

# Seton School Cell Phone Policy and User Agreement

Seton has always believed in the integrity and resilience of the students and parents of the Seton Community, and the faculty is grateful for your dedication to the school. Parents have given us the honor of helping students to know, love and serve God in this life through education, sports, and activities. With specific respect to technology, Seton acknowledges its potential benefits, including helping students to advance their education and aiding in emergencies as well as other applications. We also recognize the reality of Original Sin and its consequences and the detrimental effects technology can have.

Access to the internet through phones can tempt students to dishonesty on tests and homework assignments. Internet access also can allow students to visit websites which are inappropriate and a threat to their virtue. It is Seton's obligation to provide an environment that makes choosing the good easier. We also wish to encourage students to socialize and interact with each other rather than focusing on screens.

## **Seton's current cell phone policy:**

- \*No cell phones powered up during the course of school hours.**
- \*Phones allowed to be used only with teacher or office permission.**
- \*A student who has a cell phone visible during school hours without permission will receive an automatic detention and \$20 fine.**

## **The additions to current cell phone policy**

- \*Smart watches and similar devices which have Internet capabilities are treated the same as cell phones. They must remain out of sight and may not be used during school hours. The same penalties apply to smart watches as to cell phones.**
- \*Students are not to access the Internet before or after school on school property.**
- \*A "User Agreement" must be signed (reinstatement of an earlier policy).**

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The user agreement is mutually beneficial to student and parents. It gives the parents the ability to regulate the cell phone use of their children and to be knowledgeable if their child is taking his cell phone to school. It allows the student to have the privilege to use his phone before and after school in a responsible manner.

The agreement is twofold. 1) It will register on a master list those students who are allowed to have a cell phone. If a student is caught having a cell phone without permission from his parents, it will be confiscated and returned to the parents. If there is a second occurrence, the phone will be confiscated, a detention served, and the parents contacted by the Dean of Students. If you allow your child to have a cell phone at school temporarily, when you previously did not, a signed user agreement must be sent in with the cell phone and given to the office. 2) You agree to accept the penalties for unauthorized cell phone use.

Our phone policies are as follows:

- 1) During school hours, if a student's phone is heard and has therefore not been powered off, the phone is confiscated and sent to the main office. Confiscated phones are returned to the students after a fine of \$20 is paid. The money will be sent to our twin school in Haiti.
- 2) During school hours, if a student has his phone or other device out without permission, the above penalties will apply and the student will also receive an automatic detention.
- 3) If a student has an important need to use his phone, he must get permission from a teacher and go to the office to use it.
- 4) Texting during school hours violates the policy of unpowered phones and is not allowed during school hours. All rules which apply to talking on a cell phone apply to texting.
- 5) Before and after school the student may call and text but is not to use Internet browsing capabilities. If a student or students are seen to be on the Internet, they will be asked to put the device away. Students who are found consistently to violate this policy may have the device confiscated.
- 6) If a student is a repeat offender of Seton's cell phone policy, that student may lose the privilege of having a cell phone on Seton grounds.

If you give permission to your child to bring a cell phone to school, please read the User Agreement with your child and sign it. You may return it to the office immediately or return it with the rest of your paperwork in early August. If your child will not have a cell phone at school this year, please check the indicated statement, sign the form, and return it to school.

Students will sign a copy of the agreement during their religion classes early in the school year.

Please talk with your child about the importance of adhering to the rules outlined in this letter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Pennefather or Mr. Heisler.

## Seton School Cell Phone User Agreement

We the undersigned hereby agree to follow the cell phone policies of Seton School. We acknowledge that cell phone use at Seton is limited to before and after school hours only. All calls and texting during school hours are strictly forbidden without the permission of a teacher. Before and after school, students may call and text but are not to use web browser capabilities while on school property. We understand the penalties outlined in the Seton cell phone policy and agree to accept the consequences if a violation occurs. We understand that this policy also applies to smart watches and similar devices with Internet capability.

I, \_\_\_\_\_

the parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ (names of child/ren who will have the use of a cell phone on school property) agree to allow my child/ren to have a cell phone on the grounds of Seton School and further agree that I accept the responsibility and rules outlined in this policy statement. I further agree that if I need to contact my child during school hours, I will phone the school, and not text or call my child.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child/ren \_\_\_\_\_ (names)  
will not have the use of a cell phone on Seton property during the 2019-2020 school year.

Sign and Date \_\_\_\_\_