
WEST BEDFORD



ELEMENTARY

50 Broad Street
Bedford, NS B4A 0T4
902-405-0337, wbs@hrce.ca

Principal: Susan Casey

Vice Principals: Courtney Smith
: Phillip MacEachern

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Dear West Bedford School PP-6 Families,

As you are aware, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has recently announced a [Provincial Directive on Cell Phones in Schools](#). This directive recognizes the importance of maintaining a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions so that students can focus, feel safe, and be successful in school.

We welcome this announcement as we know from experience that cell phones and other related devices are often a source of distraction. They are also known to contribute to feelings of anxiety, and can be used to bully, or negatively impact students' overall feelings of well-being.

What does this mean for students at WBS this year?

- Students may still carry a cell phone to and from school if necessary.
- During school hours 8:05-2:35 pm and while on school property, cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight.
- At no time are cell phones permitted in washrooms and change rooms.
- Parents and Guardians may call the main office line 902-405-0337 ext. 0 to pass along important messages.
- Please do not try send your child to school with an Apple Watch with wifi, or other device so that texts and calls can still be sent and received.
- Exceptions may be made for students with specific medical needs when determined in consultation with the Student Planning Team.

What happens if a student does not follow these expectations?

1	The first time a student is found using their cell phone when not permitted, they will be reminded and asked to turn it off and put it away.
2	The second time, they will be referred to the office and the cell phone will be left in the office for the day. Their parent or guardian will be notified. This may be considered Insubordination as per Provincial Code of Conduct Policy.
3	The third time, they will be referred to the office and the cell phone will be held until a parent or guardian meets with a VP to retrieve the phone. This will be considered insubordination as per the Provincial Code of Conduct Policy.

If the school has exceeded the responses above, school administration will continue to follow the code of conduct and work with families to avoid future concerns.

Cell phones add considerable convenience to our day-to-day lives. However, we have seen that pervasive use can lead to distractions and concerning mental health outcomes. When appropriate, our school will continue to educate and model appropriate, responsible use. Our staff will also model these expectations by only using personal cell phones when necessary for work purposes.

We are looking forward to partnering with parents and guardians to successfully implement this change in expectations because we believe strongly that it is in everyone's best interest.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully yours,

Susan Casey, Principal