

Sands Cell Phone Use Policy

Cell phones are a part of modern life and they can have both positive and negative impacts on student learning. A major challenge that schools face is student use of cell phones during instructional time for non-educational purposes.

At Sands, we have concerns around cell phone use:

- *Cell phones have become a distraction to learning*
- *An increase in student reliance on being connected to social media*
- *An increase in gaming and video watching during class time*
- *Reduced interpersonal relations and face to face conversations*

There are tremendous opportunities when cell phones are used as educational tools by students and teachers. However, when they are used as entertainment devices during class time there is a negative impact on student learning and student engagement.

After much discussion with staff, Sands is reaffirming the school cell phone policy as outlined in our agenda book and on our website under Student Resources > Student Responsibilities. Generally, cell phones will not be permitted during instructional time, except when teachers have given students instructions to use their cell phones for a specific purpose. To help reduce the temptation for students to use their phones they SHOULD be turning their phones to silent and placing them in either their backpack or a location designated by the teacher in the classroom.

Students can use their cell phones before and after school, during the breaks and at lunch.

If students cannot abide by this cell phone policy, teachers and administrators may use a variety of consequences such as warnings, confiscations, referral to the office, detentions, etc. Parents, while we do understand that sometimes you need to contact your child please restrict this to before or after school and at lunch. In the case of an emergency please contact the school office 604 594-3474.

Here are some resources that parents might find interesting concerning cell phone use and the impact on adolescents.

Study on effects of Cell phone use - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/groundbreaking-study-examines-effects-of-screen-time-on-kids-60-minutes/>

Simon Sinek on Millennials, cell phones and social media - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hER0Qp6QJNU>

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions please contact me.



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