



COCOPAH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monday, December 17, 2018

Dear Cocopah Families,

I would like to address some changes we are implementing at Cocopah Middle School. For many months- years actually- I have been increasingly concerned about the effect of cell phone usage on our students. Cell phone or screen time addiction is on the rise, and the emotional and social implications on adolescents are undeniable.

Beginning Tuesday, January 8, 2019 Cocopah will fully implement the Scottsdale Unified School District mobile learning device policy. This policy states that cell phones and other mobile learning devices must be turned off and placed in backpacks once students enter campus. Students may only use their cell phones with staff permission, including listening to music (wired or Bluetooth connected). We will continue to allow teachers to utilize mobile learning devices in their classrooms as needed; however, the expectation is that when they are not being used for a specific, adult directed purpose, they are turned off and put away in backpacks.

Today your students received the COCOPAH MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT. This contract must be signed and returned to school no later than Friday, December 21. In this contract, we have clearly indicated the procedure for inappropriate use of cell phones or other mobile learning devices:

Violation 1: student warning

Violation 2: email home to parents

Violation 3: confiscation of phone (parent must pick up) and loss of cell phone use for the remainder of the quarter (student may not bring phone to school).

We know that social media sites may be used for cyberbullying, and cell phones provide a portal to that world. We want our students at Cocopah to be free from the worry that their every move may be recorded and shared on Snapchat or other social media sites. Cell phones are a distraction that keep students from being focused at school. Moreover, they keep the Cocopah Learning Community, both students and adults, from being fully present with one another.

As parents and guardians, you can support us by proactively planning for student pick up and drop off, preparing for deliveries, and calling ahead for appointments or other activities. We understand this will be a change for students, families, and staff. The week of December 17-21 will be used as an opportunity to educate and remind our students about our new procedures without any formal documentation of infractions. We ask that you all support this process change.

Respectfully,

Mr. Noonan and the Cocopah Staff

