

28 August 2024

Crestwood STEM School Personal Mobile Device, Social Media and WiFi Guidelines

***We want our students to be healthy, happy, and engaged learners.
We hope our students pursue growth and aim to be their best selves.***

Personal Mobile Devices are defined as any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, smartwatch or gaming device.

Learning Devices are Chromebooks, laptops and tablets that are used for educational purposes. Teachers will indicate if there are specific learning situations that support cellphone, smartphone, smart watch and headphone use.

Social Media is defined as internet-based and mobile technologies providing communications through interactive or social dialogue. Examples include but are not limited to: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc. All social media sites will be blocked on the BYOD WiFi network and on school learning devices.

Student/Guest access to WiFi | Schools will not allow students or guests to have open access to WiFi. MHPSD Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) WiFi access will only be provided for registered learning devices (such as laptops, Chromebooks and tablets). Cellphones, smart phones and smart watches will not be allowed to access to the BYOD WiFi network, except for medical or specialized learning needs. Parents are advised to review these changes with their children to avoid data charges on their cell phones.

General Guidelines

- Students are strongly encouraged to keep their cellphones and smartphones at home. If students choose to bring their mobile devices to school, our staff are not responsible for lost, theft or damage.
- Cellphones, smartphones and headphones/ear buds will not be permitted during instruction; they will be kept on silent and out of sight (stored in school approved locations, such as a backpack, cubby, or a space provided by your teacher).*
- Teachers will indicate if there are specific learning situations that support cellphone, smartphone, smart watch and headphone use.
- Personal mobile devices are kept on silent and out of sight in washrooms or changerooms
- SmartWatch notifications are turned off during instruction.
- Learning devices will be permitted for educational purposes at the teacher's discretion. Learning devices can be registered to the BYOD WiFi network.
- Cellphones, smart phones and smart watches will not be allowed to access to the BYOD WiFi network, except for medical or specialized learning needs.

FAQs	Answer
How can I reach my child if I need to contact them?	Parents can contact their child by calling the school office. A landline will also be available in the office for students to call out.
What will happen if my child is struggling with the guidelines?	Teachers will reach out to parents to work together to help your child understand the new guidelines. Teachers will connect with Administrators for support if your child continues to struggle.
Why are you implementing these guidelines?	Alberta Education has recently introduced a Ministerial Order – Standards for the use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools. We believe (and the research supports) that cellphone and social media is having a negative impact on student learning, engagement, mental health, and social and emotional development.

We believe in implementing these guidelines with care and compassion. We want to support students in understanding how cell phones impact their learning and wellbeing. We also want to teach our students how to use cell phones appropriately and in a healthy way. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Richelle Thomas
Principal
Crestwood STEM School