

VHS Personal Communications Device Policy (Revised August 26, 2024)

In accordance with Horizon School Division's Personal Mobile Devices Policy and Ministerial Order (#014/2024), Vauxhall High School has the right and authority to temporarily confiscate, restrict and/or prohibit cell phone usage while individuals are on school property and/or attendance at school-sponsored activities.

This includes all personal mobile devices that can be used to communicate with or access the internet or cellular network, such as a cellphone, tablet, computer, gaming device, wireless headphones, or smartwatch.

Horizon School Division will restrict student access to all social media platforms on school networks and school devices.

Students may:

- store their cell phones and electronic devices in their lockers, in their backpack or in a teacher-designated storage area, as long as they are not seen or heard (must be on silent or off) during instructional time.
- use their cell phones and electronic devices before and after school, during scheduled breaks, spares and lunch.
- for educational purposes, including digital literacy, use their cell phones and electronic devices as determined by the principal;
- use their cell phones and electronic devices to support, monitor, or regulate an identified health and/or medical condition as per a student's school medical plan as determined by the principal;
- in the event of an emergency, the principal or designate will communicate acceptable use of personal mobile devices

Students are NOT permitted to:

- use their cell phones or electronic devices during instructional time.
- use cell phones or electronic devices in bathrooms and changing rooms.
- share and record videos and/or photos of individuals in other parts of the school without explicit consent

Consequences for breach/violations of Vauxhall High School's Personal Communications Device Policy of use during instructional time will be:

- First Occurrence: having phone outside of pre designated areas, or not placing the phone on silent during instructional time, will result in confiscation for the remainder of the day. The device will be kept secure in the office. The device can be picked up by the student at the end of the day.

- Second Occurrence: will result in confiscation for the remainder of the day and the device will be kept secure in the office. Parents/Guardians will be notified. The device can be picked up by the student at the end of the day.

- Third Occurrence: will result in confiscation for the remainder of the day and the device will be kept secure in the office. Parents/Guardians will be required to pick up the device from the office.

- Fourth Occurrence: will result in confiscation for the remainder of the day and the device will be kept secure in the office. Parents/Guardians will be required to pick up the device from the office. The student will be banned from bringing personal communication devices to school for time allotment determined by administration. Continual violations will result in possible permanent ban and/or school suspension.

In regards to other violations of the policy outside of use during instructional time:

Any use of a technological device that disrupts the educational environment or is detrimental to the safety, welfare, or health of students and staff may result in disciplinary consequences such as, but not limited to, their phone being confiscated for the remainder of the day, phone privileges being removed, possible suspensions, or recommendation for expulsion. The use of electronic devices is a privilege and not a right and therefore, responsible use during non-instructional time is expected and will be enforced. This also applies during school excursions, camps, and extracurricular activities.