



John W. Hallahan

CATHOLIC GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

The Hallahan community is committed to providing the best education for every student.

Effective January 29, 2018, the Hallahan cell phone policy will change. Cell phones, while intended for technology in the classrooms, have become too much of a distraction and used inappropriately.

Research now shows that more than 3 hours a day on smart phones increases teens' risk for anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts. Excessive time on phones can cause loneliness. Smart phone addiction is increasingly recognized as a behavior addiction. One recognized protective factor is face-to-face time with friends.

Hallahan believes students should be present in their learning during class and social conversations during lunch. The administration and faculty values the partnership of parents in supporting these expectations.

The following rules will go into effect for 2nd semester beginning January 29, 2018

- Phones are not to be visible from 7:30AM to 2:24PM. This includes early dismissal students.
- No Phones in pockets.
- The phone must be turned off and stored in student's locker or pencil case.
- If given express permission by a classroom teacher, phone can be used IN THAT CLASS ONLY.
- Phones may not be used in hallways, homeroom, cafeteria, or study hall.
- All parental communication is to go through Student Services. If a parent needs an emergency message to student, please call school Main Office 215-563-8930 ext. 221. We will quickly assist you and your daughter as needed.

We are committed to enforcing this policy. Cell phone violation fines and demerits will increase. Fines collected go toward enrichment activities for the school. Fines are collected for all cell phone use violations.

First Offense: \$20 Fine. 15 demerits. Detention. Cell phone is confiscated and returned to student.

Second Offense: \$30 Fine. 20 demerits. Detention. Cell phone is confiscated and returned only to parent/guardian.

After Second Offense: \$50 Fine. 31 demerits. Automatic conduct failure. 2 Detentions. Cell phone is confiscated and returned only to the parent/guardian. In addition, students will have to turn cell phone into the Student Services Office each morning.

As always, if a student is found to be using a cell phone for harassing another, displaying aggression, or recording images, it will be treated as a serious discipline issue. The student will receive 31 demerits and an immediate suspension, and be liable for dismissal from school.

We want the students' time in school to be focused on learning. We will continue to use technology in the classroom with use of Chromebooks.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Barlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jessica Barlow

Assistant Principal Student Services