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Cell Phone and Digital Expectations

As you are likely aware, cell phones in schools (and outside of schools) has become a growing issue for youth and adults alike. Studies reveal that the average age that a child gets a smart phone is 10.3 years old. Inevitably and understandably, these devices find their way to school. Studies consistently reveal that cell phones in schools can have a negative impact on academic performance, concentration as well as social/emotional wellbeing and self-regulation.

As a school staff we have been engaged in data collection and conversations around a Cell Phone and Digital Expectation that best supports: STUDENT LEARNING, SOCIAL EMOTIONAL REGULATION, and COMMUNITY BUILDING.

To this end, we have created the following school wide expectations as it pertains to mobile and digital devices.

Students may use personal mobile devices during instructional time for *educational purposes* as directed by the teacher, for health or medical purposes or as assistive technology for the purpose of inclusive education as informed by the Inclusive Education Teacher. At all other times, personal cell phones shall remain “off and away” for the duration of the school day.

This policy applies to ear buds/headphones as well.

École Royal Bay Secondary School recognizes the importance of communication, collaboration, and digital citizenship. To keep the focus on learning and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the school will expect the following:

- Unless requested by a teacher, as per above, cell phones and other mobile devices shall be TURNED OFF and stored in your locker or on your person (out of sight) from 8:55 am until the final bell at the end of the day.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used in the school, **unless directed by a teacher and can only be used for the purposes of learning.**
- Cell phones and all mobile devices can be turned back on at the end of the school day and used to communicate directly with parents/friends who are assisting in transportation
- If a student needs to make an emergency call during the day, they are to come to the office as a phone is provided for such a purpose.
- Should a parent need to contact their child urgently, please call the office and we will facilitate this communication.