

MDHS Electronic Devices & Computers Policy

(Information Technology Acceptable Use)

At the start of each school year, students and their parents/guardians sign that they have read, understand and will support the rules concerning the use of school, Board, and personal technology outlined in YRDSB's Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement. All use of the Internet at school and the school's computer network must be consistent with the educational purposes of MDHS.

Each user is responsible for the content of messages sent from his/her school account or personal technology.

Theft/Loss/Damage:

The school is not responsible for personal items brought onto school property. Electronic items are expensive and subject to theft.

**MDHS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN OR DAMAGED PROPERTY.
DO NOT LEAVE ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY UNATTENDED.**

Cell phones and other Personal Communication Devices:

These must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional time, except with the clear permission of the classroom teacher. Please see "Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices - MDHS Personal Electronic Device Policy."

MDHS Cameras and Video Equipment:

These are permitted for school use only.

**Smart phones/cameras are not permitted in washroom or
change room areas of the school.**

Students must show respect to the sensitivities of others when using photographic equipment. Students must ask permission and obtain written consent of any individuals, including students and staff, before taking any pictures, recordings, or videos. Similarly, sharing or posting electronic recordings and images of others in any format (on social media, through text or e-mail, etc.) is not permitted without their written consent. Downloading of school related images to the internet must be approved by the school and all individuals represented in the picture/graphic or named in the picture or graphic. Do your part to protect the privacy, safety, and positive reputation of our entire school community by adhering to these rules. Disregarding these rules can result in school and/or police consequences.

Sexting:

Students are reminded that sending sexually explicit or nude pictures/video of themselves or another person, over the internet or a cell phone network, could be considered a criminal offence and result in serious school and police consequences. Do not send or store any pictures that are not respectful of others dignity and privacy, or that will harm or hurt another individual if viewed.

Report any offences to the administration.

MDHS Personal Electronic Device Policy Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices

Educators, parents, and guardians must work together in support of students' social emotional learning, academic progress, and mental health/wellbeing – including when it comes to students' personal electronic device usage. Many students struggle with knowing how to self-regulate appropriate levels of use, inside and outside of the classroom. Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, **smartphones**, laptops, tablets, wearable technology (i.e. smart watches), and any other electronic or communication devices that can access the internet. With support, MDHS students can learn how to responsibly use their personal electronic devices to enhance their learning and productivity, instead of allowing personal devices to lessen productivity and become a distraction from learning.

The YRDSB policy for student use of “Non-Board Electronic Devices” is as follows:

“Cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional periods, except with the clear permission of the principal or classroom teacher.”

The Markham DHS “Personal Electronic Device Policy” is comprised of the YRDSB statement above and additionally clarifies expectations for personal electronic device use, as well as progressive discipline consequences that will be used to support student learning and growth when personal devices are misused.

MDHS Policy Guidelines: Students are responsible for their own personal electronic devices and their usage of them. During instructional periods when students are required to have their devices “off and away,” students are expected to switch devices to silent mode and turn off notifications to maintain a learning focus in class. Students can also choose to power them off altogether and store their devices in a secure location.

Within some instructional periods, the classroom teacher will allow for **specified usage** of personal electronic devices to enhance learning. If a student would like to use their device during a class but is unsure if **specified usage** of devices is allowed at that time, they must ask permission of their classroom teacher. Teacher permission for a student to use their personal electronic device during class can be revoked if the student misuses their device and becomes off-task. Students who are off-task on their personal devices often pose a significant distraction to other students.

There are contexts where personal electronic device usage (or possession) is **prohibited**. These include:

Prohibited device usage	Consequences
<p>Students are prohibited from bringing personal devices into any classroom or space where a test or exam is taking place to ensure the integrity of the test and to reduce occurrences of academic dishonesty. Adherence to this policy ensures fairness and consistency in testing. As such, students are to leave personal electronic devices safely stored in their lockers during any evaluation.</p>	<p>For an AP exam, admission is denied to “anyone who is in possession of a phone or other prohibited electronic device. If your device makes noise, or you are seen using it at any time, including during breaks, you may be dismissed immediately, your scores can be canceled, and the device may be confiscated and its contents inspected.” (The College Board, 2017). Similar consequences apply to students found in possession of a personal device during the OSSLT. The OSSLT is a graduation requirement for students in credit-bearing programming leading to an OSSD. Students who are found with personal devices during the test may have their results withheld and need to rewrite the test the following year. For school-created exams and tests, both academic and non-academic consequences apply – i.e. students using their device to cheat on a test or exam will receive a mark of zero and face progressive discipline.</p>
<p>Due to health and safety concerns that the risk of distraction poses, smartphones are typically NOT allowed in lab settings (i.e. food lab), construction and technology shops, EOP job sites, weight room, gymnasium, and ALEP/Co-operative Education Placements.</p>	<p>Consequences of being focused on personal devices in specialized settings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being restricted from full participation in the learning activity because of compromised safety instruction • increased exposure to the risk of injury from diminished awareness of surroundings and missed safety instruction/not hearing important safety reminders or demonstrations • losing ALEP and Co-op placements for being on a personal electronic device rather than attending to job requirements - negatively impacting a student’s credit accumulation <p>The student is also subject to non-academic progressive discipline.</p>
<p>To protect students’ sense of personal safety and privacy, personal electronic devices are prohibited from washrooms and change rooms.</p>	<p>Capturing, or pretending to capture, footage of students in the washroom or change room can result in serious consequences including out-of-school suspension and police involvement. Making or sharing images of students in different stages of undress can lead to expulsion and criminal charges related to child pornography.</p>