SD#19 Policy

DIGITAL DEVICES

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER: A NEW WAY OF THINKING



THE WHAT

TIMELINE: HOW WE GOT HERE

- February 2024: Minister of Education's order on digital devices
- > Spring 2024: SD19 surveys sent to students, parents and staff
- > September- October 2024: public meetings and school board policy development
- November 2024: Student and staff consultation meetings
- > January 2025: School Board policy created
- February 2025: Superintendent consultation on how to make it work

THE POLICY

- Devices are not to be used during instructional time, including breaks between classes
- > Students may use devices in designated areas before school, during lunch and after school
- > The administration will designate device free areas during lunch
- > There are exceptions for tech that supports medical and inclusion
- > RSS is required to have escalating consequences

THE WHY

- Correlation between mental health concerns and smart phone use
- Increase in cyber bullying, especially among females
- Impairs cognitive functions-ex impact on memory and learning

- Unhealthy social comparisons
- Reduces healthy behaviors such as: sleep, exercise and interpersonal interactions

THE HOW

DAY TO DAY CHANGES

- > Phones away and off @ 8:40 (locker)
- No phone use at school during class time or at breaks
- Phones CAN be used at lunch
- Phones away in lockers and off @ 12:20 until 3:10

WHAT WE ARE DOING WELL

- Increased awareness of your own health and well-being
- **Awareness of phone addiction**
- > Understanding the importance of sport, fine arts, culture and face to face social interactions

Learning about Digital Media literacy and critically analyzing the impact of algorithms, and use of personal data

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN

- Verbal warning and/or taken away
- > Taken for the day
- Phone gone for the next day as well/phone parent

- Further instances = phone in office for multiple school days (or stays at home) + a learning package at lunch
- > Parent/student/admin meeting