



Cell Phone Safety



Addressing the Truth

There have been lots of rumors and gossip lately. We want to talk honestly today and teach students the right way to communicate.

Cell phones are useful tools, but only when used appropriately and with good judgment.

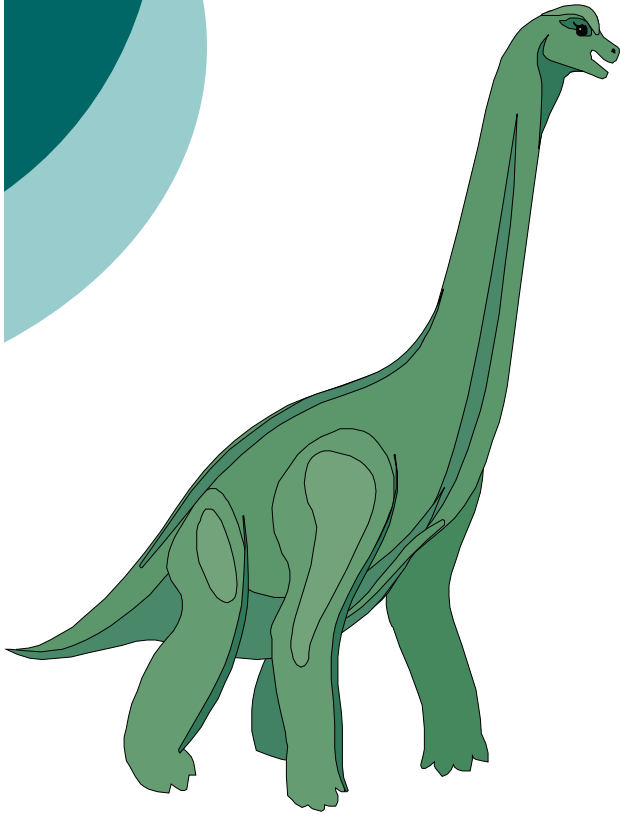


Cell Phone Survey

Raise your hand if....

- You own a cell phone
- You use text messaging
- You've taken photos with a cell phone camera
- You've ever forwarded a message

What Did the World Do Before Cell Phones and Texting?



- You got your stuff done on time.
- Kids talked to their parents in person.
- We used quarters at pay telephones.
- Parents owned cameras that took photos.
- **People used complete words, not BFF, LOL, OMG, or ☹.**
- Wrote personal letters and mailed them with a licked stamp.
- **IM had an apostrophe (I'm).**

Appropriate Uses of Cell Phones

- Calling for a ride after the game
- Appropriate conversations from home with friends you know
- Keeping in touch with your family so they know your whereabouts
- Contacting authorities in an emergency (911)



Inappropriate Uses of Cell Phones

- Texting during class/school
- Taking embarrassing photos
- Sending insulting, angry, or mean messages
- Cheating or lying
- Bullying
- Starting fights
- Hurting feelings





Reminder About School Rules

- Cell phones must be turned-off and locked in your student locker.
- If you need to use a cell phone afterschool, go to the office of the school and ask permission.
- Cell phones may not be used in the gym, locker rooms, restrooms, etc.

School Consequences

- Cell phones discovered on your person are confiscated and only returned to parents.
- Usage of cell phones during school day or in the building is against school rules and you will have to face the consequences.



Cell Phones Kept In Lockers

- Locked, put away, not visible, and shut off.



Cell Phone Cameras Not Used

- On special days, we may announce that you can bring a camera, but you may NEVER use a cell phone camera at school.



Cell Phone Texting Not Used

- Texting on cell phones shall not occur in the school building.





General Safety Tips

- Only give your mobile number out to people you know and can trust.
- Never reply to text messages from people you don't know.
- Make sure you know how to block others from calling your phone.



Cell Providers Want Happy Parents!

- Children represent a huge market for cell phone companies.
- They want to help parents monitor and control your cell phone usage, because PARENTS pay the bill!
- Call the cell phone company for help on setting-up your phone for maximum safety. It is in their business interest to help you!



