

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY/PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES (PMDs)

The Pembina Trails School Division recognizes that the use of personal mobile devices continues to grow and expand. Furthermore, the Division recognizes the value of personal mobile 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 personal mobile devices to prevent interference with teaching and maximize learning opportunities during the school day. It is also the intent of this policy to promote the concept that personal mobile 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.

**Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs):** Personal Mobile Devices may include, but are not limited to, any piece of lightweight electronically powered equipment. These devices are typically consumer electronic devices capable of communications, data processing and/or utility. Examples range from hand-held lightweight electronic devices such as tablets, e-readers, and smart phones to small devices such as MP3 players, smart watches, and electronic toys.

### **Student PMD Use:**

In the Pembina Trails School Division, we aim to cultivate an optimal learning environment that minimizes distractions and promotes focused engagement in all school activities. By restricting the use of PMDs during school hours, we seek (Policy IJNDC – Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Students) to foster a culture of connection, attentiveness, active participation, and respectful interaction among students and teachers. This aligns with our commitment to prioritizing educational excellence and ensuring the well-being of our students.

### **Early/Middle Years (Grades K-8)**

Students are not permitted to use a Personal Mobile Device (PMD) while on school premises during the school day. These grades are considered PMD-free learning environments. If a student requires the use of a PMD for notification to administer medication or has additional health-related concerns, accommodation shall be provided by school administration.

### **Senior Years (Grades 9-12)**

Students in grades 9 to 12 are not permitted to use PMDs during class time. Personal mobile devices can be used for educational purposes with the teacher's prior permission. If a student requires the use of a PMD for notification to administer medication or has additional health-related concerns, accommodation shall be provided by school administration.

*Accomplish Anything*

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With prior permission from the teacher and/or school administrator, personal mobile devices can be accessed 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 personal mobile devices if there is suspicion that school rules or divisional policies are being violated. Searches of personal mobile 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.

**Guidelines for Supporting Student Behaviour with PMDs**

The Pembina Trails Standard of Behaviour guides our work in this area. School administrators have authority to manage the process relevant to their context. Responses to inappropriate use may include:

- Teachers managing consequences within the classroom setting
- Teachers communicating with parents
- Device may be sent to office
- Parent/guardian/caregiver may be required to come and pick up the device
- Repeat offences may result in a device ban

The Pembina Trails School Division will assume no responsibility in any circumstance for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of any personal mobile 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.

- This policy has been developed in accordance with the August 2024 policy directive from Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

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