

### **5.9 BACKPACK POLICY**

**Purpose:** The purpose of school is for students to learn and succeed. The purpose of this policy is to support students in meeting our expectation that they come to class on time and prepared to learn with all the necessary tools and materials to do so. Our goal is to give the students every possible way to succeed and teach them the values they need to progress and become an honest ethical member of the community. We believe this is better accomplished by giving them the tools to succeed and instilling in them values to make good honest choices.

**Policy:**

Students may carry a backpack from class to class to transport all of the belongings and resources that they require during the school day.

Students should demonstrate courtesy in where they place their back pack in the classroom so it doesn't interfere with the learning environment.

The enforcement of the backpack policy should be proportionate to the infraction. At no time shall the enforcement of policy hinder the learning environment of the student in violation, their peers or the administration of any classroom during normally scheduled class times.

We recommend that students use two strap backpacks because laptop bags and one shoulder strap bags can lead to scoliosis.

Allowing our students to carry backpacks prevents problems such as the following:

- Students with lockers that are not near their classes being constantly late to class.
- Students in higher grade levels unable to carry all of their necessary belongings because they have too much to carry.
- Female students at a disadvantage due to feminine hygiene because a trip to the washroom would take twice as long without having personal items on hand.
- Students forgetting their supplies or assignments in their lockers/backpacks causing them to either return to their lockers wasting and missing valuable class time or getting a zero on homework for classes they are not allowed to leave.

**Enforcement:**

Infractions relating to backpacks will be enforced in the following ways:

- If there are any items stolen by concealing them in a backpack, the student will lose the privilege of carrying a backpack to class for the rest of the school year or at the administration's discretion.
- If electronics are brought into class and are used without teacher authorization, the teacher at his/her discretion can require the student to not bring his backpack to that class for up to one month.

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- If the student is blatantly and deliberately irresponsible with placing his backpack in an area that others may trip over it or cause an unsafe situation, the student will lose the privilege of carrying a backpack to class for one week or at that teacher's discretion.