

Big White School Cell Phone and Technology Policy

We are moving in line with other schools in our district. It is now common for students to carry cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices to school. We recognize that for some families a phone is important for communication between students and parents/caregivers before and after school. However, we are finding that cell phones can be a source of disruption in the classroom, a safety concern on the playground and a cause for social difficulties, especially amongst older children. While students can carry cell phones to school, we ask that parents support our efforts for appropriate use by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Do not allow your child to carry a cell phone to school unless it is necessary for before and after school student/parent communication.
- Cell phones at school must be turned off and kept in zipped backpacks or lockers. Students may not use cell phones in classrooms, hallways or on the playground during the school day. Cell phones can only be used outside of our building outside of school hours, unless given permission by your child's classroom teacher. For example, at times, intermediate teachers will allow students to use the calculator on phones if necessary.
- The school office phone is available during the day if it is necessary for parents to call in or students to call out. (As office phone now rings in classrooms)
- Cell phones are often equipped with cameras. Students may not take pictures at school. In order to satisfy legal requirements around the protection of privacy, photography at school is allowed only for school purposes and with the permission of a staff member. Permitted photos can only be used with parental consent.
- The school takes no responsibility for loss or damage to cell phones, iPods and any other electronic device. Parents send cell phones to school at their own risk.
- In order to encourage positive social interaction, iPods and other music players should not be used on the playground during recess and lunch.
- Laptop use is for school related assignments. Teacher discretion for any other laptop use during the school day.
- If there is misuse of any kind students will be asked to hand in technology item and item will be given back at the end of the day. If misuse continues students will be asked to keep technology item at home.