

February 9, 2007

Dear Parents,

Since September, we have witnessed an increasing percentage of students using their cell phones in class and during instructional time. This situation has become problematic due to the increase in usage of text messaging and candid photo-taking with those phones that are camera-equipped. **While we understand parental concerns relating to student safety in rural areas**, students are using less discretion when choosing the when and where to use their phones. Many students have been caught text-messaging their friends during class time to arrange a meeting place at lunch/after school, to meet them in the washroom during class, to compare answers on a test /assignment or to simply play games.

We are asking for your support in helping us safeguard the integrity of our curriculum and the privacy of our staff and student body. Cellular phones may still be used at school, however we ask that students adhere to the following guideline:

- ▶ phones may only be used before school, after school or at lunch in designated areas only (by the entrance/doors), the cafeteria or outside of the building.

Students found using their phones in class or during instructional periods will be asked to hand their phones over to administration for the remainder of the day. **Continued use of cell phones during class time may result in suspension.**

The classroom is for instructional purposes not social networking. On some occasions, it has been calls from parents that have been intercepted during class time. We are asking parents to support our request by calling their sons/daughters during the hours stipulated above to avoid the need to segregate parent calls from social calls. In an emergency, parents may contact the Main Office and students may be pulled from their classes as required or for less urgent matters, students may receive the messages during their break.

Yours truly,

O. M. Haras, B.A., B.Ph.E., M.Ed
Principal

K. A. Torigian, B.A., M.Ed
Vice-Principal

cc M. Hyatt, Superintendent - Region 3
L. Fulford, Vice-Chair, Trustee - DSBN