



DOVER BAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, 6135 McGirr Road, Nanaimo, BC V9V 1M1

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September 3, 2024

Dear Dover Bay Secondary Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

It's always so exciting to be a part of a new school year, I hope your student is as excited as we are about today's homerooms. I'm writing to inform you about an important change in our school regarding personal digital devices, which takes effect immediately.

In alignment with a recent directive from the Ministry of Education and based on research suggesting that restricting the use of personal digital devices at school leads to improved student health, wellness, and academic focus, Dover Bay Secondary has implemented the following:

1. Personal digital devices (including phones, smartwatches, earbuds, etc.) must be turned off or placed on airplane mode before students enter classrooms or instructional spaces.
2. Devices should be out of sight during class time, perhaps stored in lockers or bags.
3. Device use is not permitted during class time unless explicitly allowed by a teacher for educational purposes.
4. When classes are in session, devices should be in airplane mode and not visible in all areas of the school, including hallways, locker bays, multipurpose spaces, and the foyer.
5. Students may use their devices during non-instructional time: before school, during lunch, after school, and during class transitions.
6. The school is not responsible for personal devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged on school property.

We understand this represents a significant change for many students. Our staff is committed to helping students adapt to these new rules and develop healthy digital habits. We'll be focusing on creating a distraction-free learning environment while still incorporating technology for educational purposes when appropriate.

Key points to note:

- This applies to all areas of the school during instructional time, not just classrooms.
- We will make accommodations for students with specific needs (IEP, medical, accessibility, etc.) on a case-by-case basis.
- Our approach to enforcing these changes will be educational and supportive, not punitive.
- We encourage you to discuss these changes with your child and support our efforts at home.

We believe these changes will enhance our students' ability to focus, engage in face-to-face interactions, and make the most of their learning opportunities at Dover Bay.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your support as we implement this change for the benefit of our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,

*G. Steel*

Geoff Steel

Dover Bay Principal