



Bert Bowes Middle School
Dr. Kearney Middle School



May 22, 2024

RE: Personal Electronic Devices - School District 60 Middle Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and we have now turned our attention to planning for the upcoming school year. On January 26th, 2024, the Province announced three actions for the safety and well-being of students in relation to digital technology. The announcement included restrictions on the use of cell phones in schools, which must be in place for the 2024-25 school year.

Per Ministry and District policy, Dr. Kearney and Bert Bowes Middle Schools will implement the following policy:

In September 2024, students are expected to store their personal electronic devices* in their lockers 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.

The following procedure will be used for violations of these expectations:

- **1st issue** - The student will hand in their device to the teacher for the remainder of the school day. The student is responsible for collecting their device from the staff member. We expect students to comply with this request without becoming argumentative or defiant. Students not complying with this request may be sent to the administration.
- **2nd issue** - The student will be sent to the office, and the student will hand in their device to administration for the remainder of the school day.
- **3rd issue** - The student will be sent to the office and will hand in their device to the administration for a week with no access during the day.

****"Personal Internet-Connected Devices" include, but are not limited to, cell phones, tablets, computers, smartwatches, and portable video game systems. At DKMS and BBMS, we include Airpods and other wireless/Bluetooth devices.***

Continuing to disregard these expectations may result in consequences per the Code of Conduct and may include not being permitted to bring devices to school, suspension, and/or other disciplinary consequences.

We understand that many parents/guardians use text messages to communicate with their children during the day. Students can check their phones during their morning break, at lunch, and after school. For emergency situations, we ask that you contact the school office, and we will pass along your message or have your child contact you.

We ask that you support our staff and discuss this change with your child before the upcoming school year.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school's administration.

In partnership,

Jason Gill
Principal - Bert Bowes

Christopher Nock
Principal - Dr. Kearney

Theresa Hipkiss
Vice-Principal - Bert Bowes

Tanya Braun
Vice-Principal - Dr. Kearney