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Rowena Lee, Principal

Olga Lipsky, Assistant Principal

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Student Cell Phone & Device Policy

Dear PS42M Families & Caregivers,

At PS42M, our top priority is to create a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for all students without distractions. As technology has already become very present in our daily lives, we believe it is important to set clear expectations around its use at school. In line with the New York State Law and New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) policy, PS42M will implement a bell-to-bell cell phone and personal device policy beginning on the first day of school (September 4th, 2025) for the 2025-2026 school year for all students.

General Policy:

- Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other internet enabled devices (including smart watches) during the school day, including field trips, class time, recess, lunch or transitions between activities.
- If a student brings a personal Internet enabled devices (which includes but not limited to all cellular phones, Internet enabled watches, tablets, Fitbit, etc.) to school, it must remain **turned off** and stored in a storage box (provided from our school) from arrival until dismissal.
- Personal devices may **not** be used for texting, calling, taking photos or videos, or browsing the internet during the day unless explicitly permitted for an educational purpose. Our school will provide laptops and tablets for educational use during the school day.
- Keep in mind, PS42M is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal devices.

Consequences for Non-Educational Use:

1. **First Offense:** The device will be held by the teacher or office and returned to the student at the end of the day.
2. **Second Offense:** The device will be sent to the main office and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.
3. **Repeated Offenses:** May result in additional consequences, including loss of privileges and a parent-student conference.

Communication During School Hours:

If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact the school office at **212-226-8410**. You may also try to reach your child through their classroom teacher via Class Dojo - please be reminded however that teachers may not be able to read or respond to Class Dojo messages during the school day when they are teaching and therefore you may not get a message back in a timely manner.

We appreciate your support as we work together to help students develop responsible technology habits. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, feel free to reach out to the school.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting a strong and focused learning environment.

Sincerely,
Rowena Lee, Principal