

Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices

Developing digital literacy skills is paramount for our students, and integrating technology responsibly can significantly enhance learning. By incorporating technology into learning environments and providing opportunities for its use, we empower learners to develop skills such as productivity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.

As students engage with digital devices and platforms, it is essential to balance technological access with considerations of safety, security and privacy. Empowering students to be responsible, informed, and ethical digital citizens will help develop their digital literacy.

Research demonstrates that the presence of personal digital devices may contribute to distractions in learning. Clear guidelines on the acceptable use of personal digital devices during instructional time or learning-related activities will promote online safety and strengthen focused learning environments. Students are expected to adhere to the Acceptable Use Guidelines and District Code of Conduct.

A Personal Digital Device is referred to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, a tablet, smart watches, gaming devices, and electronic toys.

Guiding Principle: Student personal digital devices should not be used during instructional time, unless permission is granted by the supervising staff.

Secondary School (Grades 8 to 12) Guidelines:

- Use of personal digital devices should not be used during instructional time, unless permission is granted for educational purposes by the supervising staff.
- During Personalized Learning Time (PLT) students are expected to use their personal devices for educational purposes only.
- When not permitted, personal digital devices should be powered off, secured inside a student's backpack or locker or secured location.
- Personal digital devices are not to be used in areas where privacy is expected or required.
- Access to some social media platforms from personal digital devices will be restricted on the school wireless network during instructional time.

The district and SLSS does not assume responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of any personal digital devices. The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the student/user.

Accessibility and Accommodation Needs: Personal digital devices may be used to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in a students' support plans or Individual Education Plan.

Medical and Health Needs: Personal digital devices may be used to support medical necessities.

Equity to Support Learning Outcomes: Considerations will be made to ensure personal digital device restrictions do not disproportionately impact some students more than others.



Parent Assistance:

SLSS and the district values the collaborative partnership among students, parents and staff. To maintain a focused learning environment, parents/caregivers are kindly asked not to contact their child on their personal digital devices during the school day. In cases of an emergency, parent/caregivers are requested to contact the school office, where staff will facilitate the communication as appropriate.

References:

- BC's Digital Literacy Framework:
 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teaching-tools/digital-literacy-framework.pdf>
- Media Smarts - Canada's Centre for Digital Media Literacy:
 - <https://mediasmarts.ca>
- ERASE – Expect Respect and a Safe Education:
 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>