Lead In: This year at Allatoona there have been a few new changes made to the cell phone policy. For more on this topic, here’s ABBC’s Tommy Harnage

PKG:

In this day and age, technology is rapidly advancing and beginning to shape the world as we know it. The use of cell phones is growing fast and most of its use comes from the hands of the younger generation.

SOT JK: “I think cell phones are here to stay, they’re not going away, and it’s a piece of technology that we need to embrace.”

 Within the walls of Allatoona, almost everyone student you can think of has a cell phone in their pocket. These phones have been a tricky thing to deal with in school because, although they can be great for learning and education, they can also cause a large distraction in the classroom.

SOT LA: “It may cause students to have a tendency to check their phone more often in the classroom and be more likely to have their phone out and not paying attention.”

For good reason, teachers are scared of their students sneaking a text or snapchatting someone during their lessons. But when you really break it down, the use of cellphones is just like anything else in terms of discipline.

SOT JK: “I’ve told a lot of teachers and students already that it’s not really about the cell phone, it’s about insubordination. If a teacher has an expectation that you’re not supposed to have your cell phone out and you get the cell phone out, that’s really about insubordination and not so much about the cell phone.”

This year at Allatoona, there have been a few changes brought about. These changes allow students to freely use their phones during class change, lunch, and in the classroom at the teacher’s discretion. Within the learning environment, it is up to the teacher on how much or how little the students can use the phones.

Ellwood SOT: “Well I use remind 101 to kind of give my students a heads up for upcoming information. In my honors anatomy class, we’ve downloaded some anatomy apps that are able to be used as reference materials, like kahoot. The kids will create kahoots and good formative assessments, good quiz review things like that.”

KJ SOT: “I think cellphones can be used as a learning tool in the classroom to play games like Quizlet and Kahoot and also just allows students to do things more independently than before.”

With all these new changes students are allowed to do a lot more with their phones than they could in years past. This means that students will have a lot more on their hands to keep up with and it is imperative that the kids don’t abuse the new policy. For ABBC I’m \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lead Out: Only time will tell how beneficial these phones can be here at school. Thank you Haley Miller and Tommy Harnage for that great story.

JK SOT: “I say it all the time ‘with freedom comes responsibility’ so, the more freedom we give you, the more responsibility you’re going to have to behave in a proper manner.”