



Turtle River School Division - Administrative Procedure

Section D – Student Services Cell Phones

Turtle River School Division believes in promoting a learning environment free from the distractions caused by the usage of cell phones and other wireless communication devices during school hours.

- **Kindergarten to Grade 8:**
 - **Prohibited Use:** Students are not allowed to use cellphones or wireless communication devices during school hours, which includes:
 - Class time
 - Before classes begin
 - Lunch time
 - Breaks
- **Grades 9 to 12:**
 - **Prohibited Use During Class Time:**
Students are not allowed to use cellphones or other wireless communication devices during instructional time. This includes:
 - Powering off all devices, including cellphones, smartwatches (e.g., Apple watches), and gaming devices, during class.
 - Devices are banned from hallways during class time.
 - Devices are banned from washrooms and change rooms at all times.
 - Devices capable of taking photographs or videos are prohibited from doing so on school property or during school activities unless explicitly authorized by the principal.
 - **Permitted Use During Breaks and Lunch:** Cellphone use is allowed during designated breaks and lunch periods. All cell phone use must be respectful to students and staff.
 - **Permitted Use for:**
 - Field trips
 - Games
 - Tournaments
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Buses

During school outings, or extra-curricular events, use of a personal electronic device is permitted, providing this does not interfere with lessons/instructions.

Board Informed:	Last Reviewed:	Last Revision:
September 10, 2024		



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Section D – Student Services

Cell Phones

- **School Staff:**
 - **Prohibited Use During Class Time:**

Staff are not allowed to use cellphones or personal electronic communication devices during class time.

 - When in the presence of students, personal electronic devices should be kept out of sight of students and set to silent. In an emergency, personal calls can be directed to the school's landline number so that a message can be relayed.
 - Two-way radios should be used to communicate when outdoors.
 - **Adults are clear models.**
 - Exception: principals have permission to use their electronic devices at all times and should have them close at hand.
 - **Permitted Use During Non-Instructional Time:**

Staff may use personal devices during:

 - Breaks
 - Lunch hour
 - Prep times
 - Before and after school

Exceptions

- **Medical and Diverse Learning Needs:**

Students with documented medical needs (e.g., glucose monitoring) or learning needs requiring wireless devices (e.g., assistive technology) are exempt, provided their usage is pre-approved by school administration and stated in their Student Specific Plan.
- **Emergency Situations:**

In case of emergencies, cellphone use will be permitted to ensure the safety of students and communication with parents or guardians. Students may also request to use the office phone for emergencies during the day.

If students need to place an emergency phone call during the day, they should request to use the office phone.

By implementing these rules, Turtle River School Division aims to maximize focus and engagement in the classroom while allowing for necessary exceptions that ensure student well-being and safety.

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