

**Dear Mary Church Terrell Parents, Guardians and Supporters,**

During the 2024-2025 school year, we are continuing to make Mary Church Terrell a phone free environment using a system called Yondr. 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.

This 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 in grades 4-8 will secure their phone, smart watches and wireless headphones in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Scholars will maintain possession of their phones and other accessories 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. Students in grades 3 and below who bring a cell phone, smart watch or wireless headphones to school will turn their items into an administrator upon arrival and it will be locked in the main office. These students will receive their phones and accessories upon exiting the building at dismissal.

Any student who chooses to bring a cellular phone or other electronic device to school shall do so at their and their family's own risk. The district and its employees will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to a cellular phone or other electronic device brought onto school transportation or property, even during times the phone or device are subject to the collection or storage process of the District. To this end, families are not required to send any personal cell phone or electronic device to school with their student and are encouraged to carefully evaluate all associated risks and benefits when deciding whether to send a cell phone or electronic device to school with a student.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 216-838-6450 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 16 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**. In addition, we invite you to look at the attached Cell Phone Acknowledgement Form.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-6450. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the continuation of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,

**Samantha Prince**  
Principal

**Chief Executive Officer**

Dr. Warren G. Morgan II

**Board of Education**

Sara Elaquad, J.D.

*Board Chair*

Robert W. Briggs, J.D.

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Diana Welch Howell

**Ex Officio Members**

Michael A. Baston, Ed.D., J.D.

Laura Bloomberg, Ph.D.

# Mary Church Terrell Cell Phone Policy Acknowledgement Form 2024-2025

## 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 216-838-6450.

### **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?**

Students are in possession of their phones - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

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

The Yondr pouch is the property of Mary Church Terrell School. 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. 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. If the Yondr Pouch is damaged, there will be a replacement fee of **\$20**. If the replacement fee is not paid, the student will be required to place their phone in the office to be locked in the lock box until the end of each school day.

### **Corrective Action for Student Violations During the School Day**

Any student who fails to follow Mary Church Terrell's cell phone and similar device collection or storage process or who chooses to use a cell phone or electronic device during the school day in violation of this policy will be subject to the following:

- a) Written notification to the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the building administrator, and confiscation of the cell phone or electronic device until the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian comes to the school to retrieve the cell phone or electronic device.

Refusal to turn in or store a cellular phone or electronic device to school personnel attempting to collect, store, or confiscate it pursuant to this policy constitutes a Level 2I offense. Repeated or chronic violations of the cell phone and electronic device acceptable use policy constitute a Level 2Q offense. In rare cases, students who chronically violate this policy even after attempts by the school to resolve the concern through communication with the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian may be subject to confiscation of their cell phone or electronic device by a building administrator until the end of the academic year.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and reviewed the Mary Church Terrell Cell Phone Policy for the 2024-2025 school year

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_