



Horton High School Cell Phone/Personal Device Policy

Horton High School recognizes that personal digital devices are routinely used by students. We also recognize that personal digital devices can be used effectively to support learning.

Unacceptable use of personal cell phones and digital devices, however, can be disruptive to various school routines, and video/image recording and communication features can be used inappropriately. Although we do not wish to ban personal devices, there are restrictions on how they are to be used in school.

Students do not have the inherent right to use their phones in school. Ownership of the device does not come with permission to use the device in a way that goes against the school policy. Misuse of personal electronic devices goes directly against the Provincial Code of Conduct and AVRCE Policies. The rules are:

- Personal cell phones and other digital devices may not be used in any instructional areas during class time, **except under the supervision of and with the permission of the teacher in that instructional area.** This includes classrooms, labs, and pods.
- Cell phones/personal devices are to be kept in school bags or lockers, except with direct permission from the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher has the final and absolute discretion to decide whether or not phones can be used in their classroom. This includes the use of earbuds, which should not be in ears without permission.
- Personal cell phones/digital devices may not be used at any time where individual privacy must be protected, such as in washrooms or change rooms.
- Personal cell phones/digital devices may only be used by students during **non-instructional** time in areas of the school where students are allowed to congregate, if school policy allows such use.
- Horton administration may decide to prohibit the use of cell phones or personal digital devices on an individual or school-wide basis. This restriction could be temporary or permanent. These decisions are wholly at the discretion of the school administration.
- Showing disrespect for another's privacy through improper use of a personal digital device will result in the loss of permission to use the cell phone/personal device while on school property. This includes taking photos or videos without consent.
- Using electronic communication features without permission constitutes academic dishonesty and will result in the loss of phone privileges as well as academic consequences.
- There are programming concerns for some students as cell phones are a strategy used by many EAL students. Therefore, there will be certain exceptions for some of our students.

Cell phone offenses:

If a teacher contacts an administrator to remove a student's phone from the classroom, the phone will be in the office until the end of the day. Repeat offenses will result in the student cell phone being banned from the school for a period of time to be determined by the administration. If there are student discipline issues resulting from a cell phone related offense, a student cell phone can be banned from the school for a period of time.

Sources:

- AVRCE Policies and Procedures, 101.4 - Student Use of Personal Digital Devices
- NS Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy