

## [FROM YOU] YOUR VOICES

**H**illsborough County public school students can expect stiffer rules on the use of cell phones at school this year. The Hillsborough County School Board decided last month that students must keep cell phones and other electronic devices out of sight or risk having them taken away. Readers at TBO.com shared their views on the new policy. To read more, go to Brandon.TBO.com and enter "stricter cell phone rules" in the search field.

Last time I checked they [students] are there to study and pay attention in class, not talk on the phone! They do not need them for "emergency" use either. If there is an emergency, the parent can call the school to get a message to them, or the school could call the parent for the child. It may sound amazing, but millions upon millions of people have gone to school in the past here in America with no cell phones, and they survived.

Posted by Situp

The kids do not need to have cell phones at school! If a family emergency comes up, then the school can be called, and the student can come to the office. By the same course, the student can call from the office if need be. We did it that way for years and it worked. The schools need to have a no-cell-phone policy, period.

Posted by Brobeth1

They don't need cell phones in school at all. When we were in school and there was a family emergency, they would call the school and have us brought to the office. You still need to have an adult to check out their child any way. I agree with this 100 percent.

Posted by Tommysh11

I just wonder how I was able to survive 12 years in school without a cell phone. Why, if there was a problem, the school called my Mom, and she actually came to the school! Imagine that, parental involvement.

Posted by Publius

My kids are 6 and 10, and they carry a cell phone. They are told not to use it in class, and they don't. The reason why they carry one is because they get picked up after school from the after-school program during school session. They are allowed to use it at the after-school program, and they do just to let me know any type of last-minute changes. And believe me, the school or after-school program can decide or change any type of activity throughout the year. As long as they have a permission slip signed for all activities, they can change the date around, and you might think they are at the park on that day and they are actually at the movies. I also have them carry it because no one ever knows what can happen in schools nowadays. What about the school shootings? I am pretty sure those kids that did not have a phone on that day during the Columbine [shooting] wished they had one, and so did the parents.

Posted by VMR

I can see a few reasons for needing a cell phone: in extra-curricular activities, if a student needs to be picked up because of a canceled practice or is going to be late getting back to school from a function, they can notify their ride. What about the bomb threats our schools went through when I was in school? Our parents had no way of knowing this was going on, and every day for almost two weeks we would get stuck outside for two hours at a time because of so-called bomb threats. Now that I am older and have children of my own, I can see why a child may need a cell in an emergency. Schools are not perfect.

Posted by Aj\_18

How come parents and students always seem to know about their rights, but conveniently ignore their responsibilities? I know that in Pinellas schools, when a teacher attempts to confiscate a cell phone, more often than not security has to be called. When an assistant principal actually gets a phone, a parent complaint usually goes in to the area superintendent within minutes. We had a faculty meeting interrupted this winter when our area superintendent called to demand a young scholar's cell phone be returned immediately.

Posted by SeaToad

## [FROM YOU] YOUR PHOTOS



Brandon Regional Hospital

Brandon Regional Hospital's Doctor's Scholarship recipients are, front row from left, Kyle Kepics, Spoto High School; Jandy Reina, Lennard High School; George Conner, Bloomingdale High School; Christopher Plante, Durant High School; and Caitlin Cundy and Meaghan Pickett, both from New-some High; back row from left, William Davidson, chief of staff; Lester Martinez-Lopez, chief medical officer; Mike Fencel, chief executive officer; and Nancy Landfish, medical scholarship chairwoman. Not pictured are scholarship winners Brandon Buford, East Bay High; Lisa Shumac, Armwood High; and Stephany Joseph, an employee recipient.

### Scholars Visit Brandon Regional Hospital

High school graduates who received \$1,000 scholarships from Brandon Regional Hospital's Doctor's Scholarship fund recently visited the hospital to share their plans the hospital leadership. The students talked about the colleges they plan to attend and their intended majors — everything from premedicine to culinary arts, accounting and drama.



Music Showcase

Participants in the The Music Showcase Junior Showcase Players gather onstage.

### Youngsters Present A Musical

The Music Showcase Junior Showcase Players recently presented "High School Musical" at Music Showcase, 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon.

The show was the culmination of two weeks of work by youngsters 8 to 13 who attended Musical Theater Camp. "As a teacher, I enjoy seeing the friendships develop while the students are learning about the many aspects of a musical," said director Joy Rodgers. They learn their lines, stage directions,

music, choreography, teamwork and expressions. The students help one another and gain confidence, and responsibility grows through the experience, she said.

Kylie Hall, 13, who played Sharpay Evans, said her favorite part of being in the show was the teamwork. "We've made a lot of friends through this experience," she said. "And we've gained so much confidence." It was the fourth Music Showcase production for Cameron Qui-

gley, 11, who played Ryan Evans. "The directors are amazing," he said. "They help us a lot." Gabriella was portrayed by Haley Janeda, 11, who said the best part of the experience was singing and meeting new friends. Ryan Wilson said this was his favorite musical. He played Troy Bolton, and this was his second Music Showcase production.

For information, call (813) 685-5998 or go to [www.musicshowcaseonline.com](http://www.musicshowcaseonline.com).