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August 30, 2024

Re: Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Dear BTPS Parents and Guardians,

We want to inform you about the new regulations on personal electronic devices in our classrooms, as directed by a recent [Ministerial Order](#) from the Alberta government. This order aims to reduce distractions and promote a better learning environment for our students.

The Ministerial Order is in response to concerns that personal electronic devices in classrooms can distract students and negatively affect their mental health. Studies have shown that cell phones and social media can hinder learning, contribute to mental health issues, and increase cyberbullying.

The new regulations will be implemented in Buffalo Trail Public Schools starting September 1, 2024. These changes are designed to help students focus better during class and engage more actively in their learning by minimizing distractions from screens.

Detailed guidelines about these regulations can be found in our updated Board Policies ([304BP](#)) and Administrative Procedures ([303-1AP](#)). We encourage you to review these documents on our website.

Usage and Restrictions

- Social media will be blocked on school Wi-Fi and school devices.
- Students will not be able to use their cell phones or personal electronic devices during instructional time but may use them outside of this time as outlined in the school's specific plan.
- Personal devices include, but are not limited to, any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet (such as cell phone, tablet, laptop, Chromebook, Smartwatch, headphones, and gaming device).
- If your child requires a personal device for medical reasons, please contact the school administration.

Parents are encouraged to discuss these new regulations with their children and support them in adjusting to these changes. Parents can contact the school office, and students may access the school phones for communication as needed.

We appreciate your support in implementing these changes to help create a focused and respectful learning environment. Additional information specific to your child's school will be shared from your school principal at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. For further details or questions, please contact your child's school.

We wish all of our students and their families a wonderful start to the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Webb
Superintendent