

HASTINGS CELL PHONE and ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE GUIDELINES

The Hastings Technology Committee recommends that cell phones and personal electronic devices be left at home as the school cannot be held accountable for lost or stolen items. However, should students/parents choose to assume the risks, the following guidelines should be considered:

- Cellphone use during classroom time is at the teacher's discretion. They can be wonderful tools for collaboration and research. However, they can also draw attention away from the teacher and other students. Classroom teachers along with their students can decide when it would seem obvious and necessary to store it away versus when to make the best possible use of it.
- Electronic devices during school hours should only be used for academic purposes (researching, on-line dictionaries).
- No electronic devices should be used during recess and lunch. The committee feels that outdoor play and a break from screen time is an important part of overall student health.
- Cellphones should remain in student's backpack when not permitted for use academically and kept on SILENT MODE.
- The committee recommends that the PAC be part of these guidelines and as such should not expect immediate responses to texts/calls. In the event of a family emergency the school should be contacted via phone call from the parent to the office.

We recommend that the office have a phone designated for student use during lunch and recess only if the call is warranted.

