



HWCDSB Policy

“As new technologies continue to expand, so have the implications related to safety, privacy and the intrusive use of such devices. It is therefore important to govern the use of these devices to ensure the safety of the teaching/learning environment and board staff and students.” (A.12)

Policy A.12 entitled “Cell Phones, Audio, Video, Photographic and other Telecommunications Devices” clearly outlines guiding principles and procedures related to the use of cell phones and other devices on Board property, including schools, and Board/school-sponsored events. The policy stipulates the conditions under which Personal Electronic Devices (PED’s) may be carried on Board premises as well as their unauthorized use. The policy can be viewed on the Board’s website, www.hwcdsb.ca, under “Board”, and “Board Policies”.

Common Sense on Cell Phones*

Tips for Parents

- Work out some guidelines with your children: no phone during dinner, turn off phone at night.
- Make sure your children are using phones appropriately: no rude or inappropriate texts, no embarrassing photos or video.
- Talk about cyberbullying: tell your children to come to you immediately.
- Establish real consequences for violations of your rules, like taking the phone away for a week.

*Excerpted from Common Sense on Cell Phones Parent Handout which can be downloaded at:

www.common sense media.org.



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Our Lady of the Assumption School

Guidelines for

The Acceptable Use of Cell Phones

By Students



CELL PHONES AND SCHOOLS

As recently as five years ago, it was rare that an elementary student would have a cell phone. Today, many students carry a cell phone. Most parents cite the personal safety of their child to be the number one reason to equip them with the latest technology in wireless communication. Although cell phones are wonderful tools which enable parents to communicate instantly with their child, in a school environment, the use of cell phones by students poses many challenges to our staff and to the safety of students.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cell phone use by students during a crisis can hamper rumour control and, in doing so, disrupt and delay effective public safety personnel response.
- Cell phone systems typically overload during a major crisis and usage by a large number of students at once could add to the overload and knock out cell phone systems quicker than may normally occur. Since cell phones are a backup communication tool for school administrators and crisis teams, widespread student (and parent) use in a crisis could thus eliminate crisis team emergency communications tools in a very short period of critical time.



THE CHALLENGES OF CELL PHONES IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Cell phones have entered and disrupted the school environment unlike any other technological advancement of the past 20 years. The following are some of the challenges encountered by staff due to the use of cell phones by students:

- Cell phones ringing in class and disrupting a lesson.
- Students using a cell phone to call home when feeling ill, without the knowledge of the teacher/office. The student leaves the school without notifying the office.
- Students sending text messages to each other during class time, again removing their focus from the lesson at hand.
- Students receiving text messages from people outside the building.
- Students using a cell phone camera to take pictures of other students without permission. Sometimes these pictures are uploaded to the Web.
- Students recording video in the classroom, bathroom or on the playground without permission. Sometimes these videos are uploaded to the Web.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOL

In accordance with Board Policy, approved by the HWCDSB Board of Trustees,

- Students are permitted to have a cell phone on school property.
- Cell phones must be turned off and hidden from sight, in the school bag.
- Cell phones are not to be used at any time during school hours.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INFRACTIONS

- First offense: student receives a warning and cell phone is confiscated until the end of the day.
- Second offense: student serves an in-school supervised withdrawal, cell phone is confiscated and is returned to the parent only.
- Third offense: student loses privilege of having a cell phone at school and further disciplinary action may include suspension.

If you have a concern about your child's ability to follow these guidelines, it is recommended that cell phones be left at home. It is crucial to have your support for the effective implementation of these guidelines in order to keep your child safe.