



Grand Erie District School Board

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September 4, 2024

Dear Grand Erie District School Board families and students,

We're thrilled to welcome all Grand Erie District School Board learners and families to the start of the 2024-25 school year. I am sharing an update based on an [announcement by the Ministry of Education](#) in April 2024.

Effective September 2024, all Ontario school boards must follow the Ministry's Provincial Code of Conduct to promote healthy and welcoming learning environments. This includes all students being required to follow anti-vaping and personal mobile device use guidelines.

Students must only use personal mobile devices during instructional time for educational purposes (as directed by an educator), health and medical purposes, and to support special education needs.

- Students in K to Grade 6 can use a mobile device before- and after-school, if permitted, based on school procedures.
- Students in Grades 7 and 8 can use a mobile device during recess/breaks or lunch, if permitted, based on school procedures.
- Grade 9 to 12 students can use a mobile device during breaks or lunch.

Schools already have a procedure on mobile device use. Those procedures remain effective and meet the Ministry's new minimum requirements. If you have any questions, please check with your child's Principal.

As per the Ministry's requirement, Grand Erie will restrict access to all social media platforms on school networks and school devices, except for SMS (text) messages. Students can only use social media platforms at school for educational purposes directed by an educator.

Finally, the Ministry announced a strict anti-vaping policy in schools. Parents and caregivers will be immediately informed and vapes in a student's possession will be given up and disposed of. With Ministry funding, vape detectors will be installed throughout the school year at all Grand Erie secondary schools.

We compiled [additional information and resources](#) to help with the new Ministry requirements.

Sincerely,

Dr. JoAnna Roberto, Ph.D.
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

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