

St. Mary School
106 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 780
Fishkill, NY 12524
(845) 896-9561

January 15, 2016

Dear Parents,

We, as a school community, find ourselves in need of clarification and enforcement of the policy regarding cell phones and electronic devices in school. We have seen an influx of cell phones, cameras, hand-held games, iPods and assorted electronic devices in school over these past few weeks. I am fairly certain we are witnessing evidence of some very nice Christmas gifts that many students are bringing to school. This provides quite a temptation for children to "show their friends," "check their messages," and/or "text message others". We, as a community, find these devices to be a distraction to the student, other students, and the class as a whole during the course of the school day. We prefer that students do not bring these devices to school. Those who have these devices may not use them or have them visible during the school day. Please note that the school will not be held responsible for the loss of any such electronic devices that a child may bring to school.

There are those students who have parental permission to carry a cell phone to school. If that is the case, please be advised that cell phones that cause a disturbance or that are used for an inappropriate purpose may be confiscated and the owner may be penalized.

If a parent sends a child to school with a cell phone, the following restrictions apply:

- Students must have their phones turned off during the school day.
- Any student receiving a call, answered or unanswered, making a call, texting, or utilizing any other phone feature will be subject to confiscation of the device and the student will be issued consequences.
- The return of the cell phone can only be made to the student's parents after contacting the office to arrange for pick-up.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call the school office. Thank you in advance for discussing the subject of this letter with your child. I am grateful for your attention to this matter and for your consistent support of the entire St. Mary School community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schwiebert
Principal