



PRIDE ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

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Important Update: Pride Academy Cell Phone & Personal Device Policy

Greetings Pride Academy Families,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, Pride Academy Charter School is committed to creating a focused, engaging, and supportive learning environment for every scholar.

Beginning this school year, Pride Academy will implement a Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone and Personal Internet-Enabled Device Policy in accordance with New Jersey law (P.L. 2025, c. 195) and current guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education regarding student use of personal internet-enabled devices. The purpose of this policy is to reduce distractions, increase student engagement, protect instructional time, strengthen student-to-student interactions, and promote a positive school culture.

What Does “Bell-to-Bell” Mean?

From the first bell through the final dismissal bell, students are not permitted to use personal cell phones or other personal internet-enabled devices for non-academic purposes unless specifically authorized by a staff member or permitted under an approved exception.

How Will Phones Be Stored?

To support consistent implementation, Pride Academy will provide a designated phone-storage bin in each classroom. Each homeroom teacher will collect student cell phones at the beginning of the school day and ensure that phones are secured, stored, and inaccessible to students during the school day. Phones will be returned according to the school’s established dismissal procedures.

Exceptions

Pride Academy recognizes that there may be circumstances in which a student needs access to a personal device. Exceptions may be permitted when required by law, documented through an approved accommodation or support plan, or specifically authorized by school administration. Families who believe their child may require an exception should contact the main office.

Our Commitment to Students and Families

We recognize that this policy represents a significant change in expectations for some students and families. However, we ask our families to collaborate with us by reinforcing these expectations at home and supporting our scholars as they adjust to this new district-wide practice.

Thank you for your partnership, cooperation, and continued support of Pride Academy Charter School.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Covington
Principal