



Bruce Middle School

333 Booth Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3M8

Phone: (204) 888-1990 Fax: (204) 888-1379 www.sjasd.ca/school/bruce

Grades 6- Grade 8:

Welcome back to all new and returning Bruce Middle School students and families! As communicated last week, this letter is intended to bring some clarity to the new cell phone policy and how it will be carried out at our school. Please review the information and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cell phones:

As announced by the Minister of Education, Manitoba students will begin school this year with guidelines for cell phone use to support their learning and minimize distractions. In the classroom, cellphones (including smartwatches) can interfere with a student's ability to focus and learn effectively. As a result, the following limitations for cell phone use will be implemented in our school.

Students cannot use cellphones* during school hours, including lunchtime and other breaks while on school property, starting at morning arrival until end of school departure.

*This includes devices that students may bring that are internet enabled (gaming devices, smart technology such as smart watches, and tablets).

It is recommended that students leave their phones at home.

For K-12 Students with Specific Educational or Medical Needs: Personal technology access will continue as outlined in Student Specific Plans.

Lunch time:

- Students who are permitted to leave the school premises at lunch time, would be required to ensure that they are not engaging on their devices once they return to school property.

Early entry:

- Students who arrive at school early would not use cell phones or internet devices during this time.

If students do bring a cell phone (or other internet enabled devices) to school, they must:

- Be stored in a locker and not accessed during school hours, while on school property.
- Be turned off or placed on silent mode and/ or in airplane mode.

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.

Administration will be supporting students to learn these expectations. At the outset, warnings will be provided to remind students of these expectations. Administration will address any infractions and will ensure communication with parents/ caregivers to work together to support students' understanding of these requirements. If required, cell phones may be confiscated during the school day and kept until arrangements are made with caregivers for pick-up of the cell phone.

To contact students during school hours please call the school office at 204-888-1990. Non-emergent messages will be given to students at the earliest break from class. Students will be permitted to use a phone located in the office to call home if they need to communicate with home during the school day.

We are committed to preparing students for a world where technology plays a significant role. Therefore, we will continue to foster the development of students' digital literacy skills, emphasizing self-regulation and positive, ethical, and responsible online behaviour.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kent, Principal
Bruce Middle School