. Please join us on **Thursday, August 22 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Rigby Middle School auditorium where we will be presenting research on the impact social media and excessive cell phone use has on our youth. We will also answer questions regarding our cell phone policy. We feel this is valuable information for parents as they navigate technology use within their own families.

Thank you for your support. Together, we can continue our focus on student learning, nurturing informed and productive citizenship, and preparing all youth for success in college and career.

Sincerely,

Chad Martin
Superintendent