

# The Discovery School for Inquiry and Research

A Federal Magnet School at PS 201 Q

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Our PS 201Q Students,

The Department of Education (DOE) has a new policy for the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in school. This policy has been discussed with our School Leadership Team and reviewed in conjunction with our current school policy on cell phone usage.

As a school, we recognize the importance of technology and our students are extremely fortunate to have access to a wide variety of technological resources while working in classrooms on a daily basis. Whether engaging in interactive lessons on SMART boards, conducting research on one of our laptops or iPads, students are using technology on their path to college and career.

While technology as a learning tool is promoted, we also need to protect students from dangers associated with unsupervised and inappropriate usage. The policy currently in place in our school does just this. While ensuring that students have opportunities to work with technology, we also safeguard them by enforcing the policy that cell phones may not be turned on and in the possession of students during instructional time. This policy also recognizes the need for some parents to provide their children with access to a cell phone to maintain contact while on their way to and from school. Should students need to contact you during the school day, access to a school phone has always been, and will continue to be, provided.

Given the publication of the new policy by the DOE, it is important to review our school policy and remind you of the systems and structures we will continue to uphold in the best interest of all students. Starting March 6, 2015, the following policy will be in effect at PS 201Q.

**Cell phones, personal laptops, tablets, iPads, and other computer devices (“computing devices”), portable music, entertainment and other electronic devices are permitted in school and are subject to the restrictions below:**

- Allowing a child to bring a cell phone to school is a personal family decision and it is not the responsibility of the school or school staff if a cell phone is lost, damaged or stolen.
- Cell phones, personal computing devices and other portable music, entertainment and other electronic devices may not be turned on or used while on school property. During the administration of the NYS standardized testing cell phones are collected and returned at the end of the day.
- Cell phones brought to school by students must be carried in a secure compartment in a student’s backpack. Backpacks will remain in the student’s classroom closet throughout the day. These closets are never locked. Cell phones must be powered off until the student is off school property at the end of the day.
- Students who use cell phones, computing devices and/or portable music and entertainment systems in violation of the school policy’s, DOE’s Discipline Code, Chancellor’s Regulation A-413, and/or the DOE’s Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (IAUSP) will be subject to discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.

Please return the tear-off portion of this letter to your child’s teacher. Thank you for your cooperation as we encourage high student achievement in our structured, supportive environment.

Sincerely,

Principal Lozada

----- (tear-off) -----

I have received and read the PS 201Q electronic device policy. I understand the school or school staff is not responsible for loss, damage or theft of any personal electronic device my child may bring to school whether with my permission or otherwise.

\_\_\_\_\_ Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print) Parent’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature