



Cell Phone Use

Introduction

Mobile phones have become ubiquitous in modern society and can serve as valuable tools for communication and learning. Park West School Division recognizes the importance of addressing cell phone use in educational settings to promote safe and responsible usage while minimizing distractions in the classroom. **Effective September 2024, cell phones will be restricted during instructional times to reduce distractions in classrooms and support focused learning environment.**

Guiding Principles

Safe and Respectful Use:

Students and staff are expected to use cell phones in a safe and respectful manner, adhering to school policies and guidelines at all times.

Minimizing Classroom Distractions:

Recognizing the potential for cell phones to cause distractions in the learning environment, measures will be implemented to minimize disruptions to instructional time.

General Guidelines

Personal Responsibility:

Students and staff are responsible for the appropriate use and care of their cell phones while on school property or participating in school-related activities.

Designated Use Times:

Students may not use cell phones during instructional periods. This restriction is extended to all areas of the school including classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and changerooms. Students may access cell phones before and after school, during breaks, and the noon hour.

Silent or Vibrate Mode:

Cell phones should be set to silent or vibrate mode during instructional time to minimize disruptions.



Accommodations for Cell Phone Use

Accessibility Needs:

The use of digital devices may be used to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in students' support plans. This includes the use of assistive technology on personal digital devices at school to support student accessibility, communication, and autonomy.

Medical and Health Needs:

The use of personal digital devices may be used to support medical necessities, such as monitoring blood glucose levels for a student with diabetes.

Emergency Situations:

In the event of an emergency, students and staff may use their cell phones to communicate with families, emergency services, or divisional administration as necessary.

Procedures for Implementation

Communication:

This procedure will be communicated to students, staff, parents, and the wider school community through appropriate channels, such as school websites, handbooks, and newsletters.

Enforcement:

School administrators and staff will enforce the cell phone use procedure consistently and fairly, providing guidance and support to students as needed.

Review and Revision:

This cell phone use procedure will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

Training and Education:

Schools may provide training and education to students on responsible cell phone use and digital citizenship, including the potential consequences of misuse and strategies for managing distractions.