

École Secondaire Régionale Alberni District Secondary School

*At ADSS we set personal, high-quality standards to become
responsible, independent, life-long learners*



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin this new school year, we remain committed to providing students with the best possible learning environment. One area we will be focusing on more strictly this year is **cell phone use during instructional time**. If you recall, last fall the BC Government implemented new codes of conduct to restrict students' use of personal digital devices in the school during instructional time. By removing the distractions and safety risks that arise from the use of personal digital devices, the hope is that students can focus on their education. In theory, this leads to better academic success and helps to support positive mental health and social connections.

Last year, we reminded students to put phones away, but their use/misuse was still widespread. We continued to have issues in bathrooms and under-supervised areas because of students using devices inappropriately during instructional time. Cell phones, while useful in some contexts, are a major source of distraction in the classroom. Too often, instructional time is interrupted by texting, social media, or gaming, which can limit not only a student's own learning but also the focus of those around them.

To address this, our school will be enforcing a **stricter cell phone policy**:

- Cell phones must be **turned off or silenced** during class time.
- Phones must be **stored in the classroom storage option provided by the teacher** or kept securely in the student's locker.
- Teachers may permit the use of phones only when they directly support the lesson.
- If a student is using their phone during instructional time — including in hallways or bathrooms — they can expect a conversation with school staff and the phone may be taken away for the duration of the class. If this continues to be a problem, the phone will be taken away for the remainder of the day, and further action may follow, as needed.

We ask for your full support in reinforcing this expectation with your child. By minimizing distractions, we can ensure that students remain engaged, respectful, and focused on learning. Our own students have expressed apprehension about using our bathrooms because they are often full of students who have arranged to be there with their cell phones.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a classroom environment where every student has the best opportunity to succeed. If you have any questions about the policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,


Craig McAulay

ADSS Principal