

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

The Pembina Trails School Division recognizes that the use of electronic information and communication devices continues to grow and expand. These devices include cellular phones, camera cellular phones, pagers and others. Furthermore, the Division recognizes the value of such electronic communication devices to students, families and schools and the role of schools to model their appropriate use.

It is the intent of this policy to respect the safety, security and privacy of each individual and to manage the use of these electronic communication devices to prevent interference with teaching and learning opportunities during the school day. It is also the intent of this policy to promote the concept that electronic devices should only be used in ways that are respectful of people and school climate. Students should have a learning environment in which they can give their full attention to learning activities.

Use by students and staff of electronic communication devices is prohibited in instructional areas during the school day, including examination times. Schools may, at their discretion, designate an area(s) in the school and times of the day where use is permitted. With prior permission of the teacher and/or school administrator, electronic communication devices can be used for educational purposes. At all other times, students must keep these devices out of sight and turned off and at no time must the camera function be used without prior permission.

School officials, including classroom teachers, may confiscate and search electronic communication devices if there is suspicion that school rules or divisional policies are being violated. Searches of electronic devices will be limited (where reasonable) to those parts of the device that contain information related to the violation of school rules or policies. Schools will develop a communication protocol to inform students and parents/guardians of the diminished expectation of privacy when electronic devices are brought to school. Repeated unauthorized use may lead to further action as determined by the school.

The Pembina Trails School Division will assume no responsibility in any circumstance for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of any electronic communication device or for any communication costs associated with the unauthorized use of such devices. Students and families are responsible for locating such lost or stolen items.

Schools will develop their own practices in accordance with this divisional policy. As technology and its use rapidly change, this policy will need to be regularly examined to ensure appropriateness.

*Accomplish Anything*

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