

NOTICE

Saturday January 19, 2013

Cell phones no longer allowed in Regents exams

New York State has enacted new testing security policies that will be in effect next week as the high school administers Regents and mid-term exams.

One significant change is this:

Students cannot bring a cell phone, iPod or other electronic device into the testing room. If a proctor sees that a student has one of these devices during the exam or during any breaks (such as a restroom visit), the student will get a zero on that exam.

You cannot have any communication devices, including a cell phone, with you during this exam or during any breaks (such as a restroom visit). Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Blackberry devices and other PDA's
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPods, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras or other photographic equipment
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content

These new directives were put in place last August, but for most of our students, this is the first testing period in which they will need to follow the "no cell phones" rule. Previously, students were allowed to place their phones under their desks during exams, but this will no longer be allowed during Regents and mid-term examinations.

Since we know how important cell phones have become to students, we ask parents to have a conversation with their child, so he/she understands the severe consequences of having his/her cell phone "on or near" him/her during exams next week. There are no warnings in the new state policy: **students observed with phones in the exam room will have their test invalidated.**

The best way to prevent being caught with a cell phone and having your child's test invalidated (a zero score) is to **leave all cell phones, iPods, etc. at home on testing days.** We highly encourage you to persuade your child to do this, as it solves the issue completely. Please see the test proctor(s) after the test if you need assistance finding a telephone to use for calling a ride. Usually the phone in the main office at your school is available.

