

PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICE POLICY



On June 20, 2024, Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides announced the Ministerial Order #014/2024, which outlined the Alberta Government policy for Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools including new restrictions on the use of cellphones and access to social media in schools. Beginning this fall, we will no longer permit the use of personal mobile devices in classrooms, **while one site**, or access to social media sites on school networks.

A personal mobile device is any device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet and includes:

- Cell phones
- Tablets
- Laptops
- Smart watches

In order to preserve our teaching and learning environment, this document is to clarify the personal mobile device policy for St. Gabriel Catholic School.

- Students bringing cell phones or other personal mobile devices to school will be expected to store these in their designated lockers and for these to be in silent mode.
- St. Gabriel Catholic School has enough Chromebooks and laptop devices for each student to utilize during instructional time, ensuring that personal mobile devices are not needed for instructional use.
- If a teacher is teaching an option class where cameras are needed, and there are not enough cameras for students to use, teachers will need to seek permission from the principal in order to use cell phones for this sole purpose.
- Personal mobile devices are not to be used in settings such as change rooms, washrooms or private counselling rooms that have the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Personal mobile devices must be permitted, as determined by a principal for health or medical reasons or to support special learning needs with this allowance documented in a signed IPP.

- When limited use expectations have been approved, the use of personal mobile devices is governed by ECSD's **Student Responsible Agreement and a school's Student Code of Conduct.** ([LINK](#))

Consequences for violations of this policy may include:

- building student understanding in the benefits of breaks from technology
- reminders to return cell phones to lockers
- documentation of repeated issues
- confiscation of device
- parental involvement and/or disciplinary actions for repeated offences

**this policy is subject to change as this is an evolving policy*

