



# ST. PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

August 22, 2025

To all parents and guardians  
of students attending  
St. Patrick's High School

## **Subject: New Policy – Ban on Personal Electronic Devices at School**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a school team, our commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience is one of our highest priorities. As such, effective at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, the use of personal electronic devices – **including cell phones, wireless headphones, smartwatches, and similar items** – will be prohibited during school hours, from the beginning to the end of classes, both inside the school and on school grounds.

This measure is intended to help students:

- Focus better in class by reducing distractions;
- Engage more deeply in school life and strengthen their sense of belonging;
- Develop and build greater independence;
- Address situations or challenges directly rather than avoiding them;
- Communicate more with peers and personnel;
- Experience a calmer, more attentive and positive atmosphere;
- Improve mental health and reduce stress and anxiety;
- Spend more time on self-discovery and friendships and meaningful experiences.

Our mission is to help students develop the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to become productive, healthy, and fulfilled adults; this ban is therefore a necessary step that will give them access to a healthier, more dynamic, and positive learning environment. While we recognize that this change may be difficult at first, we are nevertheless convinced of its benefits for our students.





## Use of Electronic Devices Policy - Effective as of August 27, 2025

In alignment with the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) directive, our school is enforcing a ban on student use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during the school day. This policy is designed to support student focus, well-being, and positive social interaction.

### 1. Prohibition

- Use of cell phones and personal electronic devices is prohibited on school property, including class time, recess, lunch, and transitions.
- All electronic devices must be turned off and put away upon entering school property in the morning and must remain off and out of sight until the final bell at 3:05 PM.
- Note: School property includes our outdoor space (backyard, Front yard, campus).

### 2. Storage

- Devices must be stored in lockers as soon as access is granted at 8:00 AM.
- Retrieval is permitted only at the end of the school day at 3:05

### 3. Emergency Contact

- Students must report to the school office to contact parents or guardians during the day.
- Parents must also contact the office for urgent communication with their child.

### 4. Enforcement and Consequences

- To ensure consistent application of the policy, the following tiered consequences will be applied for violations:

| Offense             | Consequences  |
|---------------------|---|
| 1st Violation       | Device is confiscated for the rest of the day, secured at the designated office. Parents are notified.  |
| 2nd Violation       | The device is dropped off at the designated office first thing in the morning for 5 consecutive school days and can only be picked up at 3:05 PM; lunch detention is assigned, parents are notified.  |
| 3rd Violation       | The device is dropped off at the designated office first thing in the morning for 10 consecutive school days and can only be picked up at 3:05 PM; lunch detention is assigned, parents are notified. |
| 4th Violation       | Meeting with parent/guardian; possible detention or loss of privileges.   |
| Repeated Violations | Progressive discipline, which may include suspension or behavioral contract.  |

The SPHS Intervention Team will document incidents and communicate with families as needed. The objective is to support students in adjusting to the new expectations.





# ST. PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

## 5. Exceptions for students with

- Medical needs (e.g., health monitoring apps) - Evidence is necessary to request a medical exception, please contact us by email at [stpatsqc@cqsbc.ca](mailto:stpatsqc@cqsbc.ca)
- Authorized educational use, approved by administration.

This policy supports MEQ's goals to:

- Minimize distractions & improve academic performance; promote mental health & well-being, encourage respectful behavior & peer interaction, reduce screen-related issues & bullying.

Thank you for your continued support and usual cooperation.

The St. Patrick's High School administration team.

Simon Taillefer  
Principal

Marc-André Daigle  
Vice-Principal

Melanie Bridgeman  
Vice-Principal

