



Chinook High School

Digital Device Guidelines

2024-2025

Every Decision We Make is for the Academic, Social, Emotional, Physical, and Spiritual Growth of Students.



Our Why

To support **student learning, well-being, and engagement** at Chinook High School.

Based on observation, research, and input from teachers, students, and caregivers, we believe that cell phone use is having a negative impact on student learning, mental health, engagement, and social and emotional development.

We want to support our students in understanding how cell phones and other personal digital devices impact their learning and wellbeing. As well, we want to model for our students how to use cell phones and devices in an appropriate and healthy way.

Personal Device Guidelines

What is a Personal Device?

- **Any digital device** that has internet access, texting, music, gaming, or streaming capabilities.
 - For example, but not limited to: **Cell Phones**, iPads, tablets, gaming systems, Meta Glasses, smart watches, earbuds, and headphones.

Personal Digital Device Guidelines for Students

- **Personal Devices are not on your person in learning spaces.** This means that it goes in your bag, locker, or the designated space provided by your teacher. Devices are to be turned off or put on silent mode during times of learning.
- No personal digital device use is permitted in washrooms or changerooms.
- Students are welcome to access their devices during breaks and Flex (outside of learning spaces), but are encouraged to build positive in-person interactions and supported to make positive choices regarding the use of their devices.
- Exceptions will be made for medical purposes (i.e. monitoring devices). For further information please feel free to contact the school.

Questions You Might Have

What changes have been made to these guidelines for the 2024-2025 schools year?

In alignment with Ministerial Order 014/2024, there will be no personal device use permitted in learning spaces (areas where our teachers deliver instruction such as classrooms, the gymnasium, fitness centre, our learning commons, and our wellness centre) during school hours. When students are in learning spaces, we seek to foster an environment of engagement, learning, and connection.

How can I reach my child if I need to contact them?

In the event of an emergency, you can always contact your child through the office at 403-320-7565. Every classroom has a telephone. The office can call the classroom to connect with them.

What will happen if a student is struggling with the new guidelines and practices?

Teachers will ask students to place their device elsewhere. This could be in their bag, locker, or designated space in the classroom. Where appropriate, teachers will also reach out to parents to work together to help students understand the new guidelines. Administration will also support students, staff and parents in communication and responsibilities outlined in these guidelines and ministerial order.

What can parents and guardians do to support students in implementing the new guidelines?

We believe that these guidelines will only be supportive if they are discussed and reinforced within the home environment.

Parents and Guardians can avoid texting and messaging during instructional times. Here's a helpful filter: If you want to reach out to your student but deem it is not important enough to call the office, please help support your student by waiting for scheduled breaks in the day (10:55am-12:00pm & 1:20pm - 1:30pm).

What can we do at home to support our student with appropriate device use?

Consider implementing device free times at home. Have open conversations about safe use of social media, apps, and communication. Utilize built-in tools in the settings of your device to support your student with managing screen time, app usage, and content consumption.

How do these guidelines apply to school staff?

Staff are committed to modelling guidelines to encourage greater engagement and connection. Staff will be honest and open with students about use of personal devices as it relates to the professional responsibilities of their job (i.e. safety, communication, administrative responsibilities).

We believe in implementing these guidelines with empathy, compassion, care, and through the lens of growth.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Know Your Why | Aim For Growth | Take Ownership