

# FORSYTH R-III SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 187  
Forsyth, MO 65653

[www.forsythpanthers.org](http://www.forsythpanthers.org)

*"Home of the Panthers"*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for the start of the 2025–26 school year, we want to inform you of an important change to our daily operations in accordance with Senate Bill 68, signed into Missouri law on July 9, 2025.

Per Senate Bill 68, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, each school district and charter school shall adopt a written policy regarding students' possession or use of electronic personal communication devices. Such a policy shall be designed to promote students' educational interests and ensure a safe, effective working environment for staff and volunteers. The act defines an "electronic personal communications device" as a portable device that is used to initiate, receive, store, or view communication, information, images, or data electronically.

At a minimum, the policy shall prohibit students from using or displaying these devices from the beginning until the end of the school day, including, but not limited to, during instructional time, meal times, breaks, time between classes, and study halls.

This means that beginning August 19, 2025 all electronic devices, which are defined as a portable device that is used to initiate, receive, store, or view communication, information, images, or data electronically will fall under this policy. This will include, but is not limited to, cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds, any non-district provided headphones, handheld gaming devices, smart glasses or any other electronic device that is not provided by the district.

Each building has developed a device storage policy and procedure for electronic devices during the day. Students will not have the ability to have an electronic device in their possession from the beginning to the end of the school day. The district will also provide a set of headphones for each student. Each building has defined policies in the student handbook regarding storage procedures for electronic devices. Those policies are listed below.

## Elementary

All personal electronic devices must be stored in the lock box in the office for the duration of the school day.

## Middle School

Devices should be kept in your locker or in the designated lockbox in the middle school office.

Devices are not allowed in backpacks or with students during school hours.

## High School

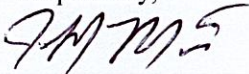
Students are advised to leave their electronic devices at home, or in their car. Students who find it is necessary to have a personal electronic device at school must immediately store the device in their school-assigned locker upon arriving at school.

We recognize that students will be adjusting to these new expectations the first days of school. Please support your students and our school by having conversations with them regarding these new rules which will apply on day one. We are all (every public school in the state) in this together and we can help our students build healthy technology habits which will benefit them in the future.

We appreciate your partnership in helping create a focused, respectful and distraction free learning environment for all of our students.

If you have questions please feel free to contact your building offices.

Respectfully,



Dr. Jeff Mingus  
Superintendent  
Forsyth R-III Schools

## Central Office

Ph: 417-546-6384  
Fax: 417-546-2204

## High School

Ph: 417-546-6383  
Fax: 417-546-5987

## Middle School

Ph: 417-546-6382  
Fax: 417-546-6943

## Elementary School

Ph: 417-546-6381  
Fax: 417-546-2696