

CELL PHONE POLICY – RESOURCE CENTER



MCA has implemented a new mobile phone policy for students when in the Resource Center, effective February 26, 2018.

Smartphones provide a near limitless buffet of conveniences to our lives. But it is no secret that they also can be a harmful distraction from the things that matter most. Classically educated students are not immune to these negative side effects. Indeed, because we value the skill of thinking above the regurgitation of facts, the advent of smartphones can be particularly threatening to the mission of MCA - especially “Engaging Minds.” Thinking requires time, focus, and energy. And smart phones’ constant barrage of notifications and texts (not to mention the temptations of games, social media feeds, endless scrolling, etc.) often intercept and undermine students’ thoughts before those thoughts can hatch. In light of this, MCA wants to provide a sanctuary from such distractions for our students.

The new policy is that MCA will ask students to silence and stow their cell phones when they enter the Resource Center. Students will be expected to leave their phones stowed away while they are in the RC.

We will implement this new policy in two phases.

Phase One will begin on **Monday, Feb 26**. The faculty and staff will remind students to put their phones away if they see them out or hear them in the RC. This reminder phase will be in place until the Wednesday after Spring Break.

Phase Two will begin on **Wednesday, Mar 21**. At that date, whenever MCA faculty and staff see or hear students’ phones in the RC, we will take them up and turn them into the front desk. Students will be able to retrieve their phones at lunch (if it was taken up that morning) or at 3:15 (if it was taken up in the afternoon).

We realize that this policy may occasionally be an inconvenience to parents when you are trying to reach your students. But we ask that you consider the upshot, which is the enhancement of your son’s and daughter’s capacity to think well.

Here are three ways how you can help support MCA in this transition.

- 1.) If possible have a good attitude and consider the potential gains worth the loss of convenience.
- 2.) Encourage your students to continue to come to the Resource Center to study. If they avoid the RC and do their work elsewhere, the policy – despite – its aspirations would likely have had created less focused study, not more.
- 3.) Cast a vision for your high school students to take the lead in this cultural change. It will not work if the high schoolers do not lead.

And here is a bonus challenge for you go-getters: Consider the digital study environment within your home. Do the systems and structures in place help your student flourish or do they make it more difficult for them to thrive?

Please do not hesitate to email me with your thoughts, concerns, or questions, about this new policy. You can reach me at bshuman@mcaknights.org.

Thank you for your partnership and for all that you are doing in leading your family. Though this season can feel long and weary, it will soon pass. Invest while you can and do not lose heart!

Engaging Minds, Pursuing Christ, Discovering Greatness
Brandon Shuman
Dean of Arts and Humanities