



Dear Parents,

We are writing to share important news: we will be strengthening our existing cell phone policy so that during the school day, our campus is phone-free. This will enhance student learning and build community. We will be using a system called Yondr Bags which has been used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, weddings and other events where community and connection are a priority.

While we know that cell phones and social media are useful, we also believe that learning and social connections improve when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Unfortunately, phones are a persistent distraction, and can undermine good mental health. Here are links to studies that corroborate our own experience as school leaders: [Common Sense: Addiction to phones](#), [Samford Health: Phone use and anxiety](#), [Pew: 45% of teens on phone "almost constantly"](#).

As a discipleship school, we are committed to partnering with families to promote student flourishing. Given the addictive nature of phones and social media, we no longer think it's realistic to allow students to have phones with them but not check their phones during the day. The Yondr bags will be a tool to help students take a break from their phones.

Yondr uses a simple, lockable pouch that stores a cell phone. Every student will be issued a pouch along with their Chromebook. Students will keep their phones stored during the day, and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Just like they do with their computers, students are required to bring their Yondr pouches to and from school each day and to maintain them in good working order.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in learning institutions. Yondr 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

We invite you to view [this](#) introductory video in which we explain the program in more detail. Also, please explore the program at www.veryondr.com. In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school. If you have any questions, please contact r_wassenaar@swchs.org.

Thank you,

Dan Beckering
Head of School

Rob Wassenaar
Dean of Students