

Away for the Day at Day

September 18, 2023

Why we are a cell phone free environment?

- Engagement in learning!!
- Social Media Incidents: YouTube, Social Media Sites, Tik ToK
- Increase hate incidents, inappropriate content - mimicked by our students
- Leads to negative interactions and power struggle

Current Cell Phone Policy

- Off and away when walk through the door (different from last year)
- First offense - Staff take the phone and send it to the office for pick up after school
- Second offense- take the phone and keep in the office for 2 weeks - notify parents.

Why are we introducing the Yondr Pouches?

- We tracked cell phone incidents from November through May of last year and there were over 400.
- This leads to negative interactions with students.
- We have piloted “shoe tree” and other alternatives with less success
- Number of cell phone and social media incidents is on the rise at Day and elsewhere post-COVID
- Direct correlation between mental health crisis and social media
- Day staff supports a cell phone free environment
- DESE grant opportunity in July to support our work.

How are we navigating the culture shift?

- Week of 9/11 - Preview in Student Expectations Assemblies
- Tonight: 9/18 - Parent and Caregiver Information Session
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023 - Staff Information Session
- Thursday, October 12, 2023- Advisory Lesson with students
- Week of October 16, 2023: Launch of the Program

As we take something away, we add...

- ❑ More Outdoor Time (Each grade 3Xs)
- ❑ Outdoor Games and Equipment
- ❑ Indoor Games at lunches
- ❑ DEAR time and focus on creating a community of readers
- ❑ Student agency and leadership opportunities
- ❑ Parent and Caregiver Book Groups around middle school topics:

First Phone by Dr. Catherine Pearlman

Middle School Matters by Phyllis Fagell

Details of the Program

Matt Army from Yondr