



CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE STANDARDS

In effect September 2024



Cell Phone/Electronic Device Standards

On June 20, 2024, Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides announced Ministerial Order #014/2024, which outlined the Alberta Government policy for Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools.

Cell phones/electronic devices may serve as an instructional tool and learning resource if used appropriately. We encourage our staff members and our students to use electronics and other devices to supplement instruction and learning. However, it has been proven that students who are on cell phones or other electronic devices when it is not part of the instructional lesson are not fully engaged in learning. To preserve the teaching and learning environment, this document is to clarify the cell phone/electronic devices policy for Louis St. Laurent.

Student use of cell phones, personal devices, or other electronic devices during the school day is a privilege. Adherence to the guidelines below is essential to maintaining an appropriate academic environment and the integrity of the classroom.

Abuse of this privilege will result in consequences such as, but not limited to, suspension or loss of other privileges such as participation in school trips or activities, sports teams and extracurricular activities.

At Louis St. Laurent we recognize that cell phones or electronic devices have become a big part of people's lives, and this makes life easier in many ways. **Although 'cell phone' is used as the term, this includes all devices such as Air Pods, Earbuds, headphones, Smartwatches, etc.** We recognize that teachers frequently use technology in their classroom to enhance student learning. Therefore, Chromebook carts are readily available for teachers to sign out when necessary. In addition, there will be no access to social media sites (Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok, You Tube, etc). At **no time** is a student allowed to record others and distribute images or recordings through social media.

The goal of the student standards is to enable quality instruction for the students while respecting teachers in executing their lesson plans without distractions. As well, it allows for the educational priorities in the development of the whole child which includes cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth and development. We would also ask that parents do not phone or text their children during instructional time. If there is an emergency, you can phone the main office, and we will assist in contacting your child.

Junior High Cell Phone/Electronic Device Standards:

Cell phones/devices must be powered off and stored in the student lockers, therefore, there should never be an electronic device on a student throughout the entire school day. This includes such things as field trips and being off site as part of being in an academy. Students have access to their cell phones/devices before and after school.

Students will only be allowed to take their cell phones out during instructional time upon request of the teacher under exceptional circumstances and after approval from the principal.

There will be no access to social media sites (Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok, You Tube, etc).

Progressive Consequences:

1. The **first offence** in the current school year will result in the student being sent to the office and a call home by the administration. This will be logged in PowerSchool.
2. For the **second offence**, the student will be given a one-day out of school suspension for the following day. This will be logged in PowerSchool. Any subsequent offences will result in a one-day suspension.

Senior High Cell Phone/Electronic Device Standards:

High school students must keep their cell phones powered off and in their locker. This includes during classes, spares and scheduled school daytime events (field trips, assemblies, celebrations, presentations, academics). Students will only be allowed to take their cell phones out during instructional time upon request of the teacher under exceptional circumstances and after approval from the principal.

Devices may be used before and after school and during lunch. Cell phones must be on silent mode at that time.

There will be no access to social media sites (Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok, You Tube, etc).

Progressive Consequences:

1. The **first offence** in the current school year will result in the student being sent to the office and a call home by the administration. This will be logged in PowerSchool.
2. For the **second offence**, the student will be given a one-day suspension for the following day. This will be logged in PowerSchool. Any subsequent offences will result in a one-day suspension.

Implementation:

- All teachers will have the cell phone policy clearly outlined in their Google classroom.
- These standards will be e-mailed out to parents.
- These standards will be gone through with students on the first day of school as well as at their opening assemblies.

Exception:

- Exceptions to these guidelines will be made for students who may have Medical Management Plans (MMPs) and require their phones for medical reasons. This will be completed and notified through the administration.