



Crescentview School

Mr. D. Moar
Principal

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Mrs. S. Calder
Vice Principal

Dear Crescentview School families,

As per Manitoba government regulations, schools and school divisions will implement updated policies as students head back to school to ensure consistency across the province, which include: **banning cell phone use during school hours, including lunch and breaks, for students in kindergarten to Grade 8.**

We are asking our CVS families to continue to support our efforts. Last year at CVS we restricted cell phone use during the school day and we noticed a significant improvement in our students' focus throughout the day, increased engagement in learning, increased student physical activity and healthy habits at breaks, and decreased phone/social media related conflicts. As students were becoming more dependent on their devices, it was leading to difficulty with responsible cell phone usage. We continue to believe that phones are a distraction to student learning. Without the access to social media and messaging apps during the school day, interruptions to learning in the classroom were limited. As we have experienced, device usage during the day creates conflicts which include: arguments with school staff, group chats/arguments with peers, pictures taken of other students/staff that are shared, bullying over social media, and students disengaged in the classroom because they are distracted by their phones. Bullying issues that we see at school are often tied to device use on messaging apps and in other unsupervised chat groups. Students who participate in any of these conflicts will result in having technology privileges revoked and depending on the severity, it could result in further disciplinary action.

CVS students are instructed to leave their devices at home. If a student does bring their device to school, it should be put in their locked locker and stored there for the day. Locks can be purchased at the school for \$10 and we will provide a replacement lock for any defective locks that are purchased from the school. If students bring a device to school and aren't using a locker, they can store their device in the office for safe keeping.

We have an office phone for students to use if they need to call home and parents can also call the school if they need to speak to their child. If a student has their phone and needs to make a call or send a message home, we will provide a safe space in the office where they can do so in private. Please review these expectations with your child so they know the consequences of device misuse. **Lost or stolen devices are not the responsibility of the school or division. Student should not have a cell phone or device at school.**

Thank you for your support and understanding,

Mr. D. Moar – Principal
Mrs. S. Calder – Vice-Principal