

October 21, 2010

Dear Middle School Parents,

I am writing to inform you of a new policy that we have had to implement with our middle school students. In the past two weeks, we have witnessed texting during class, unkind text messages, and inappropriate pictures being shown to other students.

**As a result, our new policy is:**

- **Students will put their cell phones in a bin marked 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade as they arrive in the Fr. Sheedy Center for the beginning of class time.**
- **Students will retrieve their cell phones as they leave class.**
- **Cell phones will also be collected at the Middle School dances, and returned to students when the dance is over.**

If you would like to mark your child's cell phone with their name, you are welcome to do so.

*This may be the opportune time for you as a parent to discuss appropriate cell phone use with your teen.* Cell phones are a tremendous tool, but they also can be very dangerous if used unsupervised. This policy will encourage communication between you and your teens on technology that will offer them protection at home, school and church as they interact with their friends and family in this very public forum that is new to us all. The enclosed resource may be helpful to you. It is from the website "Parents: The Antidrug."

We hope that this policy, which will be implemented beginning next Wednesday, will eliminate any future misuse of cell phones at church. Your conversations with your child may help to eliminate misuse all together.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 644-0585.

Blessings!

Maggie McGowan  
Director of Youth Ministry

Dan McGowan  
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation