



## Overview

- The purpose of our “Cell Phone Guidelines and Acceptable Use” document is to provide clarity for LFMSS students, families, and staff to align with our District and School Code of Conduct and BC Ministry of Education Provincial guidelines. These guidelines were created collaboratively with all school community stakeholders in January 2023 and will continue to be updated as needed.
  - These cell phone guidelines are meant to reflect our school commitment to fostering a safe and caring school at all times that promotes:
    - mutual respect
    - social responsibility
    - cooperation
    - optimal learning
    - positive social interactions
    - collaboration
  - These cell phone guidelines align with our LFMSS Titan Traits and encourage students to be:

Respectful – Responsible – Purposeful – Concerned for Others – Aware of Self-Worth
  - Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to use cell phones in thoughtful, responsible, appropriate, and accountable ways.
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## Specific Guidelines During Instructional / Class Time – Grade Specific

### Grade 6 Students

Students are expected to keep their phone ***in their backpack*** (located in the back of the classroom) for the entire day from 8:45 AM – 2:55 PM. Cell phone use is not permitted during activity breaks or the lunch hour.

### Grade 7 Students

Students are expected to leave their cell phone ***in their locker*** for the entire day from 8:45 AM – 2:55 PM. Cell phone use is not permitted during activity breaks or the lunch hour.

### Grade 8 Students

Students are expected to keep their cell phone in their locker, in their backpack, or in the classroom ‘hotel’ during class time. Cell phones usage is permitted before school, at lunch, and after school.

### **Grade 9-12 Students**

If a student brings a cell phone with them to school the device needs to be put away and out of sight during instructional / class time. The cell phone could be in their bag, backpack, or locker. It could also be temporarily stored in a common space as provided by the classroom teacher / staff member. At the teacher or staff member's discretion and direction, there may be times that students may be allowed to use a cell phone for educational purposes or tasks.

- A student's cell phone ***should not be***: on the student's desk, in their hands, or on their lap. Nor should a phone be in their pocket where they would likely be alerted to incoming messages / call during instructional / class time (unless directed by the teacher / staff member). In addition, MTSS is considered instructional time and therefore the guidelines remain in effect.
- If/When a staff member allows cell phones during instructional / class time, they should only be used for the intended educational use and should not include video games, texting, or social media use.
- It is preferred that students turn their phones off or put in silent mode or "Airplane Mode" during instructional / class time so they are not a distraction to themselves or others.
- A student should not expect to be able to use their cell phones and/or earphones/earbuds during instructional / class time, unless specifically allowed by the teacher or staff.
- Using a "smart watch" that is connected to a cell phone is the same as using a cell phone and the same guidelines apply. Smart watches do not need to be removed, however, they should not be used for texting or other internet access during regular instructional time.
- At no point during instructional times should access to cell phones be seen as a "reward" for a student who has completed work or to fill up a student's time.
- Students should not be taking their cell phones with them to the washroom during instructional time.
- A cell phone is not a requirement or expectation as an educational tool at LFMSS. Other forms of technology (ie. iPads and laptops) are usually available for student use during class time. Again, a staff member may permit the use of a cell phone if additional technology is needed in a classroom for a specific educational purpose.

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## ***School Specific Guidelines – Instructional Times and Non-Instructional Times***

- If students are using their cell phones at LFMSS, it is expected that they will act responsibly, appropriately, and with accountability. Cell phone and social media use should promote and maintain a safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and nurturing school setting.
  - No one (staff or students) should be taking photographs, videos, or recordings of students or staff at any time during the school day without their permission.
  - At no time should anyone (staff or students) be posting videos / images / recordings to social media sites without permission of people in the videos / images.
  - Students should not be texting or messaging during instructional time. During non-instructional time – between classes, lunch, before and after school – Grade 8 to 12 students are encouraged to use their technology appropriately as noted above.
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## ***Follow-Up to Cell Phone Guidelines***

These guidelines are not negotiable between individual students and school staff, including TTOC's, and are used throughout the entire school and with all staff. If a staff member notices that a student is not following the guidelines during instructional time, they will ask the student to place their phone in a designated spot in the classroom. If a student is not willing to comply, parents will be contacted.

If a pattern continues, the student may also be referred to school administrators who may do any of the following:

- Follow up with the student's parents / guardians to discuss the issue and ensure the student is clear on the expectations regarding cell phone use at school.
- If ongoing issues arise, the student may be asked to either not bring their cell phone to school at all or will be asked to surrender their phone at the office for the regular school day (including breaks).

