

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing concerning total lack of education involving the James Madison High School (JMHS) Personally Owned Devices (POD) Policy and confiscation of devices. Teachers seem to largely be concerned with intimidation instead of leveraging cellular usage with the potential to educate with this medium. I was at a Loudon County Public Schools workshop one weekend as a guest speaker to educate about a cyber security program, so I'm relatively certain the average teacher can be reminded or informed of policy quickly. I'm in charge of a 100 person club that teaches cyber security at Marshall, in charge of NTHS, and am an officer with Robotics so I can say with relative confidence there are benefits to using cell phones in teaching.

There are a lot of misconceptions to the POD policy at JMHS. As review, there are four zones. There are red zones - also known as "PROHIBITED" - which disallows the use **or** possession of devices. It says on the sign it is for "SOL or AP TESTING". There are orange zones allowing possession out of sign and sound for classrooms, and yellow zones for specific instructional use. Green zones are for open use of devices, which is specified in the cafeteria and SAP (which is now Warhawk Time) with the limitations of policy. However, a recent study I conducted suggests teachers don't only use yellow or orange zones. In a cluster selection of about fifty-one rooms (almost every room omitting special classrooms like band rooms, gyms, library, etc), fifteen were yellow zones, fifteen were red zones (supposedly categorized as "AP or SOL testing"), six did not display their color in areas where it probably should have been or had all four zones displayed, and fifteen were not available for viewing. This means half of the classrooms responding had devices banned, which is especially depressing considering James Madison was a de-facto orange zone originally. More specific results are available at michaelbailey.co/studycontents.txt.

Another misconception is the rules about acceptable use policy at Madison. The FCPS policy is not the policy I'm talking about, the policy I'm referring to is concerning the confiscation of devices. In multiple memos and papers, the policy is as follows:

- First Offense: warning; confiscation of phone and returned to the student at the end of the school day;
- Second Offense: warning; confiscation of phone and returned to the parent at the end of the school day;
- Third Offense: after school detention; confiscation of phone and returned to the parent at the end of the school day.

However, this is the second year I've had a teacher threaten to take my device for 24 hours on the first offense, which isn't allowed.

I propose the staff be better educated on the policy they are expected to enforce. Setting a rule to the maximum punishment available, even when it is implied it's not to be a red zone outside of testing, is just so teachers can punish whenever they feel appropriate. This is a messy system. Which schools like South Lakes following our lead on personally owned devices, it's a poor system to set forth when devices are banned by default. If there's an incident involving the teacher where 9-1-1 must be dialed, this means a student has to either dial the landline, which may not be set up, go through the office or retrieve their phone from their locker (which is slow), or use their phone. Please consider reteaching and/or reforming the POD policy.

Thank you, Michael Bailey