

Lake Trail - Personal Electronic Device Guidelines

We recognize there are a wide range of reasons why students may feel they need personal devices while at school. We also have experienced the negative impacts to social, emotional, and academic development because personal devices are at school.

Some issues we've experienced with the overuse of personal devices at school:

- Accessing of inappropriate content
- Sharing of inappropriate content
- Pictures and videos being taken of students, teachers, and guests without permission
- Sharing pictures/videos to social media sites having negative consequences and invading privacy
- Interpersonal conflicts caused by use of social media sites
- Large amounts of instructional time being used to get devices put away at the beginning of each class
- Students already have screen time with school devices for classroom content during the day – adding more screen time on phones isn't positive for their development
- Missing key instructions/lessons because of earbuds being in

Our guidelines in response to these concerns:

- Expectations will be “no cell after the bell” (Vanier uses a similar approach and our students will attend school there in Grade 10)
- All devices must be put away (in bag/locker/with a teacher/staff member or office- **not pockets**) during instructional times. Devices may be used at breaks or under direction of a teacher.
- Students will be taught our School District #71 guidelines for technology use – including privacy expectations and use of SD#71 Wi-Fi
- Students will be taught how to report issues using [Safer Schools Together resources](#)
- Teachers will give clear instruction for classroom routines and expectations

What ifs:

- What if my child needs their device to communicate with home etc during the day? *We have a student phone available to use and our Administrative Assistants can take messages and give them to students.*
- What if my child needs their device for music? *We have school devices that can be used in some cases.*
- What if my child uses their phone to help with anxiety or regulation? *Our goal will be to find other ways and strategies to handle these times. What would happen if the phone wasn't available/battery dead/broken etc. What if they get a job one day that doesn't allow devices/earbuds? It is healthy to have a variety of strategies non-tech related.*

What if my child does have their phone out after the bell?

Our staff will be teaching students school routines and expectations. Part of that will be posting clear expectations to refer to through the year.

- Teacher/staff member will ask student to put device away
- If student stalls or refuses teacher will take the phone away for the duration of the class (or length of time determined by the teacher)
- If student refuses to give the teacher the device the teacher will stop using instructional time for the issue and Administration will be notified and device will be taken for the school day (or length of time determined by Administrator)

- If a pattern of behaviour emerges where the student is continually refusing to follow the guidelines parents will be contacted (first by teacher then by Administrator) and consequences could include:
 - Creation of a device plan to clearly set out boundaries and consequences
 - the device being locked up in the office for the school day
 - families being asked to keep the device at home
 - referral to our Counsellor or Youth Worker due to concerns relating to connectedness to devices and impact to educational program and addiction