



Wild Rose School Division

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Personal Mobile Devices In Schools

On June 17, 2024 the Minister of Education announced **new restrictions** on the use of personal mobile devices and access to social media platforms for children and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 effective September 1, 2024. See the **Ministerial Order** and the **Minister's Letter to Parents**.

All school divisions in Alberta are required to have written Personal Mobile Device procedures in place by January 1, 2025. WRSD will be putting together a DRAFT administrative procedure for student, staff and parent input in the coming weeks that will provide details regarding how WRSD schools will implement this new Ministerial Order.

Our focus at Wild Rose School Division is to provide powerful learning environments that focus on both the learning and well-being of all our students. We recognize that minimizing distractions is crucial for achieving these goals and we support measures that contribute to the learning and well-being of our students. However, we also realize that this may be a big change for some of our students and that we will need to demonstrate some grace and understanding as we help students transition to these new procedures.

In the meantime, here is what students, staff and parents can expect for the start of the 2024-25 school year regarding the use of Personal Mobile Devices:

- Students may not use personal mobile devices during instructional time. This includes personal cell phones, laptops and smartwatches.
- If students bring a personal mobile device to school, it must be stored out of view and on silent mode during class time. The storage location could be at the front of the classroom, student lockers, student backpacks or some other location. The school will communicate details to students and parents regarding the location.
- Social media sites like snapchat and facebook will be disabled on the school's network. A more detailed list of social media sites will be developed in the coming weeks.

- Students with specific medical needs or special learning needs will be able to use personal mobile devices only for their specific medical or learning needs. Principals will determine specific medical or learning needs exemptions.
- Principals can make exceptions for the use of personal laptops, for educational purposes. However, students may not connect their laptop with their phones to access social media and other distractions during class time.
- Student infractions regarding personal mobile devices will result in the same progressive consequences that are being used at the school for all other rule infractions.

Why are these new Procedures being put in place?

Much research has been conducted in recent years showing that the increased use of personal mobile devices has resulted in the declining mental health of students and an increase in cyberbullying. If you are interested in reading more about this research please see: [Research related to the use of personal mobile devices and social media](#).

Please reach out to your school principal with any questions or concerns.

Brad Volkman



Superintendent of Schools