



Dear Warren County Schools Parents and Students,

We are writing to inform you about an important new policy that will be implemented for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. To enhance our learning environment, Warren County Schools has adopted a district-wide **Personal Electronic Device Prohibition Policy**. This policy will apply to all students across the district.

This decision is aimed at limiting distractions and creating a more focused and productive learning environment for our students. Research consistently shows that removing personal electronic devices from the classroom significantly enhances students' academic performance. Additionally, limiting personal electronic device use in schools can lead to a decrease in bullying and cyberbullying incidents. Warren County Schools is taking a proactive approach as one of the first districts in the state to adopt this policy, charting new paths and setting high standards in true pioneer spirit.

Definition

The definition of **personal electronic device** includes all of the following:

- Phones (both phones that connect to the internet and non-internet connected phones that send and receive text messages and make phone calls).
- Airpods, earbuds and Bluetooth connected headphones.
- Smartwatches, fitness trackers and other accessories that connect to the internet.

Exceptions

A student that has a medical necessity, as determined by a healthcare professional, that is documented in an IEP, 504, or individual health plan will be granted an exception. The exception is specific to the use of an electronic device to manage their condition only and still prohibits the use of the device for any other purposes.

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Yondr Pouches

Warren County Schools has purchased Yondr pouches that will be issued to students in grades 6th-12th for the entire school year. These pouches will become available for use within the first few weeks. The process for using these pouches is as follows:

1. Each student upon arrival will place any **personal electronic devices** brought to school (phones, earbuds, watches, etc.) into the Yondr pouch. *Devices larger than the pouch (tablet, laptop, headphones, etc.) will not be permitted on campus.
2. The pouch will be locked at the start of the school day and will remain locked throughout the school day.
3. The pouches will only be unlocked after the 2:45 p.m. bell by holding the pouch up to a Yondr magnet available at exits as students leave the building. Devices must remain in pouches and not in use until departure from campus.

Students may choose to leave their **personal electronic devices** at home or locked in their vehicles if they prefer not to carry the locked pouch with them throughout the day.

Transition Period

Before the Yondr pouches become available, the following procedures will be in place for the first few weeks of the school year:

- **High School Students:** Students who wish to bring **personal electronic devices** to school must check-in with designated faculty/staff in the WCHS library before the 7:45 a.m. bell. Devices will be cataloged and locked in a storage locker for the school day. **Please note that tardies to first period due to phone check-in will be unexcused.* Once the 2:45 p.m. bell rings, students will return to the library to check-out their devices. Devices must remain put away and not in use until departure from campus.
- **6th-8th Grade Students:** Students must check-in their devices as they enter the school each day. **Please note that tardies to first period due to phone check-in will be unexcused.* Individual schools will give specific information as to those expectations when the school year begins. Devices will remain put away and not in use until departure from campus.

Policy Disclaimer

The use of Yondr pouches is intended as a privilege to foster a focused learning environment, not as a punishment. However, if the pouches are not respected or used correctly, Warren County Schools reserves the right to reconsider and remove their use from this policy.

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Guidelines for Violating the Personal Electronic Device Policy

Offense	Pre-K-8 Consequence
1st Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. Warning-Student will serve detention for the next offense.
2nd Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. Student is assigned to either 2 days ASD, or 1 week of lunch detention.
3rd Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. Student serves 2 days of ISS. Student is not allowed to bring the device back for the rest of the school year.
4th + Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. K-5 could result in suspension or other disciplinary action.

Offense	WCMS/WCHS Consequence
1st Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. Warning-Student will serve detention for the next offense.
2nd Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. 2 days of ASD/EL6 or 1 week of lunch detention.
3rd Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Parent is notified and must pick up device from office. 2 days of ISS. Behavior Contract. Revocation of parking privilege. Restriction of attendance at school-sponsored activities (games, dances, etc.).
4th + Offense	Device is collected & the offense is documented. Short term suspension – 3 days or less. Alternative placement referral.

We understand that this is a significant change, and we appreciate your cooperation and support as we implement this policy to create a more focused and productive learning environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school administration.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grant Swallows". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Grant Swallows
Director of Schools
Warren County Schools