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## Research Findings

Widespread usage of and access to cell phones is a reality in Canadian society as a whole. Cell phones have become embedded in the lives of many people of a variety of ages. For example, Statistics Canada data from 2018 show the following about people 15 years or older:

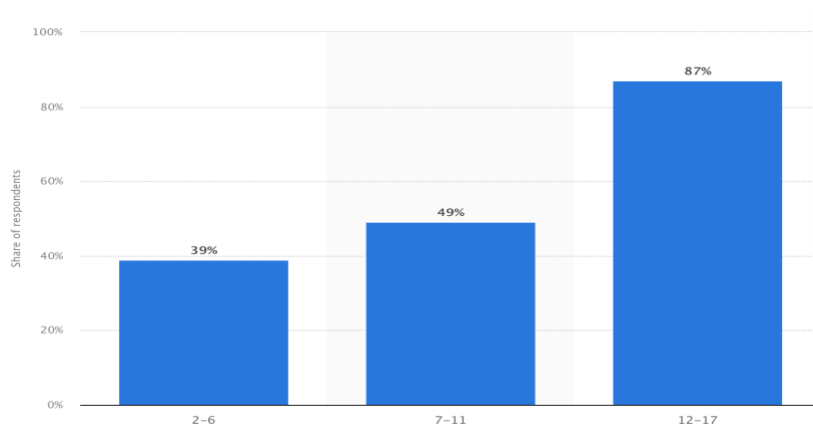
- 88% - Have a smartphone
- 45% - Check the smartphone at least every 30 minutes
- 56% - Before going to sleep, the last thing is to check the smartphone

■ source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?nid=2210011501>

\*It is likely that these statistics have increased since these findings in 2018.

- Specific to school aged students, research shows the following: “As of April 2022, 39 percent of children aged between two and six years in Canada were reported to use a mobile phone. Half of the children aged between seven and 11 years were reported to have a mobile device such as a smartphone. This figure rose to 87 percent in the case of teenagers aged between 12 and 17 years.”

- Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1319950/canada-mobile-usage-kids-and-teens-by-age/#:~:text=As%20of%20April%202022%2C%2039,between%2012%20and%2017%20years.>



- With this in mind, as a school we expect that many students, their parents / guardians and school staff will have cell phones and will bring them to school or expect to use them at some point during the school day.
- At LFMSS, our motto is “Home and School Working Together”. Parents are encouraged to engage in regular discussion with their children about their cell phone use at school. Reviewing screen time together on a regular basis can also help keep lines of communication open about what is acceptable use of their cell phone on a daily basis and also support their children if there are negative social issues happening related to cell phone usage.

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## ***Educational Impact of Cell Phones in Schools***

***There is a wide variety of research on the impacts of cell phones in school settings at various grades and age levels. There is also evidence of both negative and positive outcomes in different situations and settings. Below are just a few thoughts as an overview.***

- We recognize that students (and adults) often use their phone in everyday life to solve problems and to see and find information online. One of the areas we want to help students with is how to sort good information from bad – how to be critical. This is not only through cell phones, but cell phones are part of it since they are so prevalent in everyday life for many people.
  - o At times, internet access is the quickest way to look up or find information in educational settings (a cell phone can be one of these tools).
  - o Technology in general, including cell phones, can be incredible tools that encourage and allow student engagement and learning.

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## ***Students Connecting With Parents / Guardians During the School Day***

- We recognize that for many students and their parents / guardians, cell phones provide a sense of connection and inherent safety.
  - o However, parents / guardians and students should not expect that they will be able to communicate at all times during the school day using cell phones (calls, texts, messages).
    - While students can be sent texts while at school any time, they should not be expected to be checking or replying to texts or calls during normal instructional / class time.
    - Students in grades 8-12 at LFMSS do have access to their cell phones during non-instructional times – between classes, lunch, before and after school.
    - Students in grade 6-7 only have access to their cell phones before or after school.
  - o In case of an emergency or critical need to communicate with a child during the school day, parents / guardians are asked to call the school office (604-534-4779).

If parents / guardians are arranging to pick up children during the day, they need to contact the office to sign-out / excuse the student, rather than texting the child to make arrangements. The Office Staff regularly sign students out and can contact them in their classes when and as needed.

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## ***Moving Forward***

The LFMSS Staff community looks forward to continuing our work with families and reinforcing our school motto of “Home and School Working Together” in order to support our students in making healthy choices as it relates to cell phone use at school.

As previously stated,

*“Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to use their cell phones in thoughtful, responsible, appropriate, and accountable ways.”*

**Important Note:** The Langley School District and Langley Fundamental Middle & Secondary School are not responsible for damage or loss of cell phones that are brought to school. Cell phones are not a required / mandated device at our school. If a student brings a cell phone to school, it is entirely at the individual and family’s discretion and they bear the full responsibility for the device and its use.