

Policy 11-02: Personal Electronic Devices in School, Approved by School Council May 2015

Background and Rationale:

The Committee discussed the increased use of personal electronic devices in school. These devices on their person and have access to their use in hallways, washrooms, and change rooms. With grade 10-12 students now using laptops on a daily basis, and many students having devices with them at all times, an opportunity is available to use technology to support learning. The school is not responsible for personal electronic devices that are lost, stolen, or vandalized at school.

Policy:

Personal electronic devices have educational uses in the classroom when used appropriately. The ability to access certain applications (dictionaries, spell check, e-readers, e-books, calculators) may help meet the needs of some IEP or SLP goals or adaptations. Under the direction of a staff member, devices can be beneficial for classroom activities.

As we move more into a digital era, electronic devices are becoming more easily accessible. Students in grade 10, 11 and 12 are now assigned a school laptop computer, from which they can access a wide array of electronic possibilities.

We recognize that there needs to be education on how to use personal electronic devices to develop responsible digital citizens. It is important to be educated on cyber safety, and this will be a continuous component of our digital citizenship program, which may include bringing in outside speakers.

Teachers will have the final say on whether or not the use of personal electronic devices is allowed in their classrooms or not. This may vary from class to class. If used inappropriately (playing games, snap chat, taking photos unrelated to school activities, texting, phone calls, etc.), the device must be put away, or it will be taken away until the end of class. A reoccurrence may result in the device being confiscated and returned to the student's parent/guardian.

Personal electronic devices will be allowed to be used during non-class time. They will be permitted during breaks, and before and after school, as long as students are demonstrating appropriate, responsible behaviour.