

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Last year, Dr. Brown convened a task force to study social/emotional wellness, character education, and digital citizenship, and to make recommendations for our community and school district in these areas. After an exhaustive process including 15 different focus groups of students, parents, staff and community members, and about 1,000 hours of meeting time collectively, the task force made numerous recommendations to help our strong community and schools lead the nation in providing a positive culture for all of our children. The final report was delivered in June to the Board of Trustees and is available on the main page of our district website, [www.ahisd.net](http://www.ahisd.net). We encourage you to review the document in its entirety.

Although the recommendations must be reviewed as a whole, this information relates to a few of the items that we would like for you to note as we begin the new year.

For the beginning of the school year, it is important that our AHISD families know that we will **prohibit the use of cell phones and other personal devices during regular school hours at the elementary campuses and junior school** (including passing periods and lunch). Students may have cell phones on campus, but can only use them for communication purposes before and after school hours. During school hours they must be turned off and stored away. If you have an emergency and need to contact your child during the day, you may call the campus office. Additionally, we are **discouraging the dropping off and/or the delivery of lunch** to our students. Parents are still encouraged and welcome to come to school and have lunch with their children, especially at the elementary level. This is a time-honored tradition in AHISD, and it is very positive for our children. We want to encourage healthy, constructive social interactions during the lunch time to build community and positive relationships among all students. To be clear, we are discouraging drop off and delivery of lunch, not prohibiting it. (There may be times when drop off or delivery are necessary.)

However, the practice of dropping off lunch and allowing delivery has unintended consequences that include safety and exclusivity concerns, not to mention being disruptive to office operations when so many lunches are delivered. We are hopeful that you will choose to support these few recommendations as part of a

bigger picture that is intended to help improve the culture in our community and schools and to ensure the safety and wellness of our children.  
Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Debbie Garinger