

Use of Technology at Garth Webb

At Garth Webb Secondary School, we are committed to integrating technology into our students' learning experiences. They will have the chance to use a range of tools, from traditional devices like Chromebooks, iPads, and cameras to innovative technologies such as green screens, arduino, breadboards, lighting, microphones, virtual reality, 3d printers, and diagnostic tools, and many others. We encourage students to bring their own Chromebooks, laptops, or iPads to facilitate seamless learning at home.

To maintain a positive and safe learning environment, we have established some important guidelines. Please review our technology use guidelines below.

Main Mobile Device Guideline:

On June 27th, 2024 the Ministry of Education announced changes regarding cell phone use and social media access in schools were to take effect in the new school year (2024-2025) - [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 128](#). Therefore, our students are instructed by their classroom teachers not to use personal mobile devices during class, unless it is explicitly directed by the educator. Students are to store their devices out of view, in their lockers, in their backpacks or in a designated area in the classroom.

Other Mobile Device Guidelines:

During Class

- Mobile devices must be switched off or set to silent during class.
- Mobile devices must be stored out of view.
- Mobile devices may only be used if permitted by the teacher for:
 - i. educational purposes
 - ii. health or medical reasons
 - iii. special education needs

During Assessments/Evaluations

- Mobile devices are strictly prohibited during any kind of assessments/evaluations: conferences; interviews; presentations, quizzes, tests, and final evaluations;
- Possession of a mobile device during an assessment will result in consequences to be applied;

During Designated Break Times

- Mobile devices may be used during breaks and lunch periods, but should not disrupt others or school activities.
- Social media, games, and non-educational content should be avoided in learning environments.

Emergency Situations

- Mobile devices may be used for emergencies with permission from a teacher or staff member.
- Students should ensure they have emergency contact numbers saved and ready if needed.

Respect for Others

- Do not record or photograph anyone without their explicit consent.
- Cyberbullying or harassment through mobile devices will not be tolerated.

School Property

- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged mobile devices. Keep your mobile device secure. It is highly recommended that you leave your mobile device at home. We have a telephone in the main office if and when you need to contact a family member.
- Usage of school Wi-Fi must comply with the school's internet policy.

Misuse of mobile devices

- Repeated misuse of mobile devices will lead to confiscation by administrators, parental notification, and further disciplinary action using progressive discipline.
- Confiscated mobile devices will be returned to students at the end of the day or handed over to parents/guardians.

These guidelines aim to ensure that mobile devices are used responsibly and that they do not interfere with the learning environment.

Progressive Discipline:

At Garth Webb we follow a Progressive Discipline model which means a whole school approach using a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences that include opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour and helping students make good choices.

Consequences for not adhering to the guidelines regarding personal device use may include:

- Asking student(s) to put the mobile device away
- Reminding students of GWSS Mobile Device guidelines
- Further preparing and teaching students for the full responsibility of digital citizenship
- Notifying parent/guardian of the repeated concerning behaviour
- Reporting the issue to administration to facilitate further discussions and collaborative problem-solving with the student and their family
- Considering and outlining potential additional consequences if the student continues to disregard the mobile device guidelines, such as detention, loss of the privilege to bring mobile devices to school for a specified period, volunteering within the school community, and progressive disciplinary actions that may include a possible suspension.

Acceptable use of personal technology:

Our connection to technology brings both benefits and challenges. Technology can enhance learning opportunities by providing instant access to vast amounts of information and educational resources, such as tools like simulations, educational apps, and online platforms that can make learning more engaging and interactive.

On the other hand, it also leads to cyberbullying: Teens may face bullying or harassment online, which can affect their mental health and well-being; personal information shared online can be vulnerable to breaches or misuse, posing risks to privacy and security; Screen Time and Health Issues: Excessive screen time can lead to physical issues like eye strain, poor posture, and sedentary behavior, as well as impact mental health through reduced face-to-face interactions.

Navigating these benefits and challenges involves guidance from parents, educators, and mentors to ensure that technology use supports healthy development and well-being. Thus, at GWSS we are



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committed to preparing all our students for success in a technology-driven world. This includes learning about [digital citizenship](#) and the importance of safe and responsible online behaviour.

A Shared Responsibility

When students, staff and parents/guardians work together to create safe, caring, equitable and inclusive schools, it has a powerful impact on the climate of the school. Each partner has an important contribution to make toward the establishment of a positive school climate in which all members of the school community feel safe, included, accepted, and actively promote positive behaviours and interactions.

Resources used for the development of these guidelines:

[HDSB Code of Conduct](#)
[Common Sense Education](#)
[Media Smarts](#)
[Protect Kids Online](#)
[Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#)
[OSAPAC Digital Resources](#)
[Digital Safety Resources](#)