



## **The New American Academy Charter School Cell Phone and Internet-Enabled Device Policy**

In accordance with New York Education Law § 2803, all public schools in New York State, including charter schools such as The New American Academy Charter School (TNAACS), are required to implement a policy prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices by students during the school day while on school grounds. This "distraction-free" initiative aims to reduce interruptions to instruction and enhance the overall learning environment. Internet-enabled devices include, but are not limited to:

- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Smart watches
- Any device capable of connecting to the internet

As a result, **all TNAACS students are prohibited from using personal internet-enabled devices, including cell phones, on school property during the school day.** Students will be permitted to use school-issued devices, such as Chromebooks or laptops, when necessary for instructional purposes. Additionally, student devices may not be turned on or used during emergency drills or preparedness exercises, such as evacuation drills.

### **Contact of TNAACS Students During the School Day**

If a parent or guardian needs to contact their child during the school day, we ask that they do so using one of the following methods:

- Contact the TNAACS main office at 718-385-1709.
- Contact Ms. Kori Tatum, Student Recruitment & Family Engagement Coordinator, at 347-533-3918.
- Contact your child's Director of Teaching and Learning (DTL):
  - Kindergarten and First Grade: Ms. Diamond Mays, at 929-275-1692
  - Second and Third Grade: Dr. Yolanda Babb, at 929-468-5612
  - Fourth and Fifth Grade: Mrs. Olawa Brown, at 347-585-5281

### **Exceptions for Personal Internet-Enabled Electronic Devices**

Student use of personal internet-enabled cell phones or electronic devices on TNAACS school property during the school day is permitted only under the following circumstances:

- **Educational Purpose (With Prior Authorization):** Use is explicitly authorized by the Principal for a specific, approved educational purpose.
- **Medical Necessity:** Use is necessary to monitor a documented medical condition and/or notify the student of required medical action. This must be supported by documentation from the student's licensed medical provider and is subject to review and approval by TNAACS.
- **Legal Requirement:** Use is required by applicable federal, state, or local law.

### **Student Personal Device Storage Procedures**

**Families are strongly encouraged not to send students to school with personal, internet-enabled cell phones or electronic devices, if possible.** If a student does bring a personal internet-enabled cell phone to school, it must be turned off upon arrival and will be secured and stored by TNAACS for the duration of the school day. Each TNAACS house classroom is equipped with a locked cell phone storage cabinet. Every student will be assigned a designated slot within their classroom's cabinet. At the start of each instructional day, students are required to place their devices into their assigned slot. Devices will be returned to students at the end of the school day, shortly before dismissal.