



P.S. DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

701 WEST 34TH STREET
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(302)762-7146
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LLEWELLYN A. SMALL
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September 7, 2025

Dear Panther Families,

We can agree cell phones have become part of the fabric of our society and culture. It wasn't that many years ago that cell phones were limited to only making calls and texting. However, today the cell phone is a device that allows for instant access to nearly unlimited applications and information.

The administrative team has heard from many parents, teachers, and students about their concerns regarding how cell phones have become a distraction during the school day and have become increasingly interruptive to the educational process. Cell phone policies in place at PS and interventions/consequences are being enforced if a student does not follow the cell phone policy that is addressed in the [BSD Code of Conduct](#).

Cell Phone Policy – It is expected that all personal devices be *turned off and away* during the instructional day. This includes cell phones, Wi-Fi ear buds, as well as watches that can act as a communication device.

During the 2025-2026 school year, **we will continue following our cell phone policy to improve teaching and learning**, using a program called [Yondr](#) (Please click the Yondr link for additional information).

Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 27 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and student mental health improve drastically when students are fully present with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Students who are distracted by their cell phone and/or are in violation of the code of conduct policy will be assigned a Yondr pouch.

- Students will secure their phone 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.

In an annual survey of over 1,200 of schools that implemented the Yondr Program:

- **86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness**
- **84% saw a positive change in student engagement**
- **72% saw a positive change in student behavior**
- **68% saw a positive change in academic performance**



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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 at 302-762-7146

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. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.