



G.S. Lakie Middle School
50 Blackfoot Blvd. W.
Lethbridge, AB
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year progresses, there is a concerning rise of personal digital devices being utilized throughout the learning environments in our school. Irresponsible use of devices can cause disruptions during instruction time, negatively impacting the learning environment for all students. This results in students being distracted upwards of 20% of the school day - the equivalent of missing 36 full days of school. To support student learning at G.S. Lakie Middle School, we have developed a policy that takes research into consideration:

Personal Digital Device Definition

- Any handheld device that has internet access, texting, music, or gaming capabilities.

School Expectations

- Personal digital devices are not to be used for personal communication or entertainment anywhere within the school during class time.
- Personal digital devices are not permitted in the classrooms during instructional time. This includes earbuds or headphones.
- When specific learning situations support personal digital device use and teacher permission has been given, students must remain in the classroom.
- All devices should be locked in lockers during class time – not in back packs, cross-body bags, pockets, etc.
- Personal digital devices are NOT permitted to be utilized as calculators on assessments.
- Only students with medical conditions requiring access to device (i.e. diabetes) and/or have a documented ISP accommodation will be permitted to use personal digital devices in class (music, text to speech, word processing, etc) in collaboration with and under the supervision of the classroom teacher or educational assistant.
- Students with accommodations misusing personal digital devices will lose the opportunity to have them in class.

Disciplinary Measures

Students who do not follow these personal device guidelines and repeatedly use their device in an inappropriate manner or at inappropriate times will be addressed in accordance to the LSD Responsible Use of Technology Policy (607.4), the Student Code of Conduct Policy (502.1) and the GS Lakie Student/Parent Handbook.



These will be the steps pertaining to not abiding by the personal digital device protocol will follow:

1. Request to turn off personal digital device and put away in student's locker
2. Teacher contacts home to discuss strategies and solutions. Teacher can use professional judgement to remove phone as they see fit.
3. Contact with parents/guardians by administration.
4. Repeated offences will be treated as a refusal to comply with the rules of the school and dealt with accordingly.

Parental Contact with Students

Parents/guardians who need to contact their child can contact the office and leave a message. Alternatively, parents/guardians can wait for their child to respond to electronic messages at lunch or after school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation towards the implementation our personal digital device policy.

Sincerely,



Brad Dersch

Principal