

Robinson G. Jones PK-8



Cell Phone Free

As we continuously strive to provide a safe and focused learning environment for our students, we are implementing a new policy regarding cell phone usage in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Effective Monday, August 19, 2024, our school will operate as a cell phone-free zone during school hours. This decision has been made with the welfare of our students in mind. We believe that eliminating distractions will contribute to uninterrupted education, enhance student engagement, and foster stronger interactions among peers and teachers.

We recognize that cell phones can be important tools for communication; however, we want to ensure that our classroom environment remains conducive to learning. By reducing distractions, we aim to create a space where our students can thrive academically and socially.

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy at home. Please remind your child to leave their cell phone at home or remind them that they must follow the RG Jones' procedures of placing their cell phones in the Yonder pouches (specific procedures detailed below.) Students who need to contact parents or guardians may do so through the school phone.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to keep our school a safe and productive place for all students and a cell phone free learning environment.

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We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. 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.
- Every student will secure their phone in a 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.
- 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
- In an attempt to ease any apprehension that you have, I invite you to watch a Yondr Bag demonstration:
<https://youtu.be/oDrtAVYTnvl>
- Students who violate the CMSD cell phone policy will report to an administrator immediately who will then collect the phone from the student and follow the disciplinary procedures as established in the 2024-2025 student code of conduct handbook.