

Comon Cell Phone Practices

Purpose

Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre (LRATC) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment that supports student achievement, well-being, and responsible citizenship. In accordance with Louis Riel School Division Policy GBEF/JICJ - Cell Phone Use in Schools, LRATC promotes the appropriate and responsible use of personal electronic devices while minimizing distractions to learning and ensuring student safety. These practices align with the Ministerial Directive of August 15, 2024 regarding cell phone use in schools and with Policy JK - Supporting Student Behaviour.

Student Cell Phone Use

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices may support learning when used purposefully and under staff direction. To maintain productive learning environments:

- Students are not permitted to use cell phones during classroom or laboratory instruction unless specifically authorized by the teacher for educational purposes.
- Cell phones may be used during designated break periods when permitted by staff.
- Students must follow all staff directions regarding the use, storage, and care of personal electronic devices.
- Any authorized use of a cell phone must directly support learning, communication related to school programming, accessibility needs, or other purposes approved by staff.

Storage of Cell Phones

When cell phone use is not authorized, students may store their devices:

- In a designated classroom storage location identified by the instructor;
- In a school locker; or
- In a backpack or personal bag.

Students are responsible for the security of their personal devices. LRATC assumes no responsibility for devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged while on school property.

Privacy, Safety, and Respect

To protect the privacy, dignity, and safety of all members of the school community:

- Consent is always required before taking photographs or making audio or video recordings of any person.
- The use of cell phones and personal electronic devices is prohibited in all washrooms and changerooms at all times.
- Students must comply with the Louis Riel School Division Internet and Systems Acceptable Use Agreement when using personal or school-owned technology.
- The use of cell phones and personal electronic devices by students is prohibited during lockdown situations unless otherwise directed by school staff or emergency personnel.

Emergency Communication

The school office is the primary and preferred means of communication between students, parents/guardians, and the school during emergencies or urgent situations. Parents/guardians are asked to contact the school office rather than contacting students directly during instructional time or emergency situations.

Expectations for Staff and Adults

Staff and other adults in the school are expected to model appropriate and responsible cell phone use. Personal cell phones should not be used during instructional time, supervision duties, meetings, or direct interactions with students except for educational, safety-related, or work-related purposes. Staff use of cell phones should support the professional learning environment and reinforce the expectations established for students.

Response to Non-Compliance

When unauthorized or inappropriate cell phone use occurs, staff will respond in a progressive and supportive manner.

Responses may include:

1. Reviewing expectations with the student.
2. Redirecting the student to comply with classroom expectations.
3. Implementing additional classroom supports or interventions.
4. Consulting with administration when concerns persist.
5. Meeting with the student and, where appropriate, parents/guardians to determine next steps.
6. Communicating agreed-upon supports and expectations to the student, family, teacher, and relevant support staff.

The goal of any intervention is to support students in developing responsible technology-use habits that contribute positively to learning and well-being.

Communication of School Practices

These Common Cell Phone Practices will be communicated annually to students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members through:

- School registration materials;
- Student and family information packages;
- Staff meetings;
- School communications; and
- The LRATC website.

Annual Review

In accordance with Louis Riel School Division requirements, these Common Cell Phone Practices will be reviewed annually. Students, staff, parents/guardians, and members of the school community will have opportunities to provide input into future revisions.

Resolution of Concerns

Questions or concerns regarding the interpretation or implementation of these Common Cell Phone Practices should first be discussed with the appropriate school staff member or administrator. If concerns remain unresolved, individuals may access the Louis Riel School Division Resolution of Concerns process in accordance with divisional procedures