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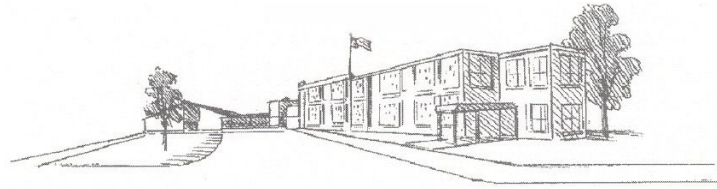
# Hartford Central School

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[www.hartfordcsd.org](http://www.hartfordcsd.org)



*"Hartford Central School, a community of educators, students, parents, and friends, dedicates itself to developing citizens who are productive and compassionate, and who, through their creativity and responsibility, will be assets to the greater community."*

Andrew Cook  
Superintendent  
518-632-5931

Mark Doody  
Interim Middle School/  
High School Principal  
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Shelley Dupuis  
Elementary Principal/  
Special Education  
Chairperson  
518-632-5222

Amanda Howard  
District Treasurer  
518-632-5931

June 4, 2025

To All Parents / Guardians,

As part of the 2025–2026 New York State Budget, Governor Hochul signed legislation amending Education Law §2803. This law requires all school districts to adopt a policy that prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day and on school grounds.

"Internet-enabled devices" include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and any other devices capable of connecting to the internet or accessing online content, including social media platforms.

"School day" refers to the entire instructional day, encompassing both instructional and non-instructional periods such as homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and time between classes.

"School grounds" include all buildings, structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, and any other areas within the district's property boundaries.

To be compliant with this new law, the district will implement a bell-to-bell policy beginning with the 2025–2026 school year. This policy will outline specific procedures and expectations related to student device use throughout the school day.

We recognize that this change represents a significant shift from current practices and understand that families may have questions or concerns. In the coming days, we will publish a survey for parents and guardians to gather your input and help guide our planning. A student survey will also be shared to ensure their voices are heard and considered.

Over the summer, the district will finalize and share a comprehensive implementation plan. This plan will include clear guidance on daily procedures, as well as how parents and guardians can communicate with their child(ren) during the school day if needed.

On behalf of the district, I appreciate your continued partnership and support as we work together.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cook  
Superintendent  
Hartford Central School District