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Cell phones are extremely prevalent in the lives of students today. Removing cell phones from our schools would have some benefits. This is why some districts have completely eliminated cell phone distractions in their schools. However, I believe this poses unanticipated consequences. Entirely banning phones would leave students feeling untrusted and disrespected.

Schools are building the next generation of leaders. Eliminating cell phones in schools would lead to young adults being unable to handle the use of a cell phone in college or in their career. Schools have the opportunity to use cell phones as a “teachable moment” for their students. It would teach students when it is appropriate to use them and when phones should be away to best utilize their time. Most students are responsible with their cell phones during class. It would be unfair to punish all students when only a minority of students struggle to keep their phone away.

This year, my school focused on managing cell phone usage by not allowing us to have them out during instruction. I feel this is a good model to follow because it allows students to have some responsibility, while also being respectful to the teachers and the students’ personal education. Administration has explicitly stated these rules within our school, which i believe has helped empower teachers to address the issue within their classrooms. I feel the best way to protect instructional time in the classroom is to give guidelines for students to follow but still allow them the freedom to be responsible with their phones.