



Personal Digital Devices Policy at Brocklehurst Secondary School

Brock has implemented new restrictions on personal digital devices* in alignment with provincial and district recommendations. These restrictions apply to the use of personal devices during class time – what we refer to as Bell-to-Bell.

Research has clearly shown how social media platforms impede student learning, put youth at risk and have negative effects on mental health. Further, we know that personal digital devices and social media applications have a negative impact on Brock's core values - Curiosity - Compassion - Courage.

These restrictions are intended to promote online safety and focused learning environments for our students.

Bell-to-Bell Expectations

- During class time (from bell-to-bell), personal digital devices will remain in lockers, backpacks/purses, or holders provided by classroom teachers. Phones will be off or 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, headphones or listening devices connected to personal digital devices will not be permitted.**

* Personal Digital Devices means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet or other smart devices.

**Essential Supports - students who are exceptions to these expectations will be identified by our LART, Counselors or Administration

In case of emergencies, appointments or parents picking students up from school, communication will be handled through the office.

All adults at Brock Secondary are tasked with maintaining our learning environment and keeping students safe. It is expected that students will adhere to these guidelines and any reasonable requests regarding cell phones, or other digital devices (ie. Please put your phone in the phone holder). Failure to comply with adult requests will be dealt with in a tiered system of progressive discipline.

- Progressive interventions by classroom teachers may include individual conversations with students, and communication with parents/guardians via email or phone.
- Continued disruptions to the learning environment may result in phones, or other digital devices, being held in the office.
- Chronic offenders, and students who demonstrate defiance may be referred to administration for follow-up. This may involve a parent/admin conversation to establish individual student plans for success.

At Brocklehurst Secondary, through our school values of Curiosity, Compassion and Courage, we strive to build meaningful connections and become our best selves.

Our Bell-to-Bell restrictions on personal devices will promote **Curiosity** by:

- enabling students to explore new thoughts and connect their learning to themselves and the world around them.
- increasing opportunities to foster face-to-face interactions and build interpersonal communication skills.

Our Bell-to-Bell restrictions on personal devices will promote **Compassion** by:

- promoting a caring, accepting and kind to school community.
- Enabling students and staff to build health relationships that support learning and contribute to a safe community.

Our Bell-to-Bell restrictions on personal devices will promote **Courage** by:

- removing distractions to empower students with the mindset that learning requires persistence, not perfection.
- creating an environment where students embrace challenge, navigate fears and find solutions.

Would you like to learn more about cell phone addiction and its impact on student learning and wellness? Click the following links below.

[Unplug \(from Technology\) and Connect: Keeping Families Strong in a Wired World : Ontario : eMentalHealth.ca](#)

[Screenagers Movie | Resources](#)