



820 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street | Baltimore MD 21212 | 410.396.6271 Phone

Joseph Eldridge, Principal

Danielle Smith, Asst. Principal | Larry Strickland, Asst. Principal | Brendan Walmer, Asst. Principal

Tiffany Harris, Principal's Secretary | Shawnisse Massey, School Secretary

Dear WPC Parents/Guardians:

Cell phones have become a way of life, a technological convenience that has impacted all of our lives in one way or another. However, in the school environment, cell phones have become a distraction, interruption, and a method of illegal exchange of information. The ringing of the cell phone during class or texting takes away from the valuable time needed for instruction and most importantly, student learning. We here at Walter P. Carter do recognize that cell phones can be a safety/security tool; however, they can be a detriment in the event of a building emergency and limit our ability to manage such emergencies in a safe and effective manner. Therefore, parents are urged to utilize the school phone to relay any messages that may be urgent in nature to their child. Most importantly, we will do our best to relay any urgent information to your child when the information is provided to us.

**In alignment with our new cell phone policy here at Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School, we are collecting cellphones from students in the morning and storing them until the end of the school day. Unauthorized use of electronic devices is prohibited in Baltimore City Public School's Code of Conduct. Therefore, no student will be allowed to possess or use a cell phone during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. If a student brings a Cell phone to school, it must be turned off and not visible (remain in locker). Of course, the best security for the cell phone is to leave it at home.**

If a student is found to have a cellphone in their possession or is observed using a cellphone, the phone will be confiscated, placed in a labeled envelope, and delivered to the office. **A parent or legal guardian must be present to retrieve the phone.** If a student refuses to provide any staff member with their cellphone when asked, appropriate consequences will follow.

**The consequences for possession of or using a cellphone are as follows:**

**1st Offense:**

- The student will receive a warning and the parent will be notified by the classroom teacher or an administrator

**2nd Offense:**

- Cell phone will be confiscated and held in the office until the end of the day
  - Student will sign for the cell phone at the end of the day and the parent will be notified

**3rd Offense:**

- Cell phone will be confiscated and held in the office until the end of the day
  - A parent or guardian will be called and need to report to the office to sign for the cell phone at the end of the day

**4th Offense:**

- Cell phone will be confiscated and sent to the Central Office via interoffice mail
  - A parent or guardian will have to report to Central Office to sign for the cell phone after a meeting with the student and principal. The student will be subject to a one (1) day in-school suspension

**Note:** Repeated offenses will be considered an act of insubordination and classified as such. Disciplinary actions corresponding with insubordination will apply as outlined in the Baltimore City Public School Student Code of Conduct.

Conclusively, our goal is to create a safe environment, conducive to learning, and free of all distractions that hinder the learning process. We ask for support with helping students adhere to our cellphone policy and if possible, **encourage students to leave cellphones at home.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office at 410-396-6271.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
School Administrators