(Created on Nov. 1, 2026, to discuss at School Council meeting on Nov. 9)

To the Principal, and the TVDSB:

The School Council at Central Secondary School offers Recommendations on Rules for Using Mobile Devices in the Classroom.

Background:

Parents are aware of increasing research on the dangers of distraction and addiction with cell phone use, both at home and at school. The Ontario Government has issued guidance and rules for using mobile devices in the classroom, available at this web address:

https://www.ontario.ca/page/cellphones-and-other-mobile-devices-schools

Highlights from these rules:

- Classes should begin with phones put away
- School boards must have a policy explaining how they will enforce mobile device restrictions
- Student phones must be off or silent, and stored out of view, unless explicitly allowed.
- Consequences are quite severe.
- Schools may have a policy with MORE consequences.

TVDSB Code of Conduct has a section for cellphones:

https://www.tvdsb.ca/our-board/code-of-conduct/#Cellphones

This TVDSB language appears to briefly summarize the Provincial guidance, but with no language about consequences. Further information about TVDSB Code of Conduct **Procedure** is in a separate harder-to-locate document:

https://media-002-ca.cdn.govstack.com/tvdsb-014-ca/media/hr4doayj/doc_638839540784059961.pdf

Section 9 of this Procedure discusses Mobile Device Use. One pertinent paragraph:

9.3.2. For students in Grades 7 through 12, if the educator sees a personal mobile device 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.

Current classroom experience:

Based on a small survey of parents and their student's experience at Central, these rules are being widely ignored. Students are given liberal use of their phones during the **majority** of

classes. Students play games on their phones. They use messaging apps. Both educators and students appear to accept this reality, despite the obvious detrimental outcomes.

Recommendations:

- School Council recommends a school-wide and or board-wide campaign to decrease mobile device use in classes, using the language **already available** from the Ontario government.
- School Council recommends improving the communication to students and educators regarding **consequences** for ignoring the cell phone policy.
- School Council recommends a consistent “cell phone jail” location in every classroom, with an appropriate box or similar storage area.
- School Council recommends keeping this topic on School Council agenda for future updates from school leadership.