

NEW FOR THE 2025–2026 School Year at *Anchor Bay*



AWAY-FOR-THE DAY DEVICE POLICY

Beginning in the fall of 2025, Anchor Bay Schools will be implementing a "cell phone free" policy for all students during the school day. Under the new Away-for-the-Day requirements, students will need to put their personal electronic devices in their locker or cubbies at the start of the school day where it will remain until the final bell. The district's goal with this policy is to minimize distractions in the classroom, encourage face-to-face interactions, and enhance overall student engagement in learning.

Key Policy Details:

- Personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight in lockers or cubbies during school hours.
- The term "device" includes cell phones, personal laptops, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, and other wireless communication devices.
- The policy applies to all students, with legal exceptions for those covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individualized Education Programs (IEP), Section 504 Plans, or students with documented medical needs.

Benefits of a Device Free Policy:

- ✓ Improved Academic Performance – Fewer distractions lead to better focus, comprehension, and engagement in learning.
- ✓ Enhanced Social Skills & Face-to-Face Interaction – Encourages stronger peer relationships and communication skills.
- ✓ Reduced Cyberbullying & Social Pressure – Limits exposure to online harassment and negative social media influences.
- ✓ Better Mental Health & Reduced Anxiety – Reduces screen time, stress, and fear of missing out (FOMO) from social media.
- ✓ Encourages Responsibility & Time Management – Helps students develop self-discipline and independence.
- ✓ Less Classroom Disruption – Minimizes interruptions from notifications, calls, and texting.
- ✓ Promotes Physical Activity & Engagement in School Life – Encourages participation in extracurricular activities and real-world experiences.

By eliminating the presence of personal electronic devices during the school day, Anchor Bay Schools aims to foster a more focused and interactive educational environment. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss this policy with their students and help ensure a smooth transition when the policy goes into effect.