

Updates to our Personal Mobile Device (PMD) Policy

Takoma Park Middle School has joined a few schools to participate in a pilot program for Personal Mobile Devices (ie: cell phones, ipads, etc). TPMS will be implementing an "Away All Day" policy. This approach is designed to minimize distractions, reduce anxiety, and encourage face-to-face interactions among students, fostering a more focused and connected learning environment. We understand that cell phones can be an important tool for communication. In case of an emergency, you can always reach your child through the school office.

- Students will leave their phones/PMDs in their **FIRST BLOCK CLASSES (not advisory)** for the day.
When they arrive to class, they will place the PMDs in the parking lot box with the card and rubber band system
- If students are **tardy to school, they will store the phone when they arrive to class**
- If they arrive **AFTER** 1st block, then they will leave it in whichever class they arrive to first

At 2:57 students will be dismissed from the last period class to return to their 1st block class to collect their PMD. They will then depart to catch their bus, car ride, or walk home.

If a student does not follow the policy: A staff member will put the device(s) in either their classroom parking lot, or the main office parking lot. Devices will be retrieved between 2:57 & 3:05. Parents/guardians will be contacted. Your grade-level administrator will provide additional consequences if it is a consistent behavior.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the PTSA who purchased storage bins and materials to ensure that all phones can be safely stored. This protocol will begin on **Wednesday, August 28th**.

Thank you for your support in this initiative as we work together to create a safe and positive atmosphere for all our students.