



# Union County Middle School

488 State Road 44 East  
Liberty, Indiana 47353



Sarah Lynch, Principal

Lisa Gayhart, Assistant Principal

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Lisa Cox, Secretary

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Dear UCMS families,

As Principal and Assistant Principal of UCMS, it is our responsibility to provide a safe educational environment with limited distractions. As a result, we wanted to communicate the change in our cell phone policy to reduce distractions, eliminate temptations, embrace learning and encourage in person social interactions.

## **Old (Current) Policy**

Students may use their cell phones or other electronics during lunch and before and after school, but must be put away before entering the academic hallways. Students who are found to be using a cell phone or any other electronic device without permission will have it confiscated for the remainder of the school day and will be subject to these consequences:

- 1st = Warning and student retrieves phone from office at 3:00.
- 2nd = Warning, student retrieves phone from office at 3:00, and parent phone call.
- 3rd = Lunch detention, student retrieves phone from office at 3:00 and parent phone call.
- 4th = Lunch detention and parent must pick up and sign for phone.
- 5th = ISS and parent must pick up and sign for phone.

## **New Policy: January 3, 2022, UCMS will implement the following updated policy**

Students may use their cell phones or other electronics before and after school, but must be put away before entering the academic hallways. Cell phones or other electronics should be turned off and stored in the student's assigned hall locker.

Students who are found to be using a cell phone or any other electronic device without permission will have it confiscated for the remainder of the school day and will be subject to these consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> time – Warning and the student may retrieve the device from the office at the end of the day.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time – Warning, parent phone call, and the student may retrieve the device from the office at the end of the day.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> time – Lunch detention, parent phone call and parent must pick up device during school hours.
- 4<sup>th</sup> time – ISS, parent phone call and parent must pick up device during school hours.

These procedures are being implemented to eliminate distractions and protect the general welfare of each student and staff member at UCMS. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please call Mrs. Sarah Lynch, Principal, or Mrs. Lisa Gayhart, Assistant Principal, at 765-458-7438.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Lynch*

*Lisa Gayhart*

**REMINDER:**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS REGARDING CELL PHONE CONTENT AND DISPLAY**

- Sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form, including the contents of a cell phone or other electronic device may be considered as a ground for suspension or expulsion.
- There is to be no unauthorized videotaping or photographing of any part of the building, grounds, students, and staff without the prior written consent of the Union County College Corner Joint School District.
- The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with “child exploitation” or “child pornography” as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.
- It is “child exploitation,” a Class C felony under I.C.35-42-4-4(b), for any person/student (1) to exhibit, photograph or create a digitized image of any incident that includes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18; or (2) to disseminate, exhibit to another person, or offer to so disseminate or exhibit, matter that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18.
- It is “child pornography,” a Class D felony under I.C.35-42-4-4(c), for any person/student to *possess* a photograph, motion picture, digitalized image, or any pictorial representation that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child who the person knows is less than 16 years of age or who appears less than age 16.
- “Sexual conduct” is defined by I.C.35-42-4-4(a) to include sexual intercourse, exhibition of the uncovered genitals intended to satisfy or arouse the sexual desires of any person, or any fondling or touching of a child by another person or of another person by a child intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or other person.
- The Indiana Sex Offender Registration Statute at I.C.11-8-8-7 and the Sex Offender Registry Offense Statute at I.C.35-42-4-22, as of May 2009, require persons convicted of or adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent for violating the Child Exploitation Statute at I.C.35-42-4-4(b) to register as a sex offender.
- Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of “sexual conduct” as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.