



Cellphone and Smartwatch Policy (July 2024)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q0: Why are we making this change?

A0: The purpose of the Brooks School Cellphone and Smartwatch Policy is to

- support student health
- increase student engagement
- decrease distractions
- foster beloved community

Q1: What is the new cellphone and smartwatch policy during the academic day?

A1: No cellphone or smartwatch use is allowed during the academic day from 8 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. until 11:55 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Q2: Where should students put cellphones or smartwatches during the day?

A2: Boarding students should leave their phones and smartwatches in their dorm rooms and day students should leave their phones and smartwatches in their lockers, in the Deans' Den or in their cars.

Q3: Are there any exceptions to the cellphone and smartwatch policy?

A3: Yes. Medical exceptions will be made for students with medical devices that require app connection.

Q4: What are the consequences if students choose to violate the policy?

A4: When a student is found using their cellphone/smartwatch during the academic day, a faculty member will ask for the student to give them their device. The faculty member will deliver the device to the Deans' Den where the student can pick it up at the end of the academic day. Further consequences will be issued based on the frequency of violations.

Q5: How will students communicate with their family if they can't use their cellphone or smartwatch during the academic day?

A5: Students can use other methods such as school email or designated landlines in the school. If a student has an emergency, they can always go to the Health and Wellness Center or the Deans' Den. Faculty will assist in facilitating communication. For



other types of needs, students may reach out to appropriate adults such as advisors, college counseling, etc. who will facilitate access to a phone.

Q6: How do families proactively contact students during the academic day?

A6: During the academic day, family members may email students in non-emergency situations. For emergency or immediate needs during the academic day, please call the main telephone line at (978) 725-6300. Should you need assistance after the academic day, please reach out to the Administrator on Duty at (978) 269-4989.

Q7: How can students submit a request to depart campus without a device?

A7: Students will need to use REACH on their laptops during the academic day to enter a request to depart campus. A student is always welcome to come to the Deans' Den during the academic day for help with any leave request. Further, please note: If a student needs to depart campus at any point of the day, they must have their cellphone with them *and* sign out properly through REACH.

Q8: How will students communicate during the day now that they will not have cellphones and smartwatches?

A8: Communication will come via email and on hallway screens throughout campus. Announcements will also be made on Tuesdays and Fridays during school meetings, advisory and community times. Students will receive extra support during the transition period, including guidance from advisors and peers. They will also have access to printed schedules and maps to help them navigate the campus.

Q9: What measures are in place for emergency communication?

A9: Faculty and staff will remain in possession of cellphones and smartwatches throughout the academic day. Emergency communication will be sent over text messages and email to alert adult community members. These messages will also be received by students on email.

To ensure community members are prepared in the event of an emergency, Brooks will continue to conduct training and drills throughout the academic year including Fire Drills, A.L.I.C.E. training, EpiPen training, CPR and AED training and boundary training.

We are also working with a security partner to install an emergency alert system. *Upon installation, community members will receive additional information.*



Brooks will communicate with families in the event of an emergency as soon as possible.

Q10: How does this cellphone policy impact my residential experience?

A10: The policy stipulates that no cellphone or smartwatch use is allowed during the academic day from 8 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. until 11:55 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. However, in some circumstances outside of this time, students will be asked to limit their device usage. For instance, similar to practice in structured study hall, third- and fourth- form boarding students will be asked to turn in their cellphones to their dorm parents during study hours. Additionally, there will be some events offered during weekend programming that will be phone-free.