

South Kamloops Secondary School

Student Personal Digital Devices Policy

Research has clearly shown that social media platforms impede student learning, put youth at risk and have negative effects on mental health. Further, we know that personal digital devices provide distractions that have a negative impact on student capacity for in-depth engagement with ideas and reduce opportunities for students to build relationships and connect with others present.

As students engage with digital devices and platforms in the process of developing digital literacy skills, 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.

Guidelines

- **During class time (from bell-to-bell), personal digital devices (PDDs) will remain in lockers, backpacks/purses, or holders provided by classroom teachers. Phones are to be off, or notifications off, and in silent mode.**
- **During class time, all school areas, including bathrooms, hallways, and common areas will be designated CELL PHONE FREE.**
- **During class time, airpods, smart watches, headphones or listening devices connected to personal digital devices will not be permitted.**

This policy does not preclude the use of cell-phones

- during instructional time when expressly permitted by the supervising teacher for educational purposes
- for students with accessibility and accommodation needs outlined in their support plan or Competency Based Individual Education Plan (CBIEP).
- for students with documented medical and health needs.

In case of emergencies, communication can be handled through the office.