

A Distraction or a Tool?

Should phones be allowed in schools?

By: Hailey Knott

Phones are an important part of everyday life; for many, they have become one of the most necessary parts of daily life, if not the most important. Doniphan-Trumbull has been having issues with phones in classrooms, both disrupting educational time and being used incorrectly, and is looking into potential solutions to address the problem.

According to secondary principal Mrs. Michaela Goracke, “Currently at DT, we have confiscated 75 phones from 53 different students in grades 8-12, which is higher than our goal to keep confiscations down.”

Therefore, the school has to decide whether to keep the restrictions as they are or tighten them up and restrict phones even more. The current handbook policy states, “Students in grades 9-12 may have their phones on their person, but should not be seen, used, or become a distraction during class periods. They may be used at lunch and in passing periods. A student who violates this rule may be required to turn their phone into the office or lose phone privileges for an extended period of time.”

Many students think phones

should be allowed to stay as they are, with no extra guidelines being enforced, due to the countless benefits they bring to the classroom.

Junior Hailey Hoffman says,

Business teacher, Ms. Sydney Atkinson, stated, “When used the right way, phones can actually be beneficial in school because they give students quick access to information,

I call for help or let my family know I’m ok if my phone is locked in my car or locker?”

However, not everyone thinks the cell phone problem is an easy one to solve.

distraction for students and can create chaos and drama in the classroom, locker rooms, lunch room, etc.”

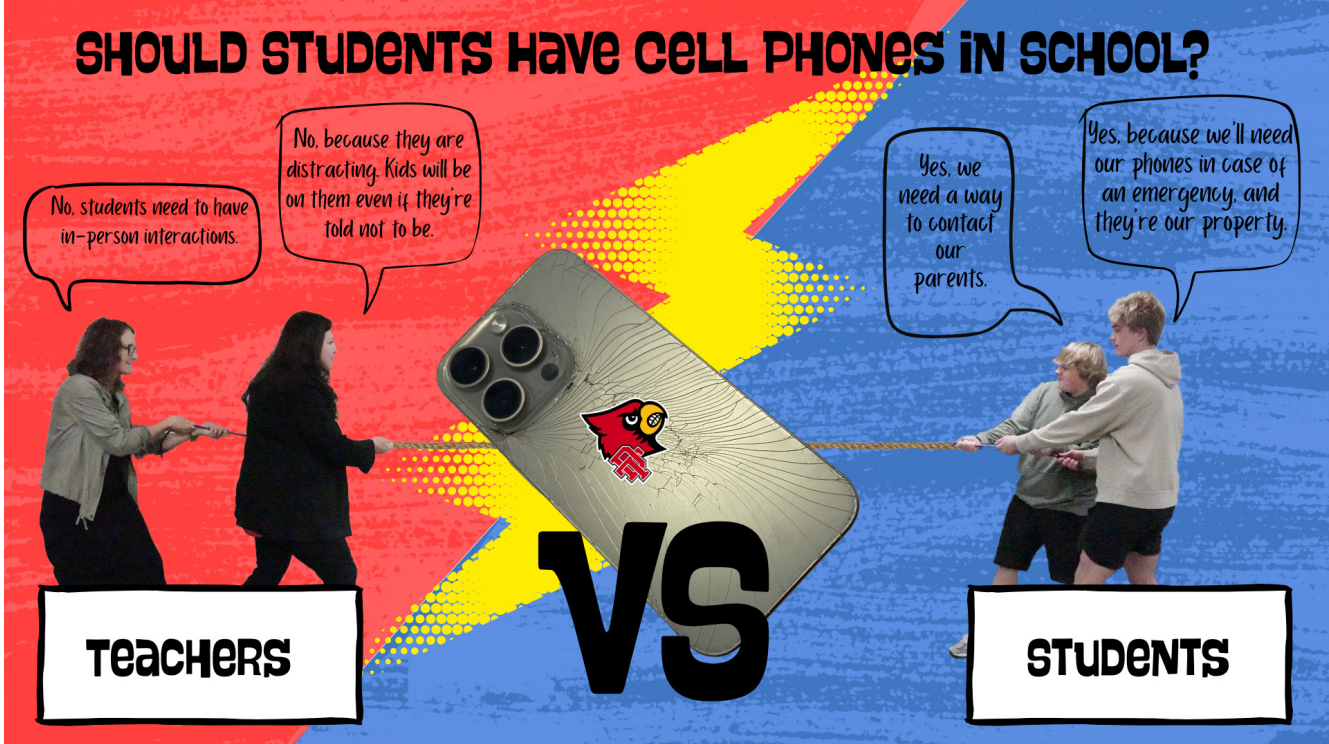
Teachers complain that phones are consistently a

distraction during class and instructional time, noting that students also tend to spend more time on their phones during class, which then results in them not getting classwork done in class.

While it might seem like teachers should be monitoring this more closely, it can be harder than expected, as students are sneaky and classes are often crowded.

Thede also said, “Students try to pull out and use phones during class, while teachers are teaching, they use their phones when they should be working on practice or projects.”

Currently, DT administration is documenting all phone confiscations and taking teacher input as they decide how to move forward with this issue, but the lines have been drawn in the sand as this is quickly becoming a teacher vs student debate.



