



## GTHS & TLC

# USE OF PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES

All schools hold learning as a core value, both academic and social/emotional. Cell phones, widely used for communication, can also possess functions which can disrupt the learning environment. As per [Ministerial Order](#) (014-2024) set by the Government of Alberta last spring, along with GYPSD [Administrative Procedure 145](#), and [Administrative Procedure 146](#) which cover the use of personal mobile devices and social media accounts, Grand Trunk High School will continue to set expectations for the use of all Personal Mobile Devices. These will include any device that can connect to the internet or cellular network such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, gaming device, or smartwatch, and headphones, during instructional time.

GTHS & TLC will carry on with the use of our cell phone holders in our classrooms, similar to last year, so that students may have quick access to them on breaks and through the lunch hour. The Ministerial Order's intention is that all distractions are removed for student learning, and we did see this as a positive benefit when we applied this change last year.

In short, a few clarifications on the expectations:

- Students will **not be allowed to be in possession of their Personal Mobile Device during class time**. However, before school, during lunch hour, and after school, students will be allowed to use their devices
- All student Personal Mobile Devices are required to be **powered off** and stored in the classroom pocket during class time
- Personal Mobile Devices are **never allowed to be used in change rooms, washrooms or during exams**
- If completing academic work during spares, students will be required to have their cell phones **turned off** and in their lockers or backpacks, while working in the learning commons areas
- The school principal may make an exception for health monitoring reasons or for limited use for educational purposes ie. visual aid or monitoring blood sugar levels for diabetics

GTHS school staff will temporarily confiscate any Personal Mobile Devices that are not in the classroom pocket or being used in spaces and within timeframes which go against the expectations. If a Personal Mobile Device is brought to the office by a school employee or a student refuses to comply, a conversation will be had with the student and the parent/guardian will be contacted. Personal Mobile Device infractions will be addressed by restricting student

use of the device during non-instructional time. Repeat infractions will be addressed in accordance with our school discipline policy and Administrative Procedure 350 - Student Conduct, and may include consequences up to and including suspension.

We recognize that there are times when you need to get a hold of your child during the school day. Please contact the school office at 780-727-3925 and we will be sure to connect with your child. Students can also come to the office and use the student provided office phone to contact you during the school day, as needed.

By continuing to embrace the 'no cell phones' policy, and Ministerial Order, we aim to create a conducive learning environment that empowers students with a more concentrated and productive environment, ultimately driving academic excellence and supporting students' emotional well-being. This policy also supports student requests, as well as community engagement requests for consistency on Personal Mobile Devices throughout the school.

We are confident that our students will continue to be respectful, reasonable and understanding as we all navigate the slight additions. As always, defiant, rude, and disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated and consequences for such behaviour will be handled separately from any consequences related to Personal Mobile Devices.

We realize that there may be a small adjustment for students, but we are confident that this will be a very strong year for each and every student. We can't wait to get started!

- GTHS Staff