



File JDC

CELL PHONE/PAGING DEVICE/ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The Portage la Prairie School Division recognizes that the use of cellular phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), pagers, and other electronic communication devices is continuing to grow and expand. Furthermore, the Division recognizes the value of such electronic communication devices to students, families, and schools.

It is the intent of this policy to manage the use of these electronic communication devices in the school to prevent interference with teaching and learning opportunities.

This policy applies to the formal school day, including school-sponsored events (e.g., intramurals, extra-curricular activities, and field trips).

All electronic communication devices must be kept out of sight and turned off while on Divisional transportation, during school programs/presentations, and in the classroom, except when used with the prior permission of the teacher/school for the purposes directed by the teacher/school. Unauthorized use of these devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment.

At the High School, students will be allowed to use communication devices in the hallways and canteen areas on the High School campus. All communication devices must be turned off when the students are in class, in the library, and in the gym. Classroom use will be allowed only with teacher permission.

At K-8 schools, student use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices is not permitted in the school and on school property unless directed by the teacher/school. This applies to recesses, locker breaks, class changes and lunch hour. It is expected that communication during the school day will occur through the school office or as directed by school policy.

The use of electronic communication devices to invade personal privacy or contribute to behaviour that is injurious to another will be addressed through the Divisional Code of Conduct. Students who use electronic communication devices to access, upload, download, or distribute material that the school has determined objectionable will be subject to the provisions of the Divisional Code of Conduct.

Students who use an electronic communication device to send or receive personal messages, data or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating will be subject to consequences as determined by the school.

School officials, including classroom teachers, may confiscate electronic communications devices from students if they are used for unauthorized purposes or at unauthorized times. Repeated unauthorized use may lead to further action as determined by the school.



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The Portage la Prairie School Division will assume no responsibility in any circumstance for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of any electronic communication device or for any communication bill associated with the unauthorized use of such devices. Students and families are responsible for locating such lost or stolen items.