



**River Valley School**  
Bag 6, 310 Centre St. N.,  
Sundre, AB T0M 1X0  
Phone (403) 638-3939 \* Fax (403) 638-4552  
*A safe and happy place to learn*

---



August 29, 2024

Dear Parents,

We are excited to welcome students back on September 3! This [Back to School Parent Guide](#) may be helpful if you have questions around drop off spots, building access, class placement, supplies and so on.

As you may be aware, there is also a new policy around cell phones/ personal mobile device use in schools from the Alberta government. Starting the first day of school, Chinook's Edge School Division will align with the Alberta government's Ministerial Order on Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in School.

**In accordance with the government's new standards, in all CESD Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools students are not able to use cellphones/personal mobile devices (personal mobile devices include: cellphones, smartwatches, and tablets) and social media during the school day, which includes recess, breaks, and field trips.**

Some specifics:

- students' personal devices need to be put away out of view and powered off, before students enter the building in the morning
- students may access their personal devices following the last bell of the day
- school technology will be provided for school activities that require it (e.g. Chromebook), or will be part of a student's personal supplies (e.g. calculator)
- students will be responsible for personal devices that are brought to school, as staff will not be providing a secure in-class storage location
- as per the school division, student access to social media is not permitted on Chinook's Edge networks

We recognize that change is hard, and we anticipate a learning curve for us all as we move forward with this shift. Students in Gr 3-8 will be advised on the policy at our Day 1 Assembly, but we appreciate you reviewing the guidelines with them prior to coming to school as well. The first two weeks will involve kind reminders as needed, with progressive consequences as the school year continues, which could include devices being stored at the office for the day, a phone call home and so on.

These guidelines are intended to minimize distractions in the learning environment and to support students in engaging more fully in their learning. The following are reference documents utilized by the government in determining this Ministerial Order: [Government communication regarding cellphone use in schools](#)  
[Ministerial Order - June 20, 2024](#)

[Anxious Generation](#) - [Digital Minimalism](#) - [iGen](#) - [2022 OECD PISA Study](#) -

[2023 UNESCO Study on Technology in Education](#) - [2024 Norwegian Study on Middle School cellphone bans](#)

[The case for cellphone free schools](#)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to connect at any time. We look forward to seeing everyone for the 2024-2025 learning adventure ahead!

Cheers,

Leslie Cooper-Shand  
Principal, River Valley School