

## TOHS Orchestra Cell Phone Policy

Cell phone use is not permitted during orchestra class rehearsal . Cell phone visibility is not allowed either. Visibility means no cell phones on or underneath chairs, on stands, or on the floor next to the student. If students keep them in a pocket that is fine. Even better would be in a backpack or their orchestra locker.

There is significant research that shows even having a cell phone out and visible in class reduces the retention of class material. And the social use of cell phones is distracting to the student and the class. I have included links to research highlighting both issues.

In a class such as orchestra the reduction in performance quality of one student hurts the quality of the ensemble as a whole.

The only exception to this policy would be for an exceptional situation. In this case, the student should leave a note in the class Inbox, on their own initiative. An exceptional situation is defined as an incident that happens on rare occasions, not on a daily or weekly basis, that requires cell phone use.

If a student does not follow cell phone policy, it will reduce their class rehearsal grade, and it will be noted in the comments of the grade. The vast majority of students have never had an issue with cell phone use, so this won't affect them.

January 2019

Links

<https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2018-07-27/study-cellphones-laptops-in-the-classroom-lead-to-lower-test-scores>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cellphones-classrooms-contribute-failing-grades-study/story?id=56837614>