



**Dr. Ajayi Monell**  
William Rainey Harper

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## Cell phone-free school

### Dear William Rainey Harper Parents, Guardians and Supporters,

We're making our schools a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning experiences using a system called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

This change aligns with CMSD's board policy that states that *"To maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, students who choose to bring a personal cellphone or electronic device to school will have their phone/device subject to collection and/or storage during the student school day."* This policy follows Ohio House Bill 250, which requires the minimization of cell phone use in schools.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every scholar will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Scholars will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. They are required to obtain their Yondr pouch each day at arrival and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 216-838-3400 or attend one of our upcoming meetings about the adoption of Yondr that will occur on our back-to-school Meet the Teacher night on **August 15 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**. In addition, we invite you to take a look at the attached FAQ document and graphic on how Yondr works.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-3400. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,

**Dr. Ajayi Monell,**  
Principal



### **Pouch**

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



### **Secure**

The pouch is closed and secured and ***will be stored in the main office throughout the school day.***



### **Exit**

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if there is an emergency and I need to reach my child during the school day?**

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 216-838-3400.

### **What if there is a school emergency?**

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Student devices will be placed in Yondr pouches and will be securely placed in a locked bin and returned at the end of the school day. These bins will be securely stored in the main office.

### **What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?**

The Yondr pouch is the property of William Rainey Harper PreK-8 School.

If a student is caught on their phone:

- **1st Offense** - The student is given a verbal warning and will receive a parent phone call to review the district and school policy that requires the student to store their cell phone in the secured location.
- **2nd Offense** - The student's cell phone will be confiscated and stored in a secure location and the student's parent, or guardian will be required to retrieve the cellular device.
- **3rd Offense** - The student will be required to return to the school building with their parent or guardian for a conference to discuss the student's repeated violation of school and district policy. **Student will be subject to in school and/or out of school suspension.**

If a student damages their pouch this is considered a level 3 infraction, specifically *3K - Damaging or attempting to damage property, and is a suspendable offense.*

**Note:** Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.