

## Ridgecrest Elementary Cell Phone Policy

Dear Parent or Guardian of Ridgecrest Elementary Students:

Cell phones have become a way of life, a technological convenience that has impacted all of our lives in one way or another. However, in the school environment, cell phones have become a distraction, and an interruption. The ringing of the cell phone during class, text-messaging, or calling parents during instructional time takes away from the valuable time needed for instruction and most importantly, student learning. We do recognize that cell phones can be a safety/security tool; however, they can be a detriment in the event of a building emergency and our protocol to manage such emergencies in a safe and effective manner. Parents are urged to utilize the school phone to relay any messages that may be urgent in nature to their child. We will always relay any urgent information to your child.

In order to maintain the focus on academics, and because students must be alert to the learning environment, Ridgecrest Elementary does not allow students to use electronic devices on the school grounds. While at school, all electronic devices brought to school must always be TURNED OFF and be kept in a backpack. Exceptions may be made for devices required by teachers for certain lessons. Of course, the best security for the cell phone is to leave it home.

Also, please understand that neither Ridgecrest Elementary nor the Phenix City Board of Education assumes responsibility in any circumstances whatsoever for the loss, theft, or destruction of any cellular phones or devices that are brought to school at any time before, during, or after school hours.

If a student is found to be in possession or using of a cell device, it will be confiscated, placed in a labeled envelope, and delivered to the office.

The consequences will be as follows.

1st offense:

- Cell phone will be held in the office until the end of the next day.
- Parent or guardian must sign for the cell phone to be returned.

2nd offense:

- Cell phone will be held in the office for (3) days.
- A parent or guardian will sign for the cell phone after meeting with the student and principal.

3rd offense:

- Cell phone will be held in the office until the end of the school year.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Veatrice Ware-Thomas*

Principal