



WEST KILDONAN COLLEGIATE

101 Ridgecrest Ave. Winnipeg MB R2V 4T6
Telephone: 204-339-6959 Fax: 204-334-7116
Email: westk@7oaks.org

Adam Hildebrandt, Principal
Michelle Reimer, Vice-Principal
Elliot Macdonald, Vice-Principal

Memo Re: Semester 2 Update – Cell Phones

Dear Families of West Kildonan Collegiate,

As we prepare for the **start of the second semester**, we wanted to inform you of an important change we will be implementing at our school. Beginning **next semester (February 5, 2024)**, students will not have access to personal electronic devices (cell phones, gaming systems, iPods, etc.) and wired/Bluetooth headphones during instructional time. Many classrooms already have clear expectations related to cellphone use, but we felt it was important to implement a consistent school-wide approach to personal electronic devices. This decision was made after careful consideration by our staff, and we believe it will have a positive impact on student learning.

Research and experience have shown that the use of cell phones and other electronic devices can be detrimental to [student learning](#). The constant distraction of [notifications, text messages, TikTok videos, and social media updates can disrupt student focus and attention](#). Additionally, students who are using their cell phones during class are not [actively engaged in lessons](#) and are not able to fully participate in class discussions and activities with their classmates and teachers.

I am sure you are aware of some of the potential negative impacts that [excessive cell phone](#) use can have on students' mental and emotional well-being. Studies have found that overuse of cell phones can lead to [anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances](#) in children and teenagers, and in our experience contribute to instances of bullying and harassment.

While we understand that cell phones can be a convenient way to stay in touch with children, we believe that the benefits of limiting phone use during instructional time far outweigh any potential inconvenience. Our staff is committed to providing a safe, caring, and productive learning environment for all students, and we know that this approach will help us achieve that goal.

Our preference is for students to leave their cell phones at home, however, if a student brings their cell phone to class, they will be expected to remove their cell phone from their person or their backpack and place it in the classroom storage container. School staff are not responsible for cell phones, and students will be responsible for their own devices. All students are provided with a locker, ensuring a safe locked space for their cell phone if they prefer, and students will have access to their devices at lunchtime and on spares if they choose.

If a student struggles to abide by our new cell phone free approach, a staff member will direct the student to our office, and their device will remain in the office for the day. After which, we may ask the student to refrain from bringing a cell phone to school entirely.

We encourage you to talk to your children about our new expectations and help them understand why they are important. We also ask that you support our efforts by refraining from calling or texting your child during instructional time. Should the urgent need arise to contact your child during class time, please call our office and we will put them in contact with you promptly.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students. As always, if you have any questions, you are welcome to contact us at the school.

Sincerely,

Adam Hildebrandt
Principal

Michelle Reimer
Vice Principal

Elliot Macdonald
Vice Principal