



McCaffery Catholic High School Cell Phone Policy – August 27, 2024

(subject to change as this is an evolving policy)

On June 20, 2024, Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides announced Ministerial Order #014/2024, which outlined the Alberta Government policy for Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and social media in Schools.

The Government of Alberta wishes to improve learning outcomes by supporting a distraction-free learning environment that promotes children's and students' wellbeing and limits opportunities for bullying. The use of personal mobile devices in schools can be a source of distraction that can negatively impact children's and students' mental health, engagement and learning. Additionally, students are entitled to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self. The use of personal mobile devices can be used to harm, bully, and otherwise compromise this environment.

1. Cell Phone/Device Policy:

- i. Students may not use personal mobile devices during instructional time. (class time: this includes gym, field trips). Use of washrooms during class time is included in instructional time.
- ii. Students may not access social media on school networks or on school devices.
- iii. No Air pods or headphones are to be used during class.
- iv. No smart watches are to be used during class for messaging or apps.
- v. Electronic devices may be used for instructional purposes on very rare occasions on approval from the principal
- vi. Students will be permitted to access their phones at school during non-instructional times (before school, after school, during lunch)
- vii. Students needing to use such devices to complete work or study while on a spare, will be able to do so in the FirePit only.
- viii. If a student is found to be leaving the classroom during instructional time to go use their cell phone, progressive consequences will occur.

2. **Information Dissemination:** All teachers and course outlines will have the cell phone policy clearly outlined and in their Google classroom

- a. This must also be communicated home to parents via email from administration
- b. This will also be discussed at orientation

3. Progressive Consequences:

- a. After school wide assemblies in September, the policy will go into place.
- b. The phone must be powered off and in their locker.
- c. If a student refuses to follow the rules listed above, this is not about the use of electronic devices, it is about a behavior choice of defiance and the consequences will be immediate.
 - i. Infraction One: Teacher to issue a warning and send the student to locker to put phone away. Log information is entered.
 - ii. Infraction Two: The student will be sent to the office to meet with an administrator. Log information is entered. Contact will be made to Guardians
 - iii. Infraction Three: Students will serve a suspension from school and school activities.

Under the Alberta Education Act, Section 31, students are expected to:
(f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board
(g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services
(h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct

4. **Exceptions to These Guidelines:** as per the Ministerial Order, students who may have Medical Management Plans (MMPs) and require their phones for medical reasons. This will be completed by parent and administration.

Contacting your Child in an Emergency- If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please contact the office by phone (780-670-2945).