



Joelle McIntosh
Principal

July 31, 2024

Re: Cell phone-free school

Dear Nathan Hale Parents, Guardians and Supporters,

We are once again 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, beginning day one! Pouches will then be secured in a locked box and kept in the main office until the end of the school day when they are opened and returned to students. Students are required to place their phones in their assigned Yondr pouch each day.

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 216-838-4250 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, 2024 from 3:05 pm - 5:05 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 216-838-4250. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support as we continue the use of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,

Joelle McIntosh
Principal

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POUCH

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



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

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

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want 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 216-838-4250.

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?

Once the phones have been pouched. Phones will be securely stored inside of a locked box, inside of the main office, until the end of the day.

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

The Yondr pouch is the property of Nathan Hale PreK-8 School.

If a student is caught on their phone:

- **1st Offense - Pouch Phone & Message Home.**
- **2nd Offense - Phone Collected & Call Home. Phone Returned End of Day.**
- **3rd Offense - Phone Collected & Held for Parent Pickup and/or Planning Center**
- **Repeated violation of the cell phone policy will result in 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.