



Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School



Dear Sturgis Parents:

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We are very excited to announce an upcoming event that we hope you will speak with your child about and encourage them to participate in.

As you are likely aware, cell phones are prominent in many of our lives. While they come with many benefits, research indicates ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#), for example) that while cell phones certainly come with many benefits, they also have the potential to negatively affect our lives and, more specifically, those of our children.

With this in mind, we have designated the week of **December 5-9** as Sturgis East's "**Phone Free Week.**" This is a voluntary program we will be extending to all Sturgis East students as an opportunity to attend school for up to 5 days without their cell phones. Here is how it will work:

- Starting today, and throughout this week, (11/28- 12/2) students will sign a non-binding 'pledge' to relinquish their electronic devices (other than their chromebook/personal computer) for the week of December 5th-9th.
- Throughout next week, participating students will start each day 'by turning off and turning in' their devices to designated staff. Students will collect their devices at the conclusion of the day (3:10).
- Students may, at any time, request their device back and exit this program.

We have a number of incentives planned for this initiative including

- a kick-off **breakfast** on December 5th
- a final recognition and **pizza party** on December 9th
- **Free pizza slices at Palio's** to be raffled off—students earn one ticket for each day they participate.
- An opportunity to journal/reflect on the experience of attending school without a phone.

It is our goal that, through this program, your child will gain a better appreciation and understanding of what a school experience could be without the distraction of texts, emails, and other media throughout their school day. Students who participated in this program last year raved about the experience and we hope you will encourage your child to consider participating next week!

Warm regards,

Patrick O'Kane, Principal
Karen Gauthier, Assistant Principal
Sturgis East