



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



August 28, 2024

Dear Handsworth families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we must address some important changes regarding using personal digital devices (PDD). A PDD is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a cell phone, tablet or smart watch.

For the safety and well-being of students and to create a more focused learning environment, the Ministry of Education requires all schools in the province to restrict student use of cell phones and other personal digital devices while at school.

As previously communicated by the Superintendent of Schools, the North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is focused on “devices off, learning on.” In preparation for the 2024/2025 school year, I would like to share with families changes made to the NVSD Code of Conduct and Handsworth’s Code of Conduct related to PDDs.

The following guidelines will be in place for September and part of our updated Code of Conduct:

All students in the school community are expected to leave personal digital devices at home, in their bag/backpack, and/or in their locker during instructional time. Allowances may be made by the staff for instructional purposes, digital literacy, appropriate use based on age and developmental stage, accommodations within a student’s Individualized Education Plan, accessibility, medical and health needs, and/or equitable support for learning outcomes.

Across all NVSD secondary schools, access to and use of personal digital devices will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher’s discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning. As referred to in the above guidelines, students with specific educational or medical needs outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Learning Support Plan (LSP) will continue to use PDD to support their educational or medical needs. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s case manager.

If you need to contact your child during instructional time, please call the main office at 604-903-3600 and staff will ensure that any emergent message is delivered to your child.

Handsworth staff is committed to enabling focused instructional time, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to create the best possible educational environment for all students. We look to parents, families and community members to also model, support and educate students on what it means to be a responsible digital citizen. Please find listed below some resources that may be helpful for continued conversations about the safe and responsible use of technology:

- [Digital media: Promoting healthy screen use in school-aged children and adolescents | Canadian Paediatric Society \(cps.ca\)](#)
- [Online safety - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- [Welcome to MediaSmarts | MediaSmarts](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cary Hungle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "H".

Cary Hungle
Principal



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