

Justin Tompkins-Principal
Angela Barclay-Vice Principal

13 School Street
Perth-Andover, N.B. E7H 4T4
Phone-(506) 273-4762
Fax – (506) 273-4765

June 24, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we plan for the 2024-25 school year, we wanted to inform you about an important update to the province-wide policy regarding cellphone usage in schools.

After careful consideration and consultation with the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, school staff, teachers, students, and parents, a new policy regarding the use of cellphones during school hours will be implemented for the 2024-25 school year. This decision was made with the aim of fostering a more focused and productive learning environment for all students.

Starting from the beginning of the next school year, students will be required to adhere to the following basic guidelines regarding cellphone usage:

- Cellphones must be turned off and stored in lockers or in designated areas during instructional time.
- Students are allowed to use their cellphones during breaks and lunchtime.
- In case of an urgent need to contact parents, students can inform their teacher and use the school office phone.
- Usage of cellphones for educational purposes during class is allowed only if explicitly permitted by the teacher.

To help students adjust to this new policy, our teachers will be teaching, modeling, and reinforcing the guidelines over the first two weeks of school. During this time, students will have the opportunity to learn and understand the new policy and procedures. We believe that this gradual approach will allow for a smoother transition and better compliance with the policy.

After the initial two-week period, the policy will be strictly enforced. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these guidelines with your child at home. Encouraging them to view this change as an opportunity to enhance their focus and engagement in the classroom will greatly contribute to its success.

Attached to this letter, you will find a document containing a Q&A section that addresses common questions and concerns regarding the new cellphone policy. We encourage you to review it with your child to ensure they fully understand the expectations.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us create a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warm regards,



Justin Tompkins
Principal
SVHS

Common Questions & Answers

For Students

Q: When can I use my cell phone at school?

A: You can use your cell phone during breaks and at lunch time. During instructional time, cell phones must be turned off and stored in your locker or in the classroom's cell phone hotel.

Q: What if I need to contact my parents during class time?

A: If you have an urgent need to contact your parents, inform your teacher. You will be allowed to use the school office phone.

Q: Where should I keep my cell phone during class?

A: You should keep your cell phone in your locker, turned off, to avoid any distractions.

Q: Can I use my cell phone in between classes?

A: Yes, your cell phone can be used during designated transitions, breaks and lunch time.

Q: What if I forget to turn off my cell phone and it rings during class?

A: If your cell phone rings during class, your teacher will tell you to turn it off or put it on silent and then put it in the cell phone hotel. You will be able to retrieve it at the end of the class. Repeated occurrences will lead to further consequences.

Q: Can I use my cell phone for educational purposes during class?

A: Only if your teacher explicitly allows it for a specific activity. If this is the case, your teacher will inform students and their parent/guardians at least 24 hours before requiring them to use their cell phone. Teachers will also provide information regarding the curriculum outcome and activity the cell phone is being used for to parents, guardians, students, and administration in advanced of the lesson. Otherwise, all cell phones should remain off and stored away.

For Parents

Q: How can I contact my child during the school day if they don't have their cell phone?

A: You can contact the school office, and they will relay the message to your child or have your child call you back using the office phone or during a non-instructional break.

Q: What should my child do if they have an emergency and need to contact me?

A: In case of an emergency, your child should inform their teacher, who will then allow them to use the school phone to contact you.

Q: How will this policy be enforced?

A: Teachers will remind students to turn off and store their cell phones in the cell phone hotel at the beginning of each class. If a student is found using their phone during instructional time, it will be considered defiance as per EECD Policy 703 and the student will receive consequences.

Q: What are the consequences if my child violates this policy?

A: As long as the student places their cell phone in the classroom's cell phone hotel when the teachers direct, then there will be no consequences. If the student refuses, they will be referred to administration for violating EECD's policy 703 for defiance. Students may be issued detention for the first offence. Repeated offenses may lead to further disciplinary actions, including suspension.

Q: Can my child use their cell phone on the bus to and from school?

A: Yes, the policy applies only during school instructional hours. Students can use their phones on the bus or before and after school.

Q: What if my child relies on their phone for medical reasons, like diabetes management apps?

A: Please contact the school administration to discuss accommodations for medical needs. We will ensure that your child can manage their health while adhering to the policy as much as possible.

Q: Will there be any exceptions to the cell phone policy?

A: Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, particularly for health-related reasons or other special circumstances. Please reach out to the school administration to discuss any concerns.

Q: How can I support my child in adapting to this new policy?

A: Encourage your child to view this as an opportunity to focus more on their studies and engage with peers without distractions. Ensure they understand the policy and the reasons behind it. Provide them with an alternative way to contact you in emergencies, such as memorizing important phone numbers.