

Guidelines for the Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices - STP

At St. Paul HS, we believe in providing students with the best academic experience possible. We also recognize that the use of technology has many educational benefits for Deep Learning. However, as new technologies expand, they also challenge maintaining a safe, caring, and orderly learning environment. The advantages of technology need to be supported with the responsible use of that technology.

Recent research has shown that removing cell phones from K-12 classrooms has resulted in fewer distractions, decreased cyberbullying, increased student engagement, and reduced stress levels.

To that end, and in keeping with the Ministry of Education directive regarding cell phones, St. Paul HS has implemented the following cell phone practices to support student learning and mental health:

Students must **power off** their cell phones and keep them **out of sight** during instructional time. Instructional time will be defined as the four (4) seventy-five minute course blocks each day. Therefore, students should not be on their phones if they leave class during instructional time (ex., to take a body break or to use the washroom). It is recommended that they leave their cell phones in their lockers instead of keeping them on their person.

Students may be granted permission to access their cell phones for the following limited reasons:

- a) for educational purposes (ex., as a translation tool), as directed by an educator;
- b) for health and medical purposes; after consultation with an administrator,
- c) to support special education needs, after consultation with an administrator

Failure to comply with the above expectations will result in the following:

- The device will be sent with the student to the Main Office; the student will receive an admit slip to return to class to verify that the phone has been surrendered; the student will be able to pick the device up at the end of the day. A notification email will be sent to the parent/guardian, and the infraction will be documented by administration.
- A repeated non-compliance issue: The device will be sent to the main office, and a parent will be called to pick it up.
- Ongoing issues of non-compliance: progressive discipline/additional device restrictions will be applied by the administration.

The use of personal electronic devices should reflect expectations found in the Safe Schools Code of Conduct. Laser pointers, unauthorized cameras, and any other electronic device that could compromise personal and/or school safety or security are strictly prohibited.