

Some of the Challenges:

- Texting during lessons
- Inappropriate taking of pictures and video
- Theft of personal devices
- Plagiarism / cheating
- Receiving texts from parents during class time
- Inequity for those who don't have devices
- Cost of texting plans/internet access
- Consistency of policy implementation from one class to the next/no common set of expectations
- The need for a class/learning objectives to teach students appropriate use of cell/smartphones in class
- Students off task
- In-class bullying
- Problematic in crisis management at school (creating and heightening anxiety)
- Sexting
- Inappropriate recording of video (bathrooms, playgrounds, gym class, change rooms)

*"We shape our tools and
thereafter they shape us."*

Marshall McLuhan (1962)

Smartphones, Tablets and Other Devices in the Classroom

Challenges and Information
for consideration by teachers:

If you have any further questions please contact
a Staff Officer from
The Manitoba Teachers' Society at
204-888-7961 or 1-800-262-8803.



Tips for Teachers and Parents:

- Speak openly about appropriate conduct online
- Explain directly the dangers online
- Don't engage in "r" rated behaviour — a digital imprint lives forever
- Stay away from rants online
- Don't list your profile, in any social media, as public
- Maintain professional, tone, boundaries, conduct
- Establish a reasonable schedule for online activities
- Do not be available 24/7
- Know your workplace/home expectations
- Know your school and school division's policy on technology

Here is a reminder of the requirements in the Manitoba Public Schools Act regarding the content of the school's Code of Conduct. There must be a policy regarding students and staff behaviour and remember all teachers have input into the creation of your Code of Conduct, and it must be reviewed annually.

Please note your conduct in using the technology must be consistent with:

1. Your schools' Code of Conduct
2. The Manitoba Teachers' Society Code of Professional Conduct
3. Provincial laws
4. Federal laws (criminal code)

Content of code of conduct

47.1 (2) A school's code of conduct must include:

- (a) a statement that pupils and staff must behave in a respectful manner and comply with the code of conduct;
- (b) a statement that the following are unacceptable:
 - (i) abusing physically, sexually, or psychologically — orally, in writing or otherwise — any person,
 - (i.1) bullying
 - (ii) discriminating unreasonably on the basis of any characteristic set out in subsection 9(2) of *The Human Rights Code*,
 - (iii) using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs at school;
- (c) a statement that the following will not be tolerated on school sites:
 - (i) gang involvement,
 - (ii) possessing a weapon, as "weapon" is defined in section 2 of the Criminal Code (Canada);
- (d) a statement that pupils and staff must adhere to school board policies and the provisions of the code of conduct respecting the appropriate use of
 - (i) the Internet, including social media, text messaging, instant messaging, websites and e-mail, and
 - (ii) digital cameras, cell phones and other electronic or personal communication devices identified in the code of conduct or the policies of the school board; and
- (e) the disciplinary consequences, in as much detail as is reasonably possible, of violating the code of conduct, and the process for appealing disciplinary decisions;

and meet any other requirements prescribed by regulation under *The Education Administration Act*.

Remember That as a Teacher:

- You are always on duty
- You must always maintain a professional demeanor and appropriate boundaries
- Don't vent in social media
- Don't use texting or other social media to develop a rapport with students
- Don't text or use other social media without parental permission or including parents in the information
- A device may only be searched where there is reasonable grounds for doing so. Check with your Administration.
- Don't use texting or other social media to convey difficult messages that could be misinterpreted or misconstrued. Always meet students and parents in person for these situations.
- Don't tweet or post pictures or video of students and colleagues without their permission
- Only use texts and social media during work time for work purposes
- Only seize a device with the permission of the division or as per division policy