



ISLAND TREES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL, 59 STRAIGHT LANE, LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756-5799

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August 1, 2011

Dear Parents:

In an effort to ensure maximum instructional time during classes and eliminate issues caused in part by social networking sites, the Island Trees School District is banning the use of cellular phones and other electronic devices from Island Trees High School for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond.

This past year, students were referred to the Main Office 202 times for the use of electronic devices, 196 of these times were for the use of a cell phone during class time. The constant disruption of these devices proves to be detrimental to the delivery of highly-effective instruction and also causes the loss of personal attention from each student. With the availability of internet connectivity to most cell phones, students are accessing Facebook and other internet sites during the regular school day and class time. Access to the internet through hand-held devices has caused students to be involved in the constant updating of statuses, posting of pictures, and other issues that negatively impact the school environment. We have dealt with countless referrals which have originated from cyberbullying or harassing text messages that have escalated from mere disturbances to major disciplinary issues. In addition, we have had incidents where students have used their cell phones to knowingly provide peers with answers to test questions, thusly using the device to cheat.

The new rules would require all students to shut off and put away (in a locker, book bag, pocket book) any and all electronic devices. If a staff member encounters a student holding the device during the school day, from entering the building in the morning, until final bell at 2:06, the device will be confiscated. Following the guidelines already established in the student handbook, on the first offense, the device will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The second and subsequent times an electronic device is confiscated it will be held until a parent or guardian picks it up after school in the main office. Chronic referrals to the main office may result in additional disciplinary measures.

Excellence and Success for All Students

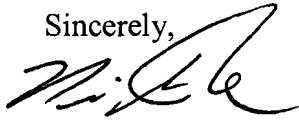
I invite you to partner with us at the high school to shut down the constant attention that the students place on their cellular devices and redirect that attention to the lessons at hand and success at the high school level. To be able to provide six and a half hours of “quiet” for our students is a gift that will serve them well into the future.

As in the past, our Main Office staff will be available to deliver emergency messages to your child if the need arises. You may contact the Main Office at 520-2136 at any time in the case of an emergency during school hours.

To be sure, this will be a significant undertaking as we are asking our students to adapt to a new way of conducting themselves on campus. However, I know with your support we will be successful.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Grande', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Grande
Principal