Lamoille North Districtwide Cell Phone Procedure

In June 2025, Vermont passed a new law (H.480) that requires all public schools to restrict student use of cell phones and smart devices during the school day beginning January 1, 2026; therefore, as part of our ongoing commitment to creating safe, respectful, and focused learning environments, all Lamoille North Supervisory Union schools have moved to cell phone-free school days. This change began **on the first day of school for the 2025–2026 school year**.

This means that from arrival to dismissal, bell-to-bell*,* students will be expected to keep personal electronic devices silenced, out of sight, and unused throughout the school day.

Lamoille North chose to act a year before the law took effect to create consistency across our district, give students and families time to adjust, and understand expectations at the beginning of the school year rather than in the middle of the year.

By limiting access to digital distractions, we are supporting:

- Improved academic focus and engagement
- Positive peer interactions and school connectedness
- Challenging Social Issues
- A more respectful, distraction-free environment for teaching and learning

This step promotes stronger learning, deeper relationships, and healthier school climates for every student, in every building.

What Devices Are Included?

The practice applies to the following personal electronic devices:

- Cell phones, including basic phones that call or text
- Internet-connected devices, such as tablets or handheld gaming consoles
- Smartwatches that can access the internet
- AirPods, earbuds, Bluetooth headphones, and other listening devices

These items must be silenced and stored in a secure location chosen by the student, family, or caregiver upon arrival at school campuses. They must remain out of sight and unused during the entire school day, **including class transitions, meals, restroom breaks, and assemblies.**

Medical Exceptions

Lamoille North understands that some students require access to electronic monitoring devices for health-related conditions. We will review exceptions on a case-by-case basis, and they must be supported by documentation from a licensed medical professional. Any exception granted will be specific to the student's medical need and does not allow for general use of the device.

Headphones and Listening Devices

Headphones, earbuds, and similar devices are not permitted during the school day unless a staff member explicitly allows them for instructional use. This ensures students stay fully engaged in the classroom environment. Likewise, using cameras or recording functions on any device is prohibited without prior permission.

Communication During the Day

We know it is important for families to stay connected. If a student or caregiver needs to get in touch during the school day, phones are available in each school's main office, and staff is always ready to assist.

Consistent District-Wide Expectations

We appreciate that families may want a voice in how devices are stored—and we agree. At the end of the 24-25 school year, we sent a survey to families of incoming 7th graders through outgoing 12th-grade students. The information gathered through this survey informed how Lamoille North schools are administering this new cell phone and smart device ban during the school day.

While Lamoille North schools will honor a family's choice of where their student stores their device (backpack, locker, etc.), all devices must be stored so they are not visible, audible, or used during the day.

PLEASE NOTE: School staff members are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices.

In support of consistency and student accountability, all Lamoille North schools will follow a clear, developmentally appropriate structure for addressing violations.

Although the new law is now in effect across Vermont, this change for our schools at the start of the 2025-2026 academic year reflects what we want for our Lamoille North students: stronger focus, greater connection, and learning environments rooted in respect and care. We are proud to take this critical step as a unified district, along with most districts across the state. We are grateful for your partnership in making it successful.

With appreciation,

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