



St. James–Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

J.M.T. Moffatt

Superintendent / Chief Executive Officer

C.M. Melville

Secretary-Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer

#1823790

August 29, 2024

Dear SJASD Parents/Caregivers:

As announced by the [Manitoba Government](#) on August 15, 2024, all schools and school divisions will be introducing guidelines to limit cell phone use during school hours to help reduce distractions and support student learning. We understand that smart technology plays an important part in our daily lives. However, in the classroom, cellphones (including smartwatches) can interfere with a student's ability to focus and learn effectively. As a result, the St. James-Assiniboia School Division will be implementing clear and consistent guidelines for cellphone access across all our schools.

Here's what you need to know:

- **For K-8 Students:** Cell phones are not to be used during school hours while on school property, including breaks and lunch.
- **For Grades 9-12 Students:** Cell phones are not to be used during class time, but can be used during breaks and lunch, or for learning activities when directed by a teacher.
- **For K-12 Students with Specific Educational or Medical Needs:** Cell phone access will continue as outlined in Student Specific Plans.

In the coming days, School Administrators will provide caregivers with specific information regarding the implementation of these new requirements at the school level, including expectations for student cell phone access.

As per Manitoba Government direction, **limits on cell phone use in all schools will take effect on September 1, 2024.** The SJASD Board of Trustees will work to align existing Divisional use of technology policies over the coming months.

It is important to note that the security of personal technology such as cell phones are the sole responsibility of their owner/user. The Division assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss/repair, or replacement of personal technology brought to school.

Schools continue to be equipped to leverage technology for learning purposes using Division-owned devices such as laptops, computer labs, and tablets. Our aim is to continue supporting students as they develop the skills for responsible digital citizenship.

As implementation details are still being worked out, any questions can be directed to your school administration.

Thank you for your support as we work to implement these guidelines in our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Moffatt", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jenness Moffatt
Superintendent/CEO

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