

We Are Your Schools

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

February 29, 2024

Dear Families,

Following approval from the FWCS Board of School Trustees last night, we will be piloting phone-free schools at Jefferson and Shawnee middle schools and North Side and Wayne high schools this spring. We will be using a system called [Yondr](#) to improve the teaching and learning environment in our classrooms.

We understand cellphones can be a great tool, but we also know they can be damaging to a child's well-being as phone addiction is real. We have attempted other methods to curb students' use of phones in school, but as with any addiction, it is difficult to just put it aside and not use the device if it is readily available. When students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates, learning and social behavior improve.

The Yondr system uses a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone and other small electronic devices, such as smart watches and earbuds. Every student will secure their phone (turned off or in airplane mode) 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. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Other schools using Yondr report:

- 84% improvement in student engagement
- 72% improvement in student behavior
- 68% improvement in academic performance
- 86% improvement in student safety and wellness

We will have additional information for students and families prior to the rollout of Yondr this spring. We understand there will be many questions and a period of transition. We will use this pilot to determine how best to use this system in all of our middle and high schools to improve student well-being, safety and academic achievement.

I appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Mark Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Mark Daniel
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent

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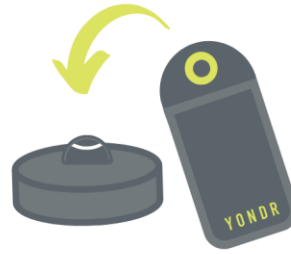
How Yondr Works



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, contact the main office.

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 phone in their Yondr pouch for the entire school day.

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

The Yondr pouch is property of Fort Wayne Community Schools. If a student damages their pouch or is caught on their phone, it will be handled in the same way we address damage to student laptops or other school property.

Where can I learn more about Yondr?

- [How Yondr works](#)
- [Yondr in schools](#)
- [One school district's story](#)
- [Story from CBS Mornings](#)