



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

École Seven Oaks Middle School

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www.7oaks.org/sevenoaksmiddle

Dear ÉSOMS families,

As staff and students wrap up their school year, we are also preparing for September 2023. We continuously have conversations about how to improve and maximize learning at ÉSOMS. To achieve this, one of our main goals for the 2023-2024 school year is to help our students become responsible digital citizens and smartphone users. We have decided to implement a school-wide approach where cell phones will not be allowed during instruction time. Most teachers have already implemented cell phone expectations in their classrooms, but we are expanding these expectations throughout the entire school as a means to optimize the learning environment.

Research has shown that “[students who spent more time on social media were more likely to endorse feeling envy or sensing that others in their social network were better off than they were... and was associated with body image concerns.](#)” Our students are in a crucial developmental stage of their lives, and having access to social media throughout the day can impact both their mental development and wellbeing. Providing new cell phone expectations during instruction time will eliminate the [temptation to constantly check one’s phone and allow for more concentration on learning.](#) Our goal is to always create a safe learning environment where students thrive in a healthy way. We believe this new approach will help our students grow and learn in their classroom and school communities.

Here is what our new cell phone use approach will look like:

- If families decide to send a cell phone to school with their child, the student will put the phone in a storage unit in the classroom at the 8:25 a.m. bell or immediately upon arrival if late.
- Cellphones may be used during the lunch hour and need to be put back in the storage unit by 12:10 p.m.. Our goal is that students opt to participate in other social activities instead of using the phone during their free time.
- Cell phones will not be allowed to be taken to TAS as école Leila North is also implementing the same approach.
- We have enough chromebooks for students to use as research tools during class time.
- If parents need to contact students during the day, please email your teacher who can relay the message to the student. If it is an emergency, please call the school.
- As always if you choose to send your child to school with a phone, it is their responsibility to manage the phone and adhere to school cell phone expectations. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged phones.

We are confident that this approach will have a positive impact on learning, on student well-being, and will help to develop responsible cell phone users.

Thank you for your cooperation and we encourage you to have a conversation with your child about the new cell phone approach as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

Anne Grossman
Principal, Directrice

Melanie Sharp
Vice Principal, Directrice Adjointe