

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL and COMBINED MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CELLULAR TELEPHONE PROCEDURE**

Volusia County Schools recognizes the right of all students to possess a cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device while on a school campus or while riding district student transportation. However, in order to prevent the disruption of school and instructional activities, Volusia County Schools restricts the use and/or exposure of cell phones, electronic pagers or other wireless communications devices by students as follows.

- Students at middle schools may possess a cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device while on a school campus or while riding district student transportation, but are required to keep the cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device out of view (e.g., in the backpack, purse, pocket, etc.) and are not permitted to use the cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device in any manner (e.g., no spoken or text communication, photographing, recording, transmission of photographs and/or recordings, etc.) during the school day or while riding district student transportation without the express permission of an administrator, teacher, or bus operator. All cell phones, electronic pagers or other wireless communications devices are to be turned off.
- If a parent has a need to communicate with his or her child during the school day, the parent should contact the main office at the School. The School will then see to it that the message from the parent is communicated to the student. Parents should not try to contact a child on the child's cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless device while that child is at School.
- The Code of Student Conduct applies whenever a student is on a school campus, riding district student transportation, or participating in/attending a school event. Any use of a cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device that involves conduct

prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct (including but not limited to: cheating; possession or distribution of pornographic material; the use of profane obscene or vulgar language; cyberstalking; bullying; extortion; threats; harassment; and/or drug distribution) shall constitute a violation of the Code of Student Conduct the same as if the conduct had occurred person to person.

- During FCAT testing, students will be required, for the purpose of test security, to hand their cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device over to the teacher or other school representative in the room. The devices will be returned after completion of the test. All parents are strongly encouraged to have their children leave their cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device at home on the days when these tests occur.

Should a student use a cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device in violation of this procedure, or fail to keep the cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device hidden and turned off, the student will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, disciplinary referral, confiscation of the device, a parent conference, in-school suspension or suspension, and/or a loss of privileges (e.g., participation in extracurricular activities). If the School confiscates a student's cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device, the student will generally be given the opportunity to pick up the phone at the end of the school. If the School finds it necessary to confiscate a student's cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device on more than one occasion, the School may require the student's parent to pick the phone up.

The use of a wireless communication device in a criminal act will result in criminal penalties.

Parents and students are hereby informed that cell phones, electronic pagers or other wireless communications devices are brought onto a school campus at the risk of the parent and the student. The School has no responsibility for the safe-keeping of these cell phones, electronic

paggers or other wireless communications devices, and will not be responsible if a cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device is stolen or lost, including when the cell phone, electronic pager or other wireless communications device has been confiscated due to the student's failure to abide by the terms of this procedure.