



E. Washington Rhodes Middle School

Dear Parents,

We are working to make our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called [Yondr](#). **Implementation will take place Monday, March 11, 2024. We are encouraging parents to support this effort as we have had a number of challenges regarding cell phone use in class.** Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

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.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Upon entering the building, every middle school scholar will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day at which time they will be collected and assessed for damage. Students will **NOT** take the pouches home however they are responsible for their pouch at all times while in the school building.

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 215-400-7060, or attend one of our weekly SAC meetings where we discuss all the changes and provide ways you all can support the school and your scholars education Thursdays, at noon in person and here (virtually).

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to Lynn Shirley, Climate Manager or Dean Scott at 215-400-7060.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,



Chris Harris

Building Principal

How Yondr Works



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 215-400-7060

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 and the school will contact you directly

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - 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 property of E. Washington Rhodes school. **If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:**

- **1st Offense: Phone is held in the main office until the end of the day and the parent is notified.**
- **2nd Offense: Parent/Guardian will be required to come to the school and pick up the student's phone**



team@overyondr.com

Pouches have been purchased by the school lost or damaged pouches will result in a \$25 replacement fee at the expense of the parent or guardian

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 and/or Yondr staff.



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