



## Norkam Secondary School Cell Phone Policy

### DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT: MINISTERIAL MANDATE M89

By July 1, 2024, all school districts in BC are to have revised their District Student Codes of Conduct based on Ministerial Order M89. SD73's Cell Phone Committee reviewed Ministerial Order M89 and resulted in the following changes to AP 350: Student Code of Conduct:

Comply with **restrictions** on personal digital device use at school to promote online safety and focused learning environments by demonstrating:

- use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy development;
- use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;
- use personal digital devices for accessibility and accommodation needs, including medical and health needs;
- use personal digital devices to support equitable access to learning outcomes.

To this end, the Norkam Secondary School community were surveyed and the results of that survey supported a school wide reconfiguration of how students use personal digital devices in school.

Starting in September, in all classes, use of personal digital devices (cell phones) will not be permitted. It will be expected that from beginning to end of class, all cell phones will be put away. Students will need to keep their devices in their backpacks, their lockers or in the storage option provided by their teacher in the classroom. Further to this, students may not access their cell phones to go to the washroom, or to have a break in the hallways during class time.

Students or staff who have accommodation needs stated in IEPs, or medical and health needs can have access to their devices. Communication to the school by case manager, counselor, teacher or administration is required to ensure proper use of this access.

Student personal devices will be accessible to students outside of class time during breaks, lunch and before or after school.

Parents who need to communicate with their students during class time can contact the office.

This policy will be in effect beginning September 3, 2024. We will work as a staff and with the Parent Advisory Council to revisit our school and classroom expectations for personal digital device use now that we have a new District Student Code of Conduct.