

# Odyssey Personal Device Policy

The Utah State Legislature has recently passed new legislation regarding the use of personal electronic devices in schools. In alignment with this law and in support of our mission to create a safe, focused, and enriching learning environment, we will be implementing updated personal electronics use policy.

This legislation aims to support student well-being by promoting mental health, enhancing classroom focus, and fostering healthy social interactions. Once our school board has finalized and approved the policy, we will share the full details with you.

The new policy will provide direction for Odyssey Charter School students and their parents on electronic devices brought from home. Please note that students are allowed to use an electronic device in the following situations:

- to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;
- to respond to a school-wide emergency;
- to use the SafeUT Crisis Line;
- for limited use if specifically authorized by a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or
- to address a medical necessity.

## **New Guidelines for our Students**

- Cell phones and smartwatches are not to be used in the school building during school hours. Cell phones & smart watches must be stowed away in a backpack, purse, or bag, secured by the student, and set to a mode where notifications cannot be received.
- If a student needs to communicate with a parent/guardian, the student may use the school phone in the classroom or the front office with permission. This should occur on a limited basis and is intended for students experiencing a crisis during the day for which they need assistance from their parent/guardian.
- Cell phones & smart watches may not be taken with students when using a hall pass.
- Cell phones and smart watches can be used after 3:00 to communicate with parents/guardians.

We are committed to creating a positive and supportive learning atmosphere for all students. We appreciate your support as we take these important steps

to comply with state requirements and prioritize what's best for all students. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a safe haven of learning and growth.