

# Bernice Mathews Elementary School

## Washoe County School District



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Reno, NV 89512  
April Coldani, Principal

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Raquel Siordia, Secretary

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January 23, 2023

Dear Families,

Please see the reverse side for a reminder of the cell phone policy at Mathews Elementary School. As technology advances and changes, so must our policies. Due to the increase of smart watches in the school setting, we are adding smart watches to the cell phone policy. We understand that some parents are selective with the range of abilities that smart watches offer their students. We also understand that parents want to be able to keep in touch with their student for safety reasons. That being said, we must apply the same rules to all watches as we cannot monitor which students' watches have which features.

If the watch can make or receive text messages, make or receive any calls, take pictures, access the internet, or host games, then it is considered a smart watch under this policy.

A watch that tells time, counts steps, and monitors health is the only exception to this rule and will be allowed to be worn through the day.

Once your student arrives to school safely, they will turn their smart watch into their teacher to be locked up for safety. Before they leave for the day, all devices will be returned.

This decision is due to the following concerns: Students playing games on watches during the school day, students taking pictures during the school day, and students sending messages and receiving calls on their watches during class time, and students having access to the internet during times that are not appropriate.

Friendly Reminders:

- All communications between parents and students during the school day must go through the office. If your child is ill, they must report to the school clinic. The clinic will reach out to you.
- If a student is having an issue with other students at school, it needs to be reported to staff, or can be reported on SAFE Voice.
- Lost, stolen, or broken devices are not the responsibility of the school.

Thank you for helping us maintain a distraction free learning environment.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Schlatter  
Assistant Principal

January 23, 2023

Dear Families,

I am sending this message to seek your support as a partner in education with us. Throughout the year student cell phone usage at school has continued to be a problem. Students with cell phones do not always respond well to staff members when they are asked to turn their phones off and leave them in backpacks. **Beginning on Wednesday, February 9, 2022** all student cell phones that are brought to school will be required to be off and turned in to their teachers. Teachers will store phones in a safe location in the classroom. At the end of the day cell phones will be given back to students.

**All communication between parents and students during the school day will need to go through the office.**

Cell phones should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Teachers will provide reminders to turn phones in for the day. If students do not comply with requests from teachers their cell phone will be held in the office until a parent can come pick it up.

Helpful tips and information about children and cell phone usage include the following:

- Consider a child's maturity and responsibility levels before giving him or her a cell phone
  - Monitor their phones by randomly checking text messages and other phone content regularly
  - Require your children to provide you passwords to all apps they use
  - Use parental controls on the phone and apps
  - Be your child's social media friend to keep tabs on what is being posted
  - Educate yourself on the latest apps
  - Limit phone usage for at least one hour prior to bedtime. Remove the phone from your child's bedroom to prevent the temptation to be on the phone/device during the night.
  - Be honest and let your children know that you will be holding them accountable for their actions on their phone from the beginning so there are no surprises.
  - Communicate openly with your children about the risks of cell phone usage to keep them safe from cyberbullying, child trafficking, and putting content out to the internet that can never be retrieved.
- Thank you,

Mrs. Schlatter

Assistant Principal