

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are almost to our last 9 weeks of school! It has been a challenging school year but we are thankful for all the positive things that have happened in our school this year! As we approach the end of the school year and state testing we know we have to make the most of the time we have left to prepare the students for state testing.

Cell phone use has become an issue recently. Cell phones are a distraction to our kids while they are trying to listen to their teachers or complete an assignment. As parents and guardians you also know that sometimes kids also just pick up their phones multiple times a day just to check their phone out of habit.

Recently we have become aware of more and more safety issues pertaining to cell phones. Students have been taking pictures or videos and posting them on various social media sites with and without the permission of all the other students in the pictures / videos. We have learned how quickly pictures or videos can get in the wrong hands.

We know cell phones are part of our society and they are very useful when used properly but currently our students are not using them properly. Cell phones are becoming a safety concern as well as a huge distraction from their classwork. We also want our students to be able to interact with their friends and classmates at break times instead of just looking at their cell phones.

We tried allowing students to keep their cell phones in their backpacks or pockets but that did not prove to be successful. Students are not leaving their phones put away, they are constantly using them.

We are going to continue to have students place their cell phones in the phone basket at the front of the classroom each morning like we have been but students will no longer be able to access their phones until the end of the school day. The phone baskets will now be locked to keep the phones safe from theft or damage.

Please feel free to call the main office at 580-889-1996 if you need to contact your student for any reason. We know it is more convenient to text your kiddo if you need something but we must get cell phone usage under control.

If students leave early for any reason , phones will be returned to students as they are leaving. \*\*\*If your family has a special situation such as a new baby coming or a family emergency etc, please just contact the main office and your student will be allowed to keep their phone during those particular times. \*\*\*

If you feel that you would rather have your student leave their phone at home that is great also!

Thank you for all you have done to help make this crazy school year as successful as it can be! We are so proud to be Caney Cougars!!

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Dollarhide, Jamie Vernon, Latosha Safe, Cindy Burns, Kris Brown and Tonya Hunter