



St. Peter Elementary School

"Learn, Grow, Succeed"

School Policy: Cell Phone and Smart Device Use

Effective School Year: 2025–2026

1. Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for student use of telephones, cell phones, and smart devices at St. Peter School to maintain a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment.

2. Rationale

Cell phones are an important part of modern life and can have many advantages. However, in the school environment, most students cannot resist the temptation of using cell phones for non-academic purposes, including social media, cheating, taking photos of peers, and other inappropriate uses.

This concern also extends to smart devices, such as watches, that can receive texts, calls, photos, and/or apps. Research has shown that access to these devices can be a **major distraction to learning**.

For these reasons, **St. Peter School requires that cell phones and smart devices are not allowed during school hours.**

3. School Telephone Use

- The school telephone is reserved for **official school business only**.
- Students may be called to the office to receive a phone call **only in the event of an emergency**.
- Families should make all necessary plans with students **before** they leave home in the morning.

4. Cell Phone and Smart Device Rules

- Students are **NOT permitted** to have cell phones in their possession during school hours.
- The **only exception** is for students who must notify a parent/guardian when they arrive home after taking the bus (see Section 5).
- If a student is seen with a cell phone **out, in use, or in a pocket**, it will be confiscated by school staff or administration and stored in the school office until a **parent/guardian picks it up**.



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- If a student is being distracted by a **smart watch or other smart device**, that device will be confiscated and stored in the school office until a parent/guardian picks it up.
- Unauthorized device use may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's **Code of Conduct**.

5. After-School Safety Exception

- The **only exception** to the cell phone rule is for students who need to notify their parents/guardians when they arrive home after taking the bus.
- Parents/guardians must **submit and sign a Cell Phone Exception Request Form** explaining the safety need.
- Approved students must **turn in their cell phone to the school office upon arrival each morning** and may pick it up at dismissal.
- Phones will be stored in a **secure, designated area** under staff supervision during the day.

6. Student and Parent Responsibilities

- Students should focus on **in-person interactions** and practice respectful communication with peers.
- Inappropriate online/text behavior between students, even outside school hours, may result in **school consequences**.
- Parents are encouraged to review and reinforce these guidelines at home.

7. Enforcement

- Any violation of this policy will be handled by school administration.
- Repeated violations may result in the loss of the exception privilege, detention, or other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate.

If you have any questions about this policy, contact the school office at (330) 452-0125 or email stpeterelem@youngstowndiocese.org

We thank you for supporting St. Peter School in educating your child while ensuring a safe and rigorous learning environment.

Reference: [Governor DeWine signs bill requiring Ohio schools to limit cell phone use – Ohio Department of Education](#)

Approved by Principal John Airhart

Date: August 11, 2025

Phone 330.452.0125 Fax: 330.453.0253 stpeterelem@youngstowndiocese.org



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Cell Phone & Smart Device Exception Request Form

Purpose:

This form allows parents/guardians to request an exception to the St. Peter School Cell Phone & Smart Device Policy **only** for after-school safety purposes, such as contacting a parent/guardian after riding the bus or walking home.

Student Information

- **Student Name:** _____
- **Grade:** _____

Reason for Request: Please explain the specific safety need for your student to have a cell phone or smart device after school:

Agreement & Conditions

By signing this form, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. My child will **turn in their device to the school office upon arrival** each morning.
2. The device will be stored in a **secure, designated area** in the office during the school day.
3. My child will **pick up the device at dismissal** and will not use it during school hours.
4. If my child is seen with the device out, in use, or in their possession during school hours, it will be confiscated, and I will need to pick it up from the school office.
5. Repeated violations may result in the loss of the exception privilege.

Parent/Guardian Information

- **Parent/Guardian Name:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____
- **Email:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

School Use Only

- **Approved by Administrator:** _____ **Date:** _____
- **Start Date:** _____ **End Date:** _____
- **Notes:**