

OMS Internet Enabled Device Policy 2025-2026

Dear Students and Families,

Summer seems to be flying by. I hope you all have had time to relax and refresh! As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to share some important updates about our Internet-Enabled Device Policy, which will take effect on the first day of school, Thursday, September 4, 2025.

This policy was developed in alignment with New York State Education Law Section 2803 and is grounded in feedback from more than 900 students, staff members, and families who participated in our district-wide survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your perspectives—your voices were instrumental in shaping this important policy.

Policy Summary:

To support student focus, safety, and well-being, the use of Internet-enabled personal devices during the school day is not permitted on school grounds, except in specific, authorized situations.

What Is an Internet-Enabled Device?

This includes any personal device capable of connecting to the internet, including but not limited to:

- Smartwatches
- Any device with access to social media or online content
- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Personal gaming console/system

Please note: District-issued devices used for educational purposes are not restricted by this policy. This includes devices such as Chromebooks and assistive technology.

When Can Devices Be Used?

Use of personal internet-enabled devices may be permitted only under the following circumstances:

- Approved by a teacher or administrator for instructional purposes
- Required for a student's healthcare or medical needs
- Needed in an emergency
- Used for translation or communication services
- Included in a student's IEP or 504 Plan

- Required by law
- Approved for caregiving responsibilities (case-by-case basis)

Where Must Devices Be Stored at OMS?

For grades 7-8: Devices must be turned off and stored in cell phone lockers located in homeroom/first period. Students will unlock phones at the end of advisory/last class, prior to our dismissal. (Bell to Bell: 7:25 AM-2:25 PM).

Violations of the Policy:

First Offense

- Device is confiscated and turned into the main office, which will be stored in a cell phone locker until the end of the day
- Student may pick up the device at dismissal
- Formal warning issued; phone call home to parent/guardian

Second Offense

- Device is turned into the main office, which will be stored in a cell phone locker
- Parent/guardian must pick up the device
- Consequences may include lunch detention, after-school detention or the loss of a privilege, including eligibility for school extracurricular events, school dances, etc.

Third Offense

- Device is turned into the main office, which will be stored in a cell phone locker
- Parent/guardian must pick up the device
- Additional consequences include lunch detention, after-school detention or the loss of a privilege, including eligibility for school extracurricular events, school dances, etc.
- Student will be required to store their device in the main office each day for the remainder of the year. Student will be required to report to the main office to meet with an administrator upon arrival daily.

Additional Offenses

- Progressive discipline as outlined in the OCSD Code of Conduct
- Devices stored in the main office daily for the remainder of the school year

Refusal to Comply:

Refusal to comply is insubordination. Students who refuse to turn over a device when requested by staff may face additional disciplinary action, including in-school or out-of-school suspension.

How to Contact Your Child During the School Day:

We understand the importance of staying connected. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please:

- Call the main office to leave a message or request a call back: (315) 341-2300
- Your child can get a pass to the main office
- Drop off written messages at the main office for delivery
- In urgent situations, school staff can contact your child directly through classroom phone

We appreciate your cooperation as we work together to foster a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment. If you have any questions about this policy or how it will be implemented at our building, please don't hesitate to reach out. You may contact the middle school main office at (315) 341-2300 or message via ParentSquare.

We look forward to a successful school year ahead!

Sincerely,
Amy S. Godkin
OMS Principal