



Sherwood Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Sherwood Parents /Guardians,

In April 2024, the Ministry of Education announced its plan to reduce distractions in classrooms and improve the health of children. This strategy involves the implementation of provincewide measures and mandatory learning to **address cell phones and vaping in schools**. Beginning this September, HWDSB is taking steps to ensure students are well supported in the classroom, focused on learning and well-being. Here at Sherwood, we are laying the foundation for the roll-out of this policy (PPM 128) from day one. We will reiterate this policy in our grade assemblies with students on the first day of school. This letter is to inform families and provide clarity on how we as a school hope to support this policy as we all work together as a community to improve the health of our children and minimize distractions in classrooms.

On Cell Phone/PMD use: Based on this new policy students' phones and other **Personal Mobile Devices (PMD)**'s are expected to be out of sight and on silent mode **during instructional periods**. The exceptions are when teachers provide explicit permission for educational use or when they are supportive of special education needs or essential for documented medical requirements or as stated on a student's IEP. The student will be responsible for their PMD, how they use it and the consequences for not following the school board's policy on PMDs. **Should a parent need to contact their child, or vice versa, they can communicate through the main office during instructional time or at your child's lunch time.** For this reason, parents need to be aware of their child's schedule and the school's bell times. **If an educator sees a PMD that is not stored out of view, they must require the device be handed in for the instructional period and the device must be placed by the student in a storage area in a location in the classroom designated by the educator.**

On Vaping on School Property: The **Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017** prohibits the smoking and vaping anywhere on school property, (including inside vehicles) and specifically within 20 metres from the perimeter of school property. **Students cannot possess or use tobacco, nicotine, cannabis or vapour at school.** If these products are found in the possession of students, their families will be notified, and students must surrender the item(s) to staff. **These item(s) once confiscated, will not be returned.** Consequences for possession, smoking or vaping on school property, will be determined by the school administration.

Please reach out to the school administration if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A Ayeni

Angela Ayeni
Principal

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.