

September 1, 2024

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**St. Charles Catholic
Elementary School**

Dear St. Charles Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to inform you about some important changes regarding the use of personal mobile devices and social media in our school. These updates are in alignment with Alberta Education's announcement to [limit distractions in classrooms](#) across the province.

A personal mobile device is any device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet and includes:

- Cellphones
- Tablets
- Laptop
- Smartwatches

General Restrictions

- **No Use of Personal Mobile Devices During Instructional Time**

Students will not be allowed to use personal mobile devices during instructional time unless directed by school staff for learning purposes. If a student is found to be using a personal mobile device in class without their teacher's permission, we will work with the student to ensure they understand the rules moving forward.

- **Devices Must Be Silent or Powered Off and Stored Away**

If students bring personal mobile devices to school, they must be kept silent or turned off and stored in their backpack, or another secure location. Students who choose to bring personal mobile devices to school do so at their own risk. The security and storage of these devices is the sole responsibility of the student.

- **No Access to Social Media**

Students will not be able to access social media on school networks or school devices. Known social media sites will continue to be blocked from Division networks.



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Exceptions

Students who require personal mobile devices for health reasons or specialized learning needs can coordinate with school administration to receive appropriate accommodations. Exceptions will be made to ensure that these students have the necessary tools to support their well-being and educational requirements.

As we get ready for the first day of classes, I encourage you to discuss these changes with your child and help them understand the importance of minimizing distractions during school hours. **Please contact the school office if you need to reach your child during school hours.**

We understand this may be an adjustment, and we appreciate your understanding as we work together to make this a successful school year for everyone. More information can be found on our website, ecsd.net/devices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school.

Laurie Bonanni-McGee

Principal

