



Riverview High School

Cell Phone Policy 2024-2025

Rationale:

While cell phones can sometimes serve as valuable tools for learning and communication, research indicates that their unrestricted use in schools can have negative consequences for academic performance, student behavior, and mental health. RHS is implementing a cell phone policy that helps students learn to regulate their cell phone use during school hours to help mitigate these negative effects and promote a more positive, focused, and conducive learning environment.

Detox:

The RHS "Cell phone detox phase" refers to a length of time, in which all RHS staff and students will collaboratively and intentionally eliminate all use of their cell phones during instructional time which begins and ends with the bells. This is to increase awareness and help students recognize the negative effects of excessive cell phone use on their well-being, such as decreased productivity, increased stress, and reduced face-to-face interactions. This intentional, temporary break will allow students to reset their habits and priorities while staff work to teach appropriate cell phone use and classroom boundaries.

Policy:

As per policy 311, students are permitted to bring mobile phones, electrical devices and headphones to school but do so at their own risk.

Each classroom has a consistent, designated cell phone holding area, where students are required to place their cell phones as they enter their class and remove their headphones. This procedure is consistent across all classes, creating a standardized approach to managing cell phone use throughout the school.

After the initial detox phase, teachers have discretion over when, how and if cell phones can be used during instructional class time. They may allow students to retrieve their phones for specific activities or use them as educational tools under supervision. Clear guidelines will be established regarding when cell phones are permitted to be used during class and under what circumstances. Cell phones will never be taken to the bathroom and must be placed back in the holding area when leaving the classroom during instructional time.

If a student fails to meet the expectations of the policy, tiered consequences will result:

1. The student will be required to give the teacher their cell phone for the remainder of the class; the teacher will remind the student of the policy and expected behaviors and parental contact will be made.
2. If a student fails to meet this expectation for a second time, they will be referred to the office. As a result of this referral, students will receive reflection hall or be placed in the Temporary Student Placement Centre, and parental contact will be made.
3. If there is an ongoing concern, a parent meeting will be held, and the student may not be permitted to bring their cell phone back to school for a period determined by the classroom teacher and administration in partnership with the family.

*Please note that as per section 6.7.4 of Policy 311, in cases where the student uses their personal device for accessibility, critical communication purposes (such as translations), or for medical reasons, school personnel will adjust to support these accommodations.