



2206 STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

Policy Type: Educational Programs
Applies To: All Staff, Students
Approved By: LCS Head of Schools
Policy Reviewed: every 2 years
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1. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

- (a) The BC Ministry of Education and Childcare requires all schools to place restrictions on student cellphone and personal device usage during the school day. This regulation comes into effect in September 2024. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/cellphones-in-schools>
- (b) In our efforts to deliver a relevant, future-focused and engaging experience at LCS, we believe that web-based computing technology is an essential tool that teachers and students use to enhance their learning. However, we also believe that clear boundaries and restrictions are necessary to promote healthy, thriving schools.
- (c) We are committed to providing explicit instruction and modeling at school on how to use technology and social media tools ethically and responsibly, and expect parents to partner with us in this. The School-Family Partnership Agreement (Procedure 1203B) outlines the conditions of enrollment and the expectation that all parents and caregivers have an obligation to monitor their child(ren)'s social media and technology use:
- (d) Research is clear that the fostering of healthy relationships and environments, physically and digitally, is essential to learning. Also, social-emotional intelligence, interpersonal communication and collaborative problem-solving skills are critical skills that students should develop. Therefore, the Christian school is best served by reducing distractions and barriers to relationships and learning opportunities by placing some limitations on how and when students use personal devices and social media.
- (e) There is growing evidence that the unrestricted use of cellphones and social media, particularly for elementary and middle school students, is harmful to their psychological, emotional and cognitive development.

2. STUDENT CELLPHONE AND PERSONAL DEVICE USE POLICIES

- (a) High school students (grades 9-12) at LCS may bring cellphones to school at their own risk but they must be turned off and placed in lockers or personal bags where they are out of sight and out of reach until the completion of the school day. Students may not have cellphones in their pockets. The school assumes no risk for loss or theft of student cell phones.
- (b) Students may not use personal cellphones for any reason during the school day, including breaks, or on any school- related trips. The school day is defined as when the student arrives at school until 2:55pm or the end of the school-based activity the student is participating in (i.e. field trip).
- (c) Students in elementary and middle school (grades K-8) are prohibited from bringing cellphones to school or on school trips.
- (d) Students may not use headphones in classes, hallways or common areas during the school day. Grade 11 and 12 students may on a case-by-case basis be permitted to use headphones without a cellphone in classrooms during an independent work period if permitted by the teacher.
- (e) Principals may permit exemptions to the policy on a case-by-case basis for multi-day excursions or where there are defensible educational or safety reasons for cell phone use.
- (f) Consequences:
 - 2.f.1. Cellphones will be confiscated and delivered to the office when any faculty observes a student using it during the school day
 - 2.f.2. Confiscated cellphones will not be returned to students and will only be returned to parents.
 - 2.f.3. Students who refuse to turn in their cell phones when requested will be subject to further disciplinary measures (see 2203 Student Discipline)

3. RATIONALE FOR CELLPHONE RESTRICTIONS

- (a) Parents and staff at LCS are strongly in favour of restricted use of students' personal cell phones.
- (b) Students in all classrooms at LCS have access to technology such as iPads and laptops when required for learning tasks and should therefore not require personal cell phones to engage in meaningful learning.
- (c) Some studies show a correlation of higher level of social anxiety among teens who have constant access to their cellphones and social media. Middle school and high school aged female students are most susceptible to the negative and harmful effects of cellphone use and social media.
- (d) Several years of educational research demonstrate that a student's concentration and self-regulation skills are stronger predictors of long-term success and wellness than other factors such as home environment.
- (e) Cellphone use among teens is widely understood to be addicting, interfering with self-regulation, and shown to negatively impact focus and concentration.
- (f) Cellphone access in classrooms is correlated with higher instances of multitasking which we know leads to decreased cognitive function and efficiency when trying to complete tasks such as reading and writing, problem- solving, or peer-peer collaboration.

- (g) Schools who have open cell phone policies often report high incidences of student-student harassment on social media during school hours, and greater difficulties.
- (h) The students who are most at risk for anxiety or learning and self-regulation challenges show significant gains in achievement in schools where there are consistently-followed cellphone policies in place. The achievement of students who demonstrate strong self-regulation skills are not impacted by the presence of cellphones in schools, nor are they adversely affected by the absence of a personal phone.
- (i) Cellphones are less distracting in classrooms where the environment and instruction is engaging and challenging. However, even in classrooms where students are engaged, some studies show retention is reduced when students have access to cell phones.
- (j) There are no gains in student achievement in schools with partial bans, or where restrictions are not widely enforced or followed by staff.
- (k) Policing policies that rely on teacher autonomy or preference is difficult and result in increased social media activity during class time, inappropriate or unproductive gaming and web-based activity during breaks, and increased distractions caused by parent-student texting during school hours.
- (l) Restricting use of cellphones on trips or school events promotes greater engagement in the experience and reduces potential for misuse or inconsistent policing of use when under supervision of non-faculty parents or volunteers.

4. PARENT AND CAREGIVER GUIDELINES

- (a) LCS encourages parents and caregivers to carefully monitor and restrain their own use of cellphones and social media when participating or observing school activities such as athletic events.
- (b) Posting images or photos of LCS students on private social media accounts is prohibited.
- (c) Parents and caregivers are expected to monitor social media activities of their child(ren) both during and outside of school hours, and are expected to partner with other parents and the school in the maintenance of healthy and ethical social media use in the school community.

5. APPROVED STUDENT TECHNOLOGY

- (a) All students in grades 8, and all high school students (9-12) are expected to bring their own computing device (laptop).
- (b) A device is defined as a Chromebook or other acceptable laptop with the following minimums:
 - Battery life: 6hr
 - RAM: 4GB
 - SSD Recommended.
 - Ability to run Google Chrome web browser.
 - Up-to-date Antivirus on Windows (Avast, AVG, BitDefender recommended).
 - Built-in keyboard (Surface pro is acceptable)
 - Built-in Webcam

RELATED POLICIES:

2030 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE IN EDUCATION GUIDELINES

Reviewed: 09 2025