What Belongs on Your Cell Phone?

Just ask your parents!!!

- If you wouldn't show it to your parents, **don't photograph it.**
- If you wouldn't text it to your parents, **don't write it.**
- If you wouldn't say it to your parents, **don't call it.**



Accept the Consequences

The things you say or do with your cell phone could have long-term consequences for you.



What Goes On Your Cell Phone, Stays on Your Cell Phone...and Everywhere!

- Don't assume **any** privacy. Every time you send a message:
 - It gets stored on the cell phone company's computer server.
 - Government safety agencies may have screened your messages ("*Patriot Act*").
 - Your parents can access your messages from the web site.
 - Deleted messages are retrievable.
- **What about forwarding?**



Remember....Nothing is Private

- You may think your text message is safe and private, but you can't control which people will forward your message to others.
- Forwarded electronic messages are the fastest way to spread gossip and rumors.
- **How many people could have access to a text/photo?**



From the Headlines

- News articles discuss teens getting prosecuted by law enforcement for cell phone behaviors.
 - [OMG, teens "R" sexting](#): Article in Salon Magazine
 - [What all parents should know about kids and their mobile phones](#): Article in Australian Women's Weekly
 - [Felony charges for teens](#): NBC Television Report
 - [Cell Phone 'Sexting' A Problem, Teens Say](#): KSAT Television Report from Portland, Oregon
 - [Teens are sending nude photos with cell phones](#): Article from E-School News
 - [Six Pennsylvania Teenagers Charged with Felony Crimes](#): Article from MSNBC



“Sexting”

- Inappropriate cell phone usage is a major teenage problem from ages 10-18.
- The slang term “sexting” or “sex texting” refers to a nationwide phenomenon of children sending nude or semi-nude photos of their private parts.
- “Sexting” is illegal, even if you are just taking and sending pictures of yourself.



Real Kids & Real Trouble

"This week, three teenage girls who allegedly sent nude or semi-nude cell phone pictures of themselves, and three male classmates in a western Pennsylvania high school who received them, are charged with child pornography.

In October a Texas eighth-grader spent the night in a juvenile detention center after his football coach found a nude picture on his cell phone that a fellow student sent him."

from [CBS News](#) on January 15, 2009



Real Kids & Real Trouble

"According to researchers at Rochester Technology of Institute almost one-third of teens in grades 10-12 have sent or received sexual content online and they use cell phones. For children in grades 4-6, that number is still one in ten.

Attorneys like Dallas lawyer Clint David say the practice is trouble waiting to happen. 'It is the height of insanity to take a picture of yourself naked and send it to another person', says David. At least one teenager has landed in jail because of his alleged actions involving 'sexting'.

A 16-year old Pennsylvania boy was arrested and charged with possessing child pornography after police say he coaxed a 15-year old girl into sending him explicit pictures."

from [Fox News](#) on December 9, 2008



Real Kids & Real Trouble

"(A 17-year-old Utah girl who received two images of male genitalia on her cell phone told her mother, who told local authorities. They responded by charging the alleged sender with a third degree felony. The girl said she first thought the photos depicted a hot dog.

The girl, whose name was withheld by the [Salt Lake Tribune](#), apparently did not know the man, and it's unclear why he sent it to her. If convicted, he could serve up to five years. The young victim told the newspaper that she was in shock. "I felt like I had done something wrong," she said. "I didn't ever want to see that until I'm married."

In another incident of "sexting," a Chippewa Falls, Wis., youth was arrested for showing off to friends nude photos of his ex-girlfriend. The photos were on his cellphone."

from <http://www.minortroubles.com/?s=sexting>



Real Kids & Real Trouble

"(Prosecutor David) Morse also announced Monday that he would not file charges against the girl or any of the students at Pinckney Community High School who possessed or sent the nude photos. He said the discipline doled out by the school and parents was sufficient. School officials suspended 19 students. The girl told police she was "clowning around" when she took the sexually explicit photos and two videos, which clearly show her face and vaginal area.

