

Chester District Elementary Cell Phone Protocol as Per the Provincial Directive

Effective: September 5th, 2024

Dear Families,

As you know, beginning September 2024, all schools are implementing the [Provincial Directive on Cell Phone Use in Schools](#). Research has shown that certain types and levels of cell phone usage can have negative impacts on physical and mental well-being, social interactions, school environments and learning. **All** students at CDS (PP-4) will be expected to have their personal cell phone turned off and stored during the school day. Our students will have no access to their devices at any time during the school day. This includes usage on the bus. When technology is needed, students will have the use of iPads or Chromebooks and will follow the Provincial School Network and Access Use Policy.

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If students have their cell phones on them during any time in the school day, the office will be notified and the following progressive steps will be taken:

First Office Referral: The administration will review the cell phone protocol with the student and have the student place the cell phone in a designated area in the office for the remainder of the day.

Second Office Referral: Cell phones will be confiscated by administration. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to come and pick-up the phone. The cell phone will not be returned to the student and will be held until a parent/guardian can pick it up.

Third Office Referral: A third office referral is very disruptive to the learning environment. Students will be given an in-school suspension for the remainder of the day.

Fourth Office Referral - Steps of progressive discipline will be in place, including suspensions (in or out of school) with increased length, and the student will be prohibited from bringing their phone into the building for the remainder of the year.

- In an emergency situation, parents / guardians can contact the main office (902-275-2750). We will make sure students get messages in a timely and appropriate manner.

- If students need to make a call home for emergencies, they can ask to come to the office to use the student phone. If the student requires a more private location, then office staff will provide one to the student. Arrangements for school dismissal changes and social events should be made between students and families prior to the start of the school day.