

# Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2024

**RE: New RVS procedures for personal mobile devices and social media in schools puts learning first**

Rocky View Schools (RVS) students are encouraged to leave personal mobile devices at home when the school year begins.

The division has introduced [Administrative Procedure \(AP\) 148: Responsible use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#) in to alignment with new [provincial government standards](#). The AP takes effect Sept. 3, the first day of classes for RVS students.

“RVS is committed to fostering a focused and engaging learning environment,” said Greg Luterbach, Superintendent of Schools. “By establishing clear expectations for the responsible use of cell phones, personal mobile devices and social media in schools we can work together to reduce distractions and maximize valuable instructional time.”

Highlights of the AP include:

- The safest place for students’ devices is at home. Should they choose to bring them to school, they must be out of sight and turned off or silent. Parents/guardians and students assume full responsibility if their device is lost, stolen or damaged.
- Students cannot use their personal mobile device in school during instructional time, unless specially authorized by their school’s administrator or their teacher for educational purposes. This includes any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet. Examples include cell phones, smart watches, laptops and tablets.
- Students with health or medical reasons or special learning needs may be granted permission to use personal mobile devices during instructional time, upon completion of Form AF148A or as indicated in the student’s Individualized Program Plan.
- Students will not have access to social media platforms at school over the school’s Wi-Fi network and are not permitted to access it at school using their own data plans to ensure students remain focused on educational tasks.
- The procedures are designed to have teachers and administrators work with students and parents/guardians toward the common goal of limiting distractions and staying focused on learning.

RVS families are encouraged to read the AP to learn more.

“We recognize this will be an adjustment as these changes become part of school life and we appreciate the cooperation of all students, staff and families to support focused student learning,” said Luterbach.

“Our teachers and administration teams will work with students to help them understand the expectations of personal mobile devices and social media at school.”

-30-

**For more information contact:**

Tara De Weerd  
Director of Communications and Engagement  
[tdeweerd@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:tdeweerd@rockyview.ab.ca)