

## **Clearwater Secondary Cell Phone Use Policy**

### **Background**

Cell phones can be a useful educational tool in some circumstances but are more often a distraction, interfering with focussed learning. Access to chromebooks allows students to use technology with fewer distractions and diminishes inequities for students without cell phones. There are some cases where students need access to cell phones to manage documented medical needs or accommodations documented in their Individual Education Plan (IEP), these will be accommodated on an individual basis.

Although the policy refers to cell phones it is meant to encompass all personal electronic devices such as smart watches, smart glasses, VR headsets etc. As new technology and use emerges we will regularly revisit this policy and adjust as required.

### **Grades 8 to 12**

Students will not be permitted to use their phones during class.

Students will not be allowed to take their phones with them to the bathroom during class time.

Students are encouraged to leave phones in their lockers. Phones that are brought to the classroom, at teacher discretion, will be placed in a bin designated by the teacher.

At teacher discretion phones will be allowed for specific uses that cannot be accommodated through the use of a chromebook. These are meant to be rare occurrences.

Headphones will not be in use during class time except to watch videos in a blended classroom or for online learners. An example of a blended classroom is Mr. Coates Physics 11/12 classroom where he teaches both courses at once and students often watch videos of worked examples while he is working with the other class.

## **Consequences for not following expectations**

Students not meeting the personal devices policy will be supported using the following guidelines and the philosophy of progressive discipline.

First offense - The classroom teacher will provide a warning to the student and remind them of the expectation.

Second offense - The classroom teacher will assign a brief detention and email parents to inform them.

Third offense - The classroom teacher will send the student to the office. The student's personal device will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. The student will be assigned an office detention during lunch hour. The Principal or Vice Principal will contact home.

Subsequent offenses - The classroom teacher will send the student to the office. The Principal or Vice Principal may suspend the student. The Principal or Vice Principal will contact home.

## **FAQ for Parents/Guardians**

What if I need to let my child know I am picking them up at 3:10 so they do not get on the bus?  
*Feel free to text your child, they will get the message at their next break.*

What if I need to let my child know I am picking them up at 2 pm?  
*If time allows, send them a text, they will get it at their next break or come into the office at 2 pm and we will call them out of class for you.*

What if there is an emergency and I need to contact my child right away?  
*Contact the office either by phone or in person. We will relay a message and or pull them out of class. These types of situations are often upsetting, we will provide support as required.*

What if my child's employer wants to contact them regarding a shift change?  
*Their employer should text them and the student will get the message at their next break.*

What if my child has diabetes and uses their phone to monitor their blood sugar level?  
*Contact the office and we will meet to make accommodations to meet your child's medical needs.*