

As you may be aware, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has recently announced a Provincial Directive on Cell Phones in Schools. This directive recognizes the importance of maintaining a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions so that students can focus, feel safe and be successful in school.

Our school welcomes this announcement, as we have observed that cell phones and related devices often serve as sources of distraction. Additionally, they can contribute to anxiety, be used for bullying, and negatively impact students' overall well-being.

### **What does this mean for students at our school next year?**

- Students may still carry a cell phone to and from school if necessary.
- During class time the cell phones must be **turned off** and stored out of sight.
- Students in Grades 9-12 in our school can still use the cell phone during recess (11:35 - 12:00) and lunch (1:15 - 2:02)
- At no time are cell phones permitted in washrooms and change rooms.
- Parents and Guardians are reminded that they should not call or text their student's cell phone during class time. They will need to call the office 902 542 6060 to pass along important messages.

### **What happens if a student does not follow these expectations in classrooms?**

1. **First Infraction:** Administration will be called to the classroom to confiscate the phone until the end of the day.
2. **Second Infraction:** The phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day, and parents or guardians will be notified.
3. **Third Infraction:** The phone will be held until a parent or guardian meets with the Principal to retrieve it.
4. **Fourth Infraction:** The student will be considered insubordinate under the provincial code of conduct.

### **What happens if a student does not follow these expectations in washrooms or locker rooms?**

- **First Infraction:** The phone will be held until a parent or guardian meets with the Principal to retrieve it.
- **Second Infraction:** The student will be considered insubordinate under the provincial code of conduct.

Cell phones add considerable convenience to our day-to-day lives. However, we have seen that pervasive use can lead to distractions and concerning mental health outcomes. When appropriate, our school will continue to educate and model appropriate, responsible use. Our staff will also model these expectations by only using personal cell phones when absolutely necessary for work purposes.

We are looking forward to partnering with parents and guardians to successfully implement this change in expectations because we believe strongly that it is in everyone's best interest.

Thank you for your support.