Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Cell phone use has become a major distraction during instruction time. Students are texting, monitoring social media, making phone and video calls, and using their phone to cheat on quizzes and tests. The Performance Learning Center uses Edgenuity, an online educational program, where time spent using cellular devices results in less time for students to complete Edenuity assignments. Cell phone usage also has a direct link to the increase of disciplinary issues, including social media/cyber bullying and verbal/physical altercations on school grounds.

We are asking for your support as we create a new climate of academic honesty and a bully-free zone. Administrators, teachers and staff at PLC will vigorously enforce the cell phone policy outlined below, derived from the RCSS cell phone/BYOT. Enforcement of this policy will take effect on Monday, October 15th.

 **PLC CELL PHONE POLICY**

**Cell phones are strictly prohibited from use in the classroom. This means cell phones should always be kept secured and out of sight. There will be no listening of music on any type of device, including computers (students should listen to and take notes from their Edgenuity instruction). The charging of cell phones during class time (in any of the computers, table power plugs, and/or wall sockets) is also prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in the following:**

**First Offense**: Verbal Warning and a call home to parent or guardian.

**Second Offense:** Confiscation of cell phone until the end of class period by the teacher. Administration will be notified if the student refuses to relinquish the phone upon request and may result in the student receiving In-School/Out-of-School Suspension or student assigned to home-based learning.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Students may use their phones during *teacher designated classroom phone-breaks,* in the hallways between classes and during lunch. However, students are not permitted to take pictures, FaceTime (video chat) or use social media sites such as, but not limited to, SnapChat, FaceBook, InstaGram, etc. Students may only use their cell phones for talking and/or texting in designated areas during the designated times. Any other prohibited use of the phone will follow the same discipline protocol outlined above.

Finally, we know that many of our students have jobs and responsibilities at home. At the discretion of the teacher, students may return a phone call during the designated break. Please do not call and/or text your student during instructional time. If there is an emergency, please call the office at (706) 796-4965 ext. 1300. We will be happy to get a message to the student.

Thank you for supporting your student and ensuring a safe and successful learning environment.