

Luseland School Cell Phone Policy

Policy

Students will be required to turn off their cell phones and put them away and out of sight before they enter the school. The use of cell phones will be permitted during noon break from 11:47 until 12:25. At the 12:25 bell students are again required to turn off their cell phones and put them away and out of sight. They should not use them again until they leave the school when school is dismissed. If students return to school after dismissal for extra curricular activities they can use their cell phones.

A cell phone being seen is if a teacher is able to see a student's cell phone, whether the cell phone is turned on or not. A cell phone being heard or detected is if a cell phone rings or vibrates causing a distraction and/or requires a student to turn off their cell phone. It is a student's responsibility to turn off their cell phone before they enter the school and at the end of the noon break if the phone was used during noon break.

If a cell phone is used for any purposes that violates the technology, computer, and internet policy, or used for the purposes of cyber-bullying the student automatically starts at the consequences for the third offence.

If a cell phone is seen, heard, or detected:

1st offence – the phone is taken to the office until the end of the day.

2nd offence – phone is taken away and parents will be required to pick it up from the office.

3rd offence – phone is taken away and parents will be required to pick it up from the office. Student will not be able to use cell phones (this includes their or another student's) at school for one month. Student will have an office referral and be placed on the discipline cycle. If a student is caught with a cell phone during this month they move to the consequences of the 5th offence and will not be able to use their cell phone for the rest of the year.

4th offence – phone is taken away and parents will be required to pick it up from the office. Student will not be able to use cell phone phones (this includes their or another student's) at school for the rest of the year. Student will have an office referral, will move up a step on the discipline cycle, parents will be contacted and a meeting between the parents and administration will be conducted.

5th offence – phone is taken away and parents will be required to pick it up from the office. Student will enter the fourth step of the discipline cycle.

Further offences will continue to move up steps of the discipline cycle.

Implementation of Rules

This cell phone policy will be put into place starting on: February 3, 2009. Before a student is allowed to use their cell phone at school the student and their parents must complete the cell phone policy permission form and return to school. This form indicates that the student and their parents/guardians have read the new cell phone policy, understood the rules, and agree to follow the rules and accept the consequences if they break the rules. Furthermore, all students in grades 7-12 will attend and participate in a session on cyber bullying and digital citizenship before the end of February. This session will be conducted during class time by Luseland staff.

This policy will be in place for 20 school days, until March 6th. At the end of this period the incidents of cell phones being confiscated from students will be reviewed. If there has been no increase, or a decrease, in the number of cell phones confiscated from students the new policy will remain and become the permanent policy for cell phones. If there is a small to moderate increase in cell phones being confiscated staff will review the circumstances and time of these confiscations to determine if the policy will be put into place, another trial period tried, or the old policy reinstated. If there is a large increase in the number of cell phones being confiscated the original cell phone policy will return.

During this trial period to help educate staff on the types of activities students are using their cell phones for staff may ask to see what students are doing with their phone. If asked by a teacher, a student will show the screen of their cell phone to the teacher. This does not give the teacher permission to search the contents of the phone, but to have a quick glance to see what they are doing and perhaps catch a few words of the type of text messages they are sending and to whom. If a student refuses the consequence is the same as using their cell phone during class time. If the student is sending a private message to a parent/guardian they may cover the message and show the name of who they are sending the message to. This is to allay fears that students are using cell phones for cyber bullying, to send inappropriate messages, or to access material online that they cannot access through the school computers. As part of their session on digital citizenship it will be discussed with students that they should never send a text message during school that they would not say to another person in front of a teacher. If a cell phone has internet capabilities the same policy that applies to the internet when using school computers will apply to the use of the internet with a cell phone.

This cell phone policy will be reviewed at regular intervals. Based on the number of incidents involving cell phone use the policy will be reviewed to determine if privileges should remain the same, be expanded, or scaled back based on the behaviour of student cell phone use.

The staff at Luseland School has the right at anytime to return the cell phone policy to the original, no cell phone, policy based on the behaviour of student cell phone use.