CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The St. Vincent-St. Mary's cell phone policy strives to strengthen focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our school.

Research shows that student use of cellphones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children (Ohio Department of Education, 2024).

Use of cell phones, Apple watches, iPods, iPads, tablets, AirPods, portable video game consoles, music devices, or any other related electronic devices with or without earphones/headphones are only permitted before and after school. **Students are not permitted to use their cell phones at any time during the school day. Cell phones must be kept in student lockers during school hours. If a student is caught using a cell phone during the school day the phone will be confiscated and will not be returned until the end of the school day. A parent or guardian may be required to come to the school to pick up the device at the discretion of any member of the Administrative team.**

In the event that a student needs to make an emergency/urgent phone call, the student is to report to a Dean's office to make that call; emergency/urgent phone calls are not to be made from personal cell phones alone; administration needs to be notified of any and all emergencies. **STVM is not responsible for theft or damage of electronic devices.**

If a student has a medical condition that requires cell phone use (i.e., digital continuous blood glucose monitor), documentation will be required to be submitted to the school nurse and an appropriate accommodation plan will be made and approved by the administration.