

Electronic Device Policy

Our policy is 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 instructional time. Only Laptops/Chromebooks may be used as directed by school staff for learning purposes.
- **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. If students do not have lockers, they must be stored kept silent or turned off in a backpack, or another secure location. Students who choose to bring personal mobile devices to school do so at their own risk. The security and storage of these devices is the sole responsibility of the student.
- **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.

More information can be found on our website, ecsd.net/devices.

In summary, students at St. Thomas Aquinas cannot bring phones, tablets, or smart watches to class. Students choosing to bring these to school will be expected to put it away before the start of the school day, and will only be allowed to retrieve it after the school day is over. These devices will not be allowed at recess or lunch hour. If students need to contact their parents, we expect that this would be done via the office. If a student needs to leave school, this must be communicated through the office.

If a student is found to be using a phone, tablet or a smart watch during school day, we will work with the student to ensure they understand the rules moving forward. Repeated offenders will have a consequence of the device being taken away. If the student continues to break this rule, a parent will have to come to pick the device up at the school and meet with the administration.

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.

Students may use school and personal laptops/Chromebooks, only as directed by the teacher for learning purposes only. Students and parents are expected to read and sign our ECSD Responsible Use Agreement; as well as read and understand the digital citizenship information. As we move forward to meet the learning needs of our digital generation, we need to teach the students to use technology responsibly so that they continue to ensure their privacy and the privacy of others is maintained.