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## phones in school

1 message

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**Genevieve** <genevievejm@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 4:56 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello school board,

I just heard that you all were meeting about a potential phone ban this evening, so I apologize -- these comments will be brief and from the heart.

My daughter is 12, and I have seen the force that phones have on her and friends already. It is a threat to her and her peer's learning and also to their wellbeing. Connection and social-emotional skills are elements that are critical parts of going to school. Having phones flies in the face of connection and interaction on a daily basis.

I urge you to ban phones in our schools. So much research shows that our children are part of an anxious and disconnected generation. Phones are a huge part of that. They do not belong in a school environment. They are dangerous to brains that are still forming.

Thanks for considering this, and my comments!

Best,

Genevieve Jessop Marsh

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## Cell phones in school

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Alex Metcalf <alm450@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 5:26 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Honorable members of the MCPS School Board:

I cannot attend tonight's meeting, but I want to share my family's deep concern over cell phones in our public schools. As I'm sure you're aware and learning more about, cell phones and social media can be associated with dramatically poor learning outcomes, social behavior, self-esteem, self-harm, and other troubling things in our kids' lives.

You sit in a unique position to do something about this systemic issue. I urge you to initiate a process to adopt and implement some sort of cell-phone restrictions in all our public schools. I strongly urge you to do this without delay. Too many kids and families have already been negatively impacted by these technologies. Your attention and action will not only help address the issue in schools, but also inspire families to consider broader cell-phone use by kids in other settings.

This is a new problem. Despite their ubiquity in our lives, smartphones and social media algorithms are relatively brand-new inventions, only really gaining wide use in the last ten years. It's understandable that it's taken some time for society to realize the impacts and to start taking steps to prevent the bad outcomes. But that time is passing and the time to act is now. Please take action tonight to initiate a policy setting process. Parents want this. KIDS want this. Teachers want this. I do not kid myself that it will be easy - we're all aware of the covid policy backlash days not long ago - but it's damn important and I hope you'll give it your full consideration, and with urgency. There are some very reasonable approaches to this that limit cell-phone use in schools while maintaining contact between parents and students in case of emergencies.

Sincerely,

Drs. Alex and Libby Metcalf

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Alexander L. Metcalf  
1510 Khanabad Drive  
Missoula, Mt 59802  
814.574.6128

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## Out with Smart Devices in MCPS

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**Natalie Shurtz** <natalie.shurtz24@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 11:32 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

MCPS MT

I am a parent who sides with the initiative being led out by Erika Peterman to create a parent supported school policy to enforce no smart devices in MCPS. We don't want our teachers to have to deal with fighting for their student's attention in class any longer. Likewise, we don't want our students wasting their years of academic and social skill development with their faces in phones. The research to support this device ban is there. The desire to kick devices to the curb during school hours is enormous among school staff, parents, and the students themselves. Let's work together to modify this policy until it can reasonably be funded, implemented, and enforced. Adding a \$30 Yondr pouch to the list of school supplies needed for my children is well worth it. I would not mind paying for my student's Yondr pouch. I'd even help do some fundraising for the district, if needed, to help supply them. Please consider revising the policy regarding devices in MCPS for the 2024-2025 school year.

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Warm Regards,  
Natalie Shurtz

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## Smartphone Free Schools

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**Lauren Elizabeth** <lekgonzalez@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 10:49 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hi there, I am a concerned parent of two elementary students, and I am 100% in favor of smartphone-free school facilities. I do not want my kids distracted from learning, nor do I want them seeing things on other children's phones or devices that I would not let them see at home. Having devices available all day makes it that much more impossible for me to supervise their use of technology at this pivotal developmental stage.

Thank you,

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*Lauren Gonzalez*

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## Giving our youth a smart phone free childhood

1 message

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**Kimberly** <kimberly.shappee@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 11:11 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Ross Mollenhauer <rosstopher@gmail.com>, Kathryn Shappee <kmshappee@gmail.com>, Mary Poole <maryopoole@gmail.com>

Dear MCPS leadership,

I was sorry I couldn't attend in person last night and wanted to be sure to give comment that our family would be in full support of any bans in place to promote a smartphone-free childhood for our children.

Happy to provide any other comments and know you're busy and help us all with so much.

Thank you for considering this,

Kim Shappee

Typos Sent by magic through a series of tubes

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## Smartphone Free Schools

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**Mary Poole** <maryopoole@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 9:38 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

As a parent of two elementary schoolers who is committed to raising spirited, healthy children, I whole heartedly support all efforts to have smartphone free public schools in Missoula. We continue to learn of how damaging smartphone use is for growing minds and bodies and I truly fell this community can lead the charge in making sure our kiddos have a wonderful learning environment.

Happy to do anything helpful on this front.

Thank you,

Mary Poole

Sent from my iPhone