Middle School Reminder: Backpacks and Cell Phones

Middle School students do not carry backpacks or cell phones during the school day. All students use their lockers to store their personal belongings, including backpacks, purses, and cell phones between 8:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. every day.

**Backpacks**

There are several important reasons for "no backpacks"; the foremost of which is safety-the piles of backpacks on classroom floors and in hallways, lobbies and stairwells create a tripping hazard that has already been the literal downfall of both students and teachers, and the potential for disaster in an actual emergency is intolerable. Heavy backpacks on smaller children are also an unhealthy strain on their backs, and "parked" backpacks outside the lunchroom and classrooms obstruct access and have unfortunately invited some incidents of theft. We have tried many systems - allowing only some grades to carry backpacks, limiting areas where they can be left, insisting those who carry backpacks wear them at all times and have found these systems nearly impossible to maintain and largely unsuccessful in reducing the clutter. We hope you will join us in embracing our organization system and help support your child in limiting his/her load.

**Cell Phones**

Middle School youngsters do not carry cell phones during the day. Please remember they are busy and engaged with their schoolwork, their friends, their teachers, and their activities. Additionally, we believe in the importance of a school climate where face-to-face interaction is valued and intentional. Our young adolescents still need guidance in their interpersonal relationships, and the distraction of cell phones hinders us in our work with your children and hinders them in their social development.

Your child is always allowed and welcome to come to the MS Attendance office to place a phone call to you. There will be certain special circumstances (such as a sudden weather related sports game cancellation) when teachers will give permission to use cell phones.

Students can also check phones and emails immediately upon dismissal from school at 3:25. You may want to establish this as a routine to communicate any dismissal changes.

*Please do not expect your child to respond to a text or email during the school day.*

Thank you for your support in both of these matters.