



June 26th, 2024

RE: Personal Digital Devices - School District 75 Middle Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we look toward next school year, we want to make sure parents are aware of a change in policy for Mission Public Schools. On January 26th, 2024, the Province announced three actions for the safety and well-being of students in relation to digital technology. The announcement included restrictions on the use of cell phones in schools, which must be in place for the 2024-25 school year. Superintendent Wilson provided a letter to all parents on June 6th, outlining the new District policy, and we would like to follow up with some specific information for Middle School students and parents.

Per Ministry and District policy, Ecole Heritage Park and Hatzic Middle Schools will implement the following policy for September 2024:

- Middle School students are not permitted to have cell phones or other personal digital devices ('PDD') during school hours, including at lunch and other breaks. This includes areas outside of the building.
- Student PDD cannot be present until exiting the building after the end of the school day.
- Should a student be in possession of a device, it is expected it will be stored in a locker until after the last bell of the day.

Please note that some students may have a medical exemption for specific conditions - please contact your school if this is the case for your child.

The following procedure will be used for violations of these expectations:

- 1st issue - The student will be issued a warning by the teacher or staff member. We expect students to comply with this request without becoming argumentative or defiant. Students not complying with this request may be sent to the administration.
- 2nd issue - The PDD will be sent to the office and held by administration for the remainder of the school day.
- 3rd issue - The student will be sent to the office, and the student will hand in their device to the administration. A student's parent/guardian will be asked to pick up the device. A follow up meeting may be held.

'Personal Digital Devices' include, but are not limited to, cell phones, tablets,

computers, smartwatches, Bluetooth equipment, and portable video game systems. Continuing to disregard these expectations may result in consequences per the Code of Conduct and may include in school suspension, out of school suspension, and/or other disciplinary consequences.

We understand that many parents/guardians use text messages to communicate with their children during the day. This will take practice for all of us, but please remember to communicate with your child before and after school, as they will not have access to their devices at other times. These devices are convenient, but also addictive for all of us. For emergency situations, we ask that you contact the school office, and we will pass along your message or have your child contact you.

We ask that you support our staff and discuss this change with your child before the upcoming school year. Thank you very much for your cooperation and support during this change. We know that 85% of the feedback we have received from parents has been positive, and much of the rest was generally hopeful, if sceptical, as well. Working together we can make our schools the best places to learn they can be.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school's administration.



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