

Expectations for Student Cellphones at TAPA **2018-2019 School Year**

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts uses instructional technology as a way of supporting our mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens. It is our hope that this cell phone policy will increase student awareness, while putting into practice social and professional etiquette relating to electronic devices.

At TAPA, we understand that cell phones have become a major part of everyone's day to day activities. In school, however, they are a distraction to the educational process and can cause disruptions in the day. For this reason, cell phones **MUST NOT BE VISIBLE AND OR AUDIBLE during the instructional day**; they must ALWAYS be in silent mode or turned off. Key to this: phones cannot be seen, heard, or used.

All phone communication during the instructional day must take place on school telephones. IN THE INTEREST OF SCHOOL SAFETY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PARENTS DO NOT CALL THEIR CHILDREN DIRECTLY, BUT INSTEAD CALL THE SCHOOL FOR ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION.

TAPA provides ChromeBooks for all students. It is expected that students will use ChromeBooks for music, email, filming, calculating, recording, and other during-the-school-day activities that might otherwise be done with a cellphone. The only time a TAPA student is permitted to use their phone on school grounds is before/ after school, during Advisory time (at the discretion and supervision of their Advisor) and in meetings with the Guidance Counselor if needed for college/career preparation purposes.

If a staff member sees or hears a student's cell phone, the student must turn in the phone, which will be held by the Dean of Students or another member of the Administrative team. If the student refuses to hand in their phone, their parent or guardian will be called and the student will be sent home for the day.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones. Neither TAPA nor its employees assume responsibility for theft, loss, transfer, use or damage of any student cell phone. A student's possession or use of a cellphone during the school day is AT THEIR OWN RISK.

Violating the established policy will result in the following:

- First and second offenses: the phone is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian; The phone will not be given to the student, only a parent or guardian
- Third offense: The phone is taken away for five school days.
- Any further infractions will result in the student being banned from having a cell phone on school grounds during the school day.
- Furthermore, students who do not adhere to these guidelines will be subjected to other disciplinary actions.

The benefits of this new policy are:

- It creates an atmosphere of mutual trust: students are treated like adults with a choice, not children with rules.
- An opportunity to self-assess and build self-monitoring skills.
- By putting the responsibility on students, TAPA hopes to build a behavior that will strengthen over time and into their adulthood.
- A community of caring: the tone of our school is one where we care about each other and care about learning.