

# FAQs about cellphone use in schools.



The guidelines for cellphone use in schools is changing for the 2024-2025 school year in BC.

What is cellphone use going to look like at  
Columneetza?

Why are things changing?

The province of BC has introduced new guidelines for phone use in schools to support student learning during instructional time. Our guidelines are in line with district procedures and the expectations at other highschools in our district.



Can a student have a phone or personal device at school?

Phone use is controlled in some spaces such as the classroom and not allowed in some spaces at all like washrooms, changerooms, industrial education shops and the gym.

How do I reach my student in event of emergency or unplanned events like early pick up?

Please call the office and we will get a message to your student. Our office hours are 8- 4 and we can be reached at 250-392-4158. There is a landline phone in the office for student use.



Can I have my phone in the classroom?

Students will be required to store their phones in a locked cell phone caddy in the classroom or in their backpack. Phones can also be left in lockers. Phones cannot be stored on a student's person.

What if there is a fire drill or other emergency procedure?

Phone containers will be removed from the classroom by exiting staff during an emergency evacuation and phones will be returned to students at their regular muster points with their teachers.



Are other digital devices included in these new guidelines?

Yes, bluetooth earbuds/airpods, tablets, and other digital devices used for non instructional purposes are included in the new guidelines and should not be on a student's person during instructional time.

My student uses a personal digital device for assistive technology (speech to text) or a medical condition (ex. diabetes).

For learning support concerns, please discuss with your student's case manager. For medical concerns, please reach out to administration. Students utilizing devices for medical monitoring can continue to do so.



Are there exceptions or exemptions possible?  
For example, my student experiences anxiety  
and uses music to help focus.

There are no exemptions during instructional time. A teacher may direct use of personal devices for a period of time for learning but not casual use. We would like to support your student's learning. Please reach out and we can discuss alternatives for your learner's individual needs.

How will student's learn about the  
changes?

We will review expectations at grade level assemblies in the first week of school. Classroom teachers will also review expectations. This is a new change, so there will be lots of review with students.

What happens if a student chooses not to follow the guidelines

Students should be aware that like other school rules, violations will be guided by the Code of Conduct and progressive discipline models in place and can result in outcomes such as: loss of privilege of having a phone at school and suspension.

What happens if a phone is damaged while in classroom container?

Students choose to bring personal devices to school at their own risk. Teachers and other school staff are not responsible for loss or damage of devices. We strongly encourage families to consider that their student leave their device at home.



Where can I find more information?

Please check out Lake City Secondary's Code of Conduct or BC Ministry of Education for more on the digital devices guidelines in schools.