



## Sir John Thompson Catholic Junior School

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Dear Sir John Thompson Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to inform you about some important changes regarding the use of personal mobile devices and social media in our school. These updates are in alignment with Alberta Education's announcement to [limit distractions in classrooms](#) across the province.

A personal mobile device is any device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet and includes:

- Cellphones
- Tablets
- Laptops
- Smartwatches

### General Restrictions

- **No Use of Personal Mobile Devices During Instructional Time**  
Students will not be allowed to use personal mobile devices during school hours. This includes lunch and other breaks. Devices must be put away as soon as students enter the school and not taken out until they leave the school at the end of the day.
- **Devices Must Be Silent or Powered Off and Stored Away**  
If students bring personal mobile devices to school, they must be kept silent or turned off and stored in their locker. Students are not allowed to access their devices at any time during the school day.
- **No Access to Social Media**  
Students will not be able to access social media on school networks or school devices. Known social media sites will continue to be blocked from Division networks.

### Exceptions

Students who require personal mobile devices for health reasons or specialized learning needs can coordinate with school administration to receive appropriate accommodations. Exceptions will be made to ensure that these students have the necessary tools to support their well-being and educational requirements.

### Consequences

Failure to comply to the Cellphone policy will result, but not limited to, the following consequences:

- Warning will be issued to the student by a staff member and student will be asked to put their device away. If the device is immediately put away there will be no further actions
- The device will be confiscated by staff members and stored in the office until the end of the day. Parent will be notified of the infraction.
- Continued defiance, or failure to comply with a staff member, will result in further school-based consequences such as a suspension, request for a parent meeting with administrator and loss of school privileges.

*Parents wanting to contact their child in an emergency, or needing to relay a message, during the school day are to contact the office by email or phone.*

As we get ready for the first day of classes, I encourage you to discuss these changes with your child and help them understand the importance of minimizing distractions during school hours. Please contact the school office if you need to reach your child during school hours.

We understand this may be an adjustment, and we appreciate your understanding as we work together to make this a successful school year for everyone. More information can be found on our website, [ecsd.net/devices](http://ecsd.net/devices).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school.

Mr. D. Robinson  
Principal  
Sir John Thompson Catholic Junior High School