

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Updated Restrictions for Cell Phones and Personal Digital Devices.

In accordance with the new [requirements from the Ministry of Education and Child Care](#), schools across our district have updated their Student Code of Conduct to include the restricted use of cell phones and personal digital devices during school hours effective July 1, 2024.

Our School [Code of Conduct](#) has been revised to reflect the new requirements regarding cell phone use in schools accordingly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT SECTION

Responsible Student Use of Personal Digital Devices, School Technology, and District Network Services

Student use of personal digital devices (any device used to communicate and/or access the internet), school technology, and district networks at school is for educational purposes.

Students must abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Students will:

- Secure, power off and store personal digital devices during instructional (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch) at Middle schools unless instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Use personal digital devices during instructional time for instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Ensure personal digital devices are not used in areas where privacy is expected, such as restrooms and change rooms;
- Be permitted to use personal digital devices to support accessibility, accommodations, medical and health needs;
- Always take precautions to ensure online safety, privacy, and security;
- Treat others with respect and kindness when using digital devices and district network services;
- Always use digital devices and district network services responsibly and with academic integrity.

Schools will ensure that all students have equitable and developmentally appropriate access to technology to meet curricular requirements. Students are not required to have their own personal digital device or cellphone at school.

The use of personal digital devices, school technology, and district networks is a privilege. Staff may revoke a student's access to devices because of inappropriate student conduct.

Violations of the school code of conduct could result in appropriate restorative processes or disciplinary actions including suspension and police intervention.

As part of our commitment to help our students develop digital citizenship, our educators will continue teaching our students how to use their personal digital devices and technology in a responsible and respectful way.

We ask that you support our staff and discuss these new restrictions with your child before the upcoming school year. If parents/caregivers need to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school office.

On a related note, the school is not responsible for lost, missing, or damaged personal digital devices that students choose to bring to school.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school's administration.