



# ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 7, 2024

Dear Rolling Hills Middle School Families,

Our district protocols around student cell phones at school will be different this year.

Last year, middle schools provided lock boxes to store student phones when students were unable to resist using them during the school day. That effort proved inefficient. This year, to support student mental health and provide a distraction-free environment, Rolling Hills Middle School will become a phone-free zone during school hours.

While phones have their benefits, we have seen that learning and social behavior improve significantly when students are fully engaged. To implement our phone-free protocol, we have partnered with Yondr, to provide locking cell phone pouches. These pouches, used in over 2,000 schools across 16 countries, will help create a more engaged learning environment.

**Here is how the phone-free school day will work:**

Every student will secure their phone in a Yondr pouch upon arrival at school. They will keep their phones with them but will not be able to use them until the end of the school day. Students are responsible for bringing their pouches to and from school daily.

A recent study by Common Sense Media\* found that 97% of students aged 11-17 use their cell phones during the school day, averaging 43 minutes in class. Another study found that cell phone use among teenagers has increased nearly 50% over the last decade.

The impact of using the Yondr program has been positive elsewhere:

- 84% of schools reported increased student engagement.
- 72% saw improved student behavior.
- 68% noted better academic performance.

In a recent survey of over 370 schools:

- 86% saw improved student safety and wellness; this includes reducing incidents of social cruelty, bullying, and cyber bullying.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (408) 364-4235.

In case of emergency or if you need to contact your child during school hours, please reach out to our Administrative Office by calling (408) 364-4235.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in making our school a phone-free space.

Sincerely,

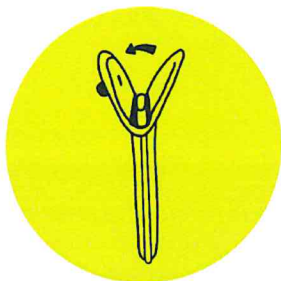
Ted Cribari III  
Principal, Rolling Hills Middle School

\*Constant Companion: A Week in the Life of a Young Person's Smartphone Use. Common Sense Media, October 2023

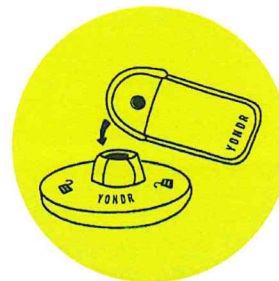
## How Yondr Works at Rolling Hills Middle School



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve 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, please reach out to our Administrative Office team at (408) 364-4235.

#### What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety procedures first, following our school emergency preparedness protocols.

#### 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 Rolling Hills Middle School and Campbell Union School District. If a student damages their pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/pouch and call home:

- **The Parent will need to come to the school and pick up their child's phone;**
- AND/OR
- **Consequences may include: Community Service / In-School Suspension/ Replacement Fee**

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised as determined by the school.