

The Longhorn Way

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The future of cellphones at West Middle: Since our implementation of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), we have allowed students to use personal technology, such as cellphones, to increase usage at school. Of course, teachers embrace the technology in classes, but sometimes it can be a barrier. Some barriers are students not using technology for educational purposes, connecting on social media during class, and connection with other students during class regarding non school issues. Our new Chromebook 1 to 1 initiative enables us to no longer need BYOD, thus resulting in students **not bringing phones to class**. I realize this will be a shift for parents and students. Students will be able to have phones at lunch and can check phones in between classes. In addition, each classroom is equipped with a landline phone.

Social Media and your child: As you work with your child to help them make good decisions in regard to social media, consider these suggestions:

- Set clear and consistent boundaries.
- Model good social media behavior
- Follow your child on all the social media apps (such as Instagram, Snapchat, musical.ly and Houseparty). This way you can help them make good decisions and it provides you another avenue to communicate with them. Educate yourself on how they work.
- Avoid letting your child take the phone in their room at night. Avoid screen time close to bedtime to preventing students from disconnecting.

Remember social media and technology does have many positives. It allow students to communicate and getting information quickly. As all issues with our kids, they are still learning how to navigate the world and they need our help.

Calling all volunteers: On Friday April 28th at 1.00 p.m, we will honor all our fabulous West Middle volunteers. Please join us in the library for refreshments and treats. RSVP to Jo Catalano at 314.415.7481.

Thanks for all the families that joined us for our 1st International Game Night. We had an amazing time!

Box Top Collection: Turn in your final box tops for this year by May 12.

Thanks for sharing your child with us!

~Annie

Looking Ahead

Friday, April 14th No Classes

Wednesday, April 19th West Time Schedule

3:30pm Co-ed Fleetball/Flag Football @ Central Middle

Friday, April 21st 7th Grade MOSIACS Field Trip - City Museum

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."