



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School



Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools

September 2, 2024

For the 2024-2025 school year, the province is implementing [new restrictions](#) on the use of personal mobile devices and access to social media platforms in Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools.

These restrictions are designed to:

- ensure a focused and productive learning environment for all students
- support student mental health
- reduce opportunities for cyberbullying

These changes build upon St. Francis of Assisi Middle School's existing Cell Phone Expectations to ensure students remain focused on learning during school hours and our ongoing commitment to supporting student well-being.

What is considered a personal device?

A personal device is considered any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet. This includes:

- cellphones
- tablets
- laptops
- smartwatches

What are the restrictions?

1. No Use of Personal Mobile Devices During Instructional Time

Students are not permitted to use personal mobile devices during instructional time unless directed by school staff for learning purposes.

2. **Devices Must Be Silent or Powered Off and Stored Away**

If students have personal mobile devices with them at school, they are required to keep the devices on silent or powered off and store them in their locker.

3. **No Access to Social Media**

Students may not access social media on school networks or school devices. Known social media sites will continue to be blocked from Division networks.

Exceptions can be made for students who require personal mobile devices for health and specialized learning needs by coordinating with school administration.

Your child's teacher will review specific details about how we will implement the personal mobile device policies and offer further guidance to students.

How can I help my child with these changes?

We encourage you to discuss the new expectations around personal mobile devices with your child. Other ideas to support you include:

- reaching out to the school office if you need to share information with your child during school hours
- discussing with your child the potential costs of using their personal data plan at school
- confirming after-school schedules or lunch before the school day starts
- explaining that these rules are in place to help minimize distractions for your child

What are the consequences if my child does not comply?

Parents will be notified via email for the first and second offences, and the student's PMDs will be confiscated and stored in the office for the student to pick up at the end of the day. On third and subsequent offences a school administrator will contact the parent and the parent will be required to pick up the PMD from the office

More Information:

- [Alberta Education Information on Personal Device Restrictions](#)
- [Alberta Government Engagement on Cellphone Use in Schools](#)
- [Administrative Procedure 114 Use of Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices in Schools](#)
- [Administrative Procedure 115 Social Media](#)
- [Digital Citizenship](#)