Morse said he is making the same decision in a sexting case at nearby Fowlerville Junior High School, where a 14-year-old girl transmitted a photo of her naked breasts to friends, who then distributed it widely."

from <http://www.minortroubles.com/?s=sexting>



Felony Crimes

- Having nude photos of children and their private parts is a felony crime.
- In Illinois, felony crimes are punishable by a one year prison sentence or more, depending upon the circumstances and the type/class of offense.
- Felony convictions may prevent adults from getting jobs that require criminal background checks, such as police, teaching, fire fighting, nursing, etc.




But I'm Just a Kid.....

- It doesn't matter what age the photographer is.
- Taking or possessing inappropriate photos of children are wrong and illegal!
- School officials and law enforcement can and will investigate these behaviors.

"While teenagers may think that sending these images to their friends or potential suitors is harmless, any image that portrays a minor in an indecent manner or engaging in sexual activity is regarded as child pornography and people who receive or pass on these types of images are risking criminal charges, whether they are a minor or an adult. [...] Parents need to become more aware of what their children are doing with their mobile phones and personal computers because what might seem like a harmless image of themselves to be used privately can fall into the hands of sexual predators and be posted across the internet."

Quoted directly from "[What all parents should know about kids and their mobile phones](#)", Australian Women's Weekly



Why do we text or IM things that we would never say or do in person?

- When you are not face-to-face (F2F), the human connection is missing.
- You can't see the visual emotions of the person.
- You can't "take it back".
- It seems safe because you are alone. You take more risks.



What Can Parents Do?

- *"Teach children the dangers of this type of behavior and advise them to think before they act.*
- *Ensure children know that they are not to send pornographic images of themselves to anyone either over their mobile phones or via the internet. Even minors who have child pornography in their possession can be charged under the law.*
- *Teach children about the types of sexual predators that are out there and may prey on them."*

Quoted directly from "[What all parents should know about kids and their mobile phones](#)", Australian Women's Weekly



What Can Parents Do?

- *"Parents should familiarize themselves with the new technologies that are around, so they understand the potential for exploitation, as well as what their kids are doing.*
- *Parents need to overcome any embarrassment they may feel about talking to their children about sex, so they can be effective when educating their kids about the dangers associated with child pornography.*
- *If parents are going to give their child a mobile phone, ensure they are mature enough to use it appropriately."*

Quoted directly from "[What all parents should know about kids and their mobile phones](#)", Australian Women's Weekly, July 2008



Can schools take away my cell phone?

- Yes. School officials may hold cell phones when they have a reasonable suspicion the phone has been involved in inappropriate activity that violates school rules or the law. In some cases, they are turned over to the police.



Can schools look in my locker?

- Yes. Students should not expect any privacy in their school lockers. Lockers are school district property. School officials with reasonable suspicion may search your locker.

Can you look in my book bag?

- Yes. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(e) permits school officials to search personal effects kept in lockers and desks. School officials with reasonable suspicion may search your book bag.





Does the school need a search warrant?

- No. According to school code, school officials may search students without a warrant “when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the search of a particular child will turn up evidence the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school”.



Summary: Inappropriate Messages

- Do not take, receive, or forward inappropriate photos/texts ever.
- If you receive something inappropriate, notify your parents and law enforcement immediately!
Delete it!
- Inappropriate photos could be illegal.

Don't Do It

- No threats
- No inappropriate photos
- No foul language
- No hassling
- No intimidation
- No insults
- No embarrassing content
- No “bad stuff”
- No bullying





Keep Safe

- If you wouldn't show it to your parents, **don't photograph it.**
- If you wouldn't text it to your parents, **don't write it.**
- If you wouldn't say it to your parents, **don't call it.**



Cell Phone Safety Reminder

Use your cell phone appropriately!
Don't chance ruining your life for a
little bit of fun-Be Responsible!