



September 8, 2026

MBSS Student Cell Phone and Digital Device Policy

Rationale

This protocol has been created in collaboration with Fernie Secondary, Elkford Secondary and Sparwood Secondary School and is intended to:

- Reduce the impact that inappropriate phone usage has on class learning, the development of resilience as well as administration and teaching time; and
- Support students to manage their relationship with technology and develop long term healthy lifestyle habits; including developing the capacity to engage in developmentally appropriate and healthy activities during instructional “down time” that do not involve technology.

Scope

In this protocol the terms “cell phones” and “personal digital device” is meant to encompass any personal cellular communication devices that may access the internet, whether in physical phone or tablet form or not. Other current examples include ear-based and wrist-based cellular devices. For the purposes of this protocol, instructional time is from the start to the end of class time, regardless of what the class activities may include.

Student Responsibilities

All Students (Grade 10 to Grade 12)

- At all times, students must follow [SD No 5 Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Cell Phones and Digital Devices](#)
- Students have access to a school phone should they need to contact their parents/caregivers. This can be done at the office or with the permission of the teacher in the student's classroom.
- If cell phones are brought to the classroom they will be stored in a central location. Students who bring a cell phone to school must switch it off or put on airplane mode during instructional time which includes assemblies and other school wide activities like fire drills.
- Students may access their cell phones outside of instructional time.
- The device cannot be accessed for recreational use (music, social media, etc.) during instructional time.
- Photos, videos or audio recordings are to be taken only with permission of all parties and with the agreement of the supervising teacher.

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities

Communication

- Parents/caregiver can support the policy by sending messages to cell phones outside of instructional times and not expecting a response from their child during instructional times.
- In the event of an emergency, parents/caregivers can contact the office.
- The school will communicate via established protocols (School Messenger) to Parents/caregiver in the event of an emergency.
- Parents may be required to pick up their child's cell phone if needed

Individual Medical Exemptions

Individual students with **documented and verified needs** will work with the relevant School Based Team to develop and enact an appropriate exemption plan. Final approval of the plan is given by the principal and will be communicated to the staff working directly with the student.

Security

Mount Baker Secondary School cannot take responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of any electronic device that is brought to school. Storage in lockers is recommended along with not sharing combinations with friends/other students.

Response and Consequence of Misuse

Response to Misuse

- Students who misuse devices according to this protocol will be subject to [SD No 5 Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Cell Phones and Digital Devices](#) and the MBSS Code of Conduct published on our website.
- Refusal by students to follow staff direction will result in a referral to administration.
- Serious or repeated defiance will be treated as willful or persistent disobedience and could lead to referral to the District Safe School coordinator and/or suspension from school.

Progressive Consequences to Misuse

➤ **1st Incident:**

- The cell phone will be stored in the office until the end of the day including breaks. School ends at 3:16 PM each day.

➤ **2nd Incident:**

- The cell phone will be stored in the office during the school day (breaks included) for a specified number of days (2 days minimum)
- The cell phone itself will have a two day suspension in the office. **School days.**

➤ **3rd Incident:**

- A meeting with parents/caregivers and administration in person or by phone to discuss the next steps
- Creation of a behavior plan or behavior contract may be necessary
- 30 Day Suspension for the cell phone in the office. **Calendar days.**