



River Heights Personal Mobile Device, Social Media and Wi-Fi Guidelines

*We want our students to be healthy, happy, and engaged learners.
We hope our students pursue growth and aim to be their best selves.*

Personal Mobile Devices are defined as any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, smartwatch or gaming device.

Learning Devices are Chromebooks, laptops, and tablets used for educational purposes. Teachers will indicate if there are specific learning situations that support the use of cellphones, smartwatches, and headphones.

Social Media is defined as internet-based and mobile technologies that provide communications through interactive or social dialogue. Examples include, but are not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc. All social media sites will be blocked on the BYOD Wi-Fi network and school learning devices.

Student/Guest access to Wi-Fi | Schools will not allow students or guests to have open access to Wi-Fi. MHPSD Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Wi-Fi access will only be provided for registered learning devices (such as laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets). Cellphones, smartphones, and smartwatches will not be allowed to access the BYOD Wi-Fi network, except for medical or specialized learning purposes. Parents are advised to review these changes with their children to avoid data charges on their cell phones.

General Guidelines

- Students are strongly encouraged to keep their cellphones and smartphones at home. If students choose to bring their mobile devices to school, our staff is not responsible for their loss, theft, or damage.
- Cellphones, smartphones and headphones/earbuds will not be permitted during instruction; they will be kept on silent and out of sight (stored in school-approved locations, such as a backpack, cubby, or a space provided by your teacher).
- Teachers will indicate if there are specific learning situations that support cellphone, smartphone, smart watch and headphone use.
- Personal mobile devices are not permitted in washrooms, playgrounds, or any common areas inside or outside the school during school hours. Teachers will indicate if there are specific situations when they may be permitted.
- Smartwatch notifications are turned off during instruction.
- Learning devices will be permitted for educational purposes at the teacher's discretion.
- Learning devices can be registered to the BYOD Wi-Fi network.

- Cellphones, smartphones and smart watches will not be allowed access to the BYOD Wi-Fi network, except for medical or specialized learning needs.

FAQs	Answer
How can I reach my child if I need to contact them?	Parents can contact their child by calling the school office. A landline will also be available in the office for students to call out.
What will happen if my child is struggling with the guidelines?	Teachers will reach out to parents to work together to help your child understand the new guidelines. Teachers will connect with administrators for support if your child continues to struggle.
Why are you implementing these guidelines?	Alberta Education has recently introduced a Ministerial Order —Standards for the use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools. We believe (and the research supports) that cell phones and social media are negatively impacting student learning, engagement, mental health, and social and emotional development.

We believe in implementing these guidelines with care and compassion. We aim to help students understand the impact of cell phones on their learning and well-being, and teach them how to use cell phones appropriately and in a healthy manner. I appreciate your support!

Wendy Weiss
Principal
River Heights Elementary