



Student Cell Phone Expectations & Guidelines

Purpose & Rationale:

Connections for Learning understands that we are living in a society where cell phones and digital devices have become a part of our everyday lives. We also understand that above all, the education of our students is a primary goal. Staff, parents, school staff, and students recognize and accept that there is a time and place for the use of technology in the classroom. In fact, it has been clearly demonstrated in research that technology is a powerful tool for learning when used appropriately. At the same time, cell phones also possess functions, which if used inappropriately, can disrupt the learning environment and create the possibility for other problematic behavior. Additionally, we value and recognize the importance of creating and maintaining face-to-face, real time connections with others that creates a sense of belonging, connection with others and development of social skills.

Given the research-based benefits of the wise use of technology to support student learning, the fact that our school provides one to one chromebooks, and that we are a [Bring Your Own Device](#) school, along with the importance of facilitating a strong sense of connection and belonging, Connections for Learning adopts the following expectations of acceptable cell phone usage at school in order to promote powerful, focussed learning environments.

Student Cell Phone Expectations & Guidelines

- Cell phones must be on silent (not vibrate) upon entering the building and remain on silent throughout the remainder of the school day.
- Students are only permitted to use their cell phones with direct permission from a staff member for specific learning purposes or to communicate with their parents. The staff member granting permission is responsible for the supervision of the cell phone usage.
- Students will be provided permission to access their cell phones during a designated a short break time as set by each individual program.
- Cell phones should not be visible in the classrooms, hallways or school property (unless given supervised permission). We recommend students either keep their cell phones at home, in their locker or bag so as to not be tempted to take it out of their pocket without permission.
- Cell phones may NOT be brought into the washrooms or locker rooms AT ANY TIME.
- Students who choose to bring cellphones to school do so at their own risk. The school assumes NO liability for lost, stolen or damaged cell phones.
- The same above expectations and guidelines apply to off-site school based activities including transportation to the off-site venues.

Failure to adhere to expectations and guidelines will result in the following corrective measures:

- First Offence: Cell phone will be stored safely at the office until the end of the day and can be picked up by the student at the end of the day.



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- Second Offence: Cell phone will be stored safely at the office until the end of the day and parents/guardians are notified. Students can pick up their cell phone at the end of the day.
- Third Offence: Cell phone will be stored safely at the office until the end of the day and parents are phoned to discuss an appropriate solution to prevent this from continuing to be an ongoing issue.

NOTE: We recognize that there are times when you need to get a hold of your child during the school day. Please contact the school and we will be sure to connect with your child. Additionally, students will be permitted to access their cell phone during the designated break time as indicated above.

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