**DALHOUSIE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

500 CANADA GAMES DRIVE

DALHOUSIE N.B.

E8C 2P5

**TELEPHONE: (506)684-7553                      PRINCIPAL:  Dawn Beckingham**

**FAX:  (506)684-7602                      VICE-PRINCIPAL:  Jonathan Watts**

Re: Cell phones at school

Dear parents/guardians:

Over the past 5 years, the use of cell phones in school has been on the rise and it is starting at a much younger age than in the past. Research on this topic and the effects of cell phone use on student learning and social development is also increasing.

There is some data to support the use of technology in the classroom to enhance communication and collaboration among students. Not surprisingly, there is much more data that identifies the use of cell phones in schools as decreasing attention spans, increasing distraction, increasing bullying and lessening positive social interaction to name a few. The most troubling issue that we are seeing is the increased evidence of cell phone addiction.

At Dalhousie Regional High School, we wish to firm up the appropriate use of cell phones in the building. Cell phone use will not be allowed in the classroom unless the teacher is working specifically on a project that requires a designated cell phone app. This use must be approved by administration. If your child has been using his/her phone as a calculator, we ask that you purchase a true calculator instead. Cell phones may be used during break times and lunch hour. To help get support on this from parents, you will find below a schedule of break times and I ask that you not contact your child through their cell phones outside of these times. If it is an emergency, the school number is 684-7553.

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| **Grades 6-8** Class begins at 8:30 a.m. | **Grades 9-12** Class begins at 8:30 a.m. |
| Morning break: 9:55- 10:10 | Morning break: 10:45-11:00 |
| Lunch: 11:45-12:30 | Lunch: 12:05-1:05 |
| Dismissal: 3:15 | Dismissal: 3:15 |

If a student uses their phone during class time, here is the process our teachers will follow:

1st offense: warning and phone must be put away out of sight.

2nd offense: student must give their phone to the teacher for the remainder of the period.

3rd offense: student must give their phone to the teacher for the remainder of the day.

4th offense: student must give their phone to the teacher. Administration will hold the phone until a parent meeting is held.

We appreciate your support on this as it will only benefit your child in the end, both academically and socially. If you have any concerns with this cell phone policy, please contact the school at 684-7553.

Dawn Beckingham

DRHS principal