

## Personal Digital Devices Use Guidelines and Expectations

In the spring of 2024, the BC government brought in a mandate to restrict the use of [personal digital devices in schools](#). These changes are outlined in the School District No. 73 Student Code of Conduct (District Administrative Procedure 150). The Student Code of Conduct has been amended to include statements about restricting the use of personal digital devices to:

- Reduce distractions in classrooms and support focused learning environments,
- Foster online safety, and
- Promote provincial consistency.

The Juniper Ridge personal digital device policy has been developed to provide distraction-free, focused learning environments that foster online safety, respects personal identity and boundaries, and allows for equitable access to learning outcomes.

To reflect these statements, the Juniper Ridge guidelines are outlined below.

- Personal Digital Devices will not be used during school time (bell to bell) 8:20-2:39.
- Personal Digital Devices will not be used on field trips, even when they extend beyond these times.
- Students will be expected to store their personal digital devices in a secure location that is not on their person during the school day so as not to cause a distraction.

Students will not be allowed to use their personal electronic devices at school. This includes texting or calling family members at any time between 8:20 and 2:39 and until they leave the school building. If you need to contact your child at school during the school day, please call the office to leave a message. We will make sure to get your message to your child during one of the scheduled break times or right at the end of the school day.

In individually unique cases, students are permitted to use personal digital devices:

- When the student requires the use of their personal digital device to support their medical or health needs as outlined in their Competency Based Individual Education Plan or Service Plan.
- When the student requires the use of their personal digital device to support their accessibility and instructional accommodation needs as outlined in their Competency Based Individual Education Plan or Service Plan.

Accommodations appropriate to support academic needs will be determined by school administration through consultation with student support services (Learning Assistance Resource Teachers, classroom teacher, and parents/caregivers as well as the School and Family Consultant and Inclusion Support teacher, as required).

Student behaviour that contravenes these guidelines will be addressed using Administrative Procedure 350: Student Code of Conduct and Administrative Procedure 355: Student Discipline.