Graphic by: Garrett Westwood

“I have a few classes where, without a phone, it makes the class 10x harder. For instance, in internships, I had to contact business people, and it was nice having access to my phone.”

Phones give students the ability to contact businesses with convenient communication. When students have access to phones, they can use direct text messages and phone calls, meaning they can receive quicker responses.

tools, and resources that support their learning.”

When used correctly, phones can bring numerous educational benefits, giving students more tools to heighten their learning. Phones also provide a safety net that helps students and even staff feel safe in the school setting.

“I like to have my phone with me in case there is an emergency,” states sophomore Remy Colburn. “What if something happens, I how will

Goracke says, “I want kids to be able to have their phones, but I want kids to use them appropriately and at the times they are allowed to have them.”

Most teachers think the best option would be to restrict phones even more and put more guidelines on these devices.

“They [students] use them as a distraction from class and as a means of socializing, gaming, etc,” Thede said. “It very quickly becomes a

Don't Hang Up Phones in School

How Phones Can Be Beneficial During School Hours



By: Lauryn VanDiest

While there's been a push in recent years to remove cell phones from classrooms, in today's technology-driven world, allowing kids to have phones in school can be beneficial for supporting student safety, preparing them for real-world responsibilities, and respecting their right to handle their personal property. Cell phones allow students to connect with the world around them and learn responsibility.

Regardless of what people say, having phones is a safety issue. Many safety rules have to be followed in a school setting: we can't leave school without

signing out, we can't bring backpacks into the classroom, and we can't wander the school whenever we please. All of these rules allow students to learn and connect with peers safely. Cell phones are also a safety tool. Imagine there was a school shooter in the school, and students didn't have cell phones to call the cops or text their parents about their condition. None of the students would have access to an emergency contact. When students have access to their cell phones, there is a sense of security. We are just one call away from help if needed.

Not only do cell phones help students access help if needed and provide a sense of security, but they also prepare students for real-life situations. In some of our classes, we use our phones to help connect with future career opportunities. They help us communicate with professionals and arrange job shadows to gain real-world experience. In other classes, we are required to create presentations about our lives, and we need to access photos

in so many ways throughout the span of the school day. Having our phones with us lets us airdrop photos from our phone onto our computer to use for the presentations. There are many opportunities throughout the school year when cell phones are necessary.

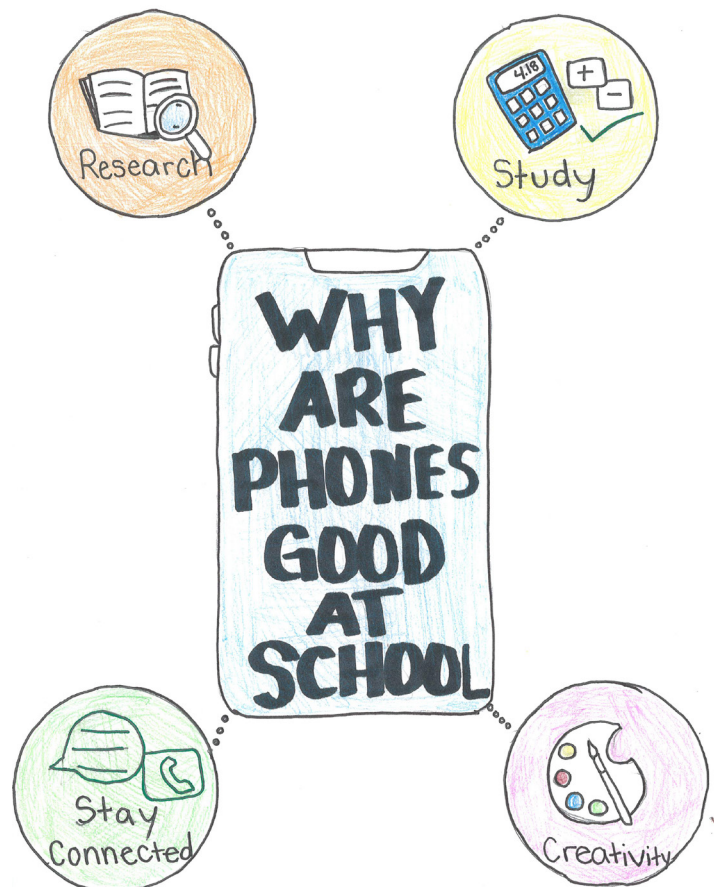
In addition to helping us stay safe and be successful in school, cell phones are our personal belongings that shouldn't be taken. It's also not fair for all of us to lose our phones because of some people's bad choices. If someone is not using their phone inappropriately, it should be their phone getting taken away, not everyone's.

Lastly, many schools are thinking about prohibiting phones at school. While this might seem like a good idea to help prevent addiction, it can run into lots of issues with safety and privacy. Students use their phones to communicate with their parents and access emergency contact if necessary. By schools prohibiting phone access, it can put students at risk in emergency situations and

take control of their personal property.

Ultimately, while there are reasons why schools would want to ban phones, taking them away can also create a lot of problems. With today's

primarily technology-driven society, allowing kids to have phones in school supports safety, prepares them for real-life situations, and reinforces responsibility for their own belongings.



Cartoon by: Hailey Hoffman