

Academic Leadership: The Online Journal

Volume 8

Issue 3 *Summer 2010*

Article 7

7-1-2010

Cell Phones Are Ringing, Will Educators Hear?

Rebecca Fortner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/alj>

 Part of the [Educational Leadership Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Fortner, Rebecca (2010) "Cell Phones Are Ringing, Will Educators Hear?," *Academic Leadership: The Online Journal*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/alj/vol8/iss3/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by FHSU Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Academic Leadership: The Online Journal by an authorized editor of FHSU Scholars Repository.

Academic Leadership Journal

Teachers often participate in professional development opportunities to remain on top of the technology used to teach their students. Staying on top of this technology assures that students will be able to compete in the world work force and maintain the technological standards comparable to the rest of the world. A technology that has increasingly integrated itself into the lives of students and often misunderstood and underused by educators is the cell phone.

Educators would be well advised to take a second look at cell phones in the classroom. The importance of the cell phone to the students should be taken into consideration and used to an educational advantage.

Research shows that cell phones are a technological source for youth, age 8 through 18, in the United States and across the world. (Kaiser, 2010) Our young people across the United States and around the world have integrated cell phones and the technology that comes with cell phones into their everyday lives.

Cell phone users have, over the past 4 years, become increasingly younger. According to a 2009 study between the age of 6 and 11 there has been up to an 80% increase in cell phone users. Most children report that they use the phones to contact parents. The girls are more likely to use the phones for social uses while the boys are more likely to play games or access the internet with their phones. (PRN Newswire, 2010)

Race and ethnicity matter in cell phone use. According to the Kaiser Foundation Study, Media in the Lives of 8-18 year olds, Hispanic children spend 13 hours a day on a cell phone. The study shows that African American children use their cell phones almost as much and White children access their cell phones almost 9 hours a day.

Cell phone saturation for teens is almost 100% in some countries. Cell phones also outnumber PC's ten to one. (Prensky, 2004) At present, cell phone prices are dropping and most teens have access to cell phone technology.

Cell phones offer a variety of media options for the under 18 crowd. Some examples of their bountiful technology include music, games, internet, television, camera, camera recording abilities, social networking, and individuality. Cell phones are also subject to individuality because they can be decorated to suit the user.

Clothing manufacturers are creating garments that have cellphone compartments and some garment manufacturers are creating garments with their own cell phones wired into them, such as jackets and shirts. Cell phones are big business to children and teens.

From an educational standpoint, cell phones are banned from most classrooms. Cell phones are at present, considered to be a distraction. They are considered to be disruptive technology. (McCrea, 2010) There are policies in almost every school system banning cell phones and cell phone use.

However, cell phones are multi-tasking devices that could be put to good use in the classroom.

There are many opportunities to use cell phones in the classrooms. An innovative teacher could find many ways to implement the technology. An novel example would be the fact that students never have their agendas with them. They always have their cell phones. Cell phones have calendars that can remind students of assignments and lessons. There is also a downloadable avatar secretary that reminds the cell phone user of upcoming events. This, to a student would be much more preferable to the old fashioned agenda.

There are many reasons to use cell phone technology in the classroom. Cell phones engage students. Students are accessing the technology during school whether educators are aware or not. The innovative teacher should take the technology that is already being used and weld it to their advantage. Educators would be wise to look into the future and envision cell phones in the classroom.

References:

Lawson, D., McCain-Correll, K., & Suzuki, D. (Producer). (2009).
Cell phones in education. [Web]. Retrieved from

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1Jovm_L5ec

Clark, A. (2006, May 12). School cell phone ban causes uproar. CBS News.us, Retrieved from
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/05/12/national/main1616330>

Prensky, M. (2004). What You can you learn from a cell phone? – almost anything!.
http://www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky-What_Can_You_Learn_From_a_Cell_Phone-FINAL.pdf

Lawson, D., McCain-Correll, K., & Suzuki, D. (Producer). (2009).
Cell phones in education. [Web]. Retrieved from

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1Jovm_L5ec

Fitzjarrald, V. (Producer). (2007).
Cell phones in education. [Web]. Retrieved from

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h8O1FYIH6c>

Gobel, ., & Dumont, T. (Photographer). (2010). Pay attention. [Web]. Retrieved from
http://www.teachertube.com/members/viewVideo.php?video_id=448

Hetzel, K. (Producer). (2010).
Cell phones in the classroom. [Web]. Retrieved from

http://teachertube.com/viewVideo.php?video_id=161116

McCrea, B. (2010). Disruptive innovation in the classroom.
The Journal, Retrieved from

<http://thejournal.com/Articles/2010/01/21/Disruptive-Innovation-in-the-Classroom.aspx?p=1>

Fang, B. (2009). From distraction to engagement: Wireless devices in the classroom.
EDUCAUSE

Quarterly (EQ), 32(4).

Kids' cell phone ownership has dramatically increased in past five years. (2010, January 5).
PRN

Newswire, Retrieved from

[http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/kids-cell-phone-](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/kids-cell-phone-ownership-has-dramatically-increased-in-past-five-years-80702422.htm)

[ownership-has-dramatically-increased-in-past-five-years-80702422.htm](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/kids-cell-phone-ownership-has-dramatically-increased-in-past-five-years-80702422.htm)

VN:R_U [1.9.11_1134]