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August 28, 2025

Dear Windsor Community,

I want to express my appreciation for your support and cooperation with the personal digital device (PDD) guidelines that were introduced in September 2024. As we continue this practice into the 2025–26 school year, it is clear that the success of this initiative relies on the collaboration between families, students, and staff. I am truly grateful for your efforts.

For families new to Windsor, particularly those who are joining us in Grade 8, the limitations may be new. Across all NVSD secondary schools, access to and use of personal digital devices is not permitted during instructional time. At the teacher's discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning.

I want to acknowledge how well students adapted and how staff were instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition throughout the 2024-25 school year. Your continued dedication to creating a focused, engaged, and distraction-free learning environment will continue to make a positive difference in the Windsor community.

The slogan we have been using, "Devices off, learning on," captures the essence of what we are all working toward: a space where students can focus on their education without unnecessary distractions. Your role in reinforcing this message at home is invaluable, and we are grateful for your partnership in helping your child(ren) understand the importance of these guidelines. As you work with your child(ren) to foster healthy digital habits, you may find the following resources helpful to support these conversations:

- <u>Cell phone restrictions in schools</u> (published by the Government of British Columbia)
- <u>Digital media: Promoting healthy screen use in school-aged children and adolescents</u> (published by the Canadian Paediatric Society)

Please reach out if your child(ren) requires additional support in following these guidelines or if you have any questions. By working together as families, students, and staff, we can create an environment where all students can thrive both academically and personally.

Warm regards,

Caren Hall

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