



# Gene Witt Elementary

200 Rye Road

Bradenton, Florida 34212

Phone (941) 741-3628 – Fax (941) 741-3630

August 28, 2024

Dear Families,

We recognize that times are changing, and we need to consider ways to change with it, especially in terms of safety. Currently, our District's Student Code of Conduct does have a policy (pg. 56) regarding the use of technology during the school day. As a school, we can adapt this policy to meet our needs regarding the wearing of Smart Watches. We recognize parents may wish to choose to have their child wear a Smart Watch to school for safety reasons, such as tracking their child to and from school to ensure a safe arrival to school and home. We want to support this useful "tool". Please refer to the 24 - 25 School District of Manatee County Student Code of Conduct posted on our website for your convenience.

At this time, while still following the rules set forth by the Student Code of Conduct regarding technology, we are allowing students to wear Smart Watches should parents choose to have their child do so. All rules set forth in the Student Code of Conduct must still be followed. Failure to follow these rules the first time will result in the watch being removed from the student, parent contacted to pick up the watch, and the student will no longer be able to wear a Smart Watch to school. Parents, please refrain from texting your child during the school day, as this interferes with instruction and will be considered a misuse of the watch. At no time is the school responsible for lost or stolen watches.

If you are planning to purchase a Smart Watch for your child in the future, please visit our school's website. We have listed just a few types of watches, their capabilities, and options. Thank you to the parents who were kind enough to research this information for us. We are in no way endorsing any brand or even the purchase of a Smart Watch. We simply want to make some information available for you, and strongly encourage you to do your own research.

Parents, for your child to participate in wearing a Smart Watch to school, you must complete and return the survey found on the back of this letter to your child's teacher.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to review some of our policies to work towards the good of all. Our world is changing, and we need to carefully consider appropriate ways to respond to this change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Connie Dixon, M.Ed.  
Principal