

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
KENSINGTON CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

1901 N. Front Street
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122
215-400-7400

September 9, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians;

All of the the schools in Philadelphia are committed to maintaining a safe and effective learning atmosphere for all students. Cell phone usage has increasingly become a root cause of disturbance and distraction in our schools despite their potential value.

As a result, Kensington CAPA High School made the decision to use Yondr Pouches for the 2022-2023 school year. [You can visit this link to see how they work.](#) With the Yondr Pouches, students will maintain possession of their phones while in school, but will not be able to use them while in the pouch. When entering school, students will turn their phones off, earbuds, and smart watches and place them in their pouch, which will be locked. At the end of the day, students will be able to unlock the pouches at the exits. We strongly believe that the use of the Yondr Pouches in our buildings will increase safety, student learning, and engagement in school.

We are asking for your support in ensuring that our schools are able to focus on our mission to provide a high-quality education to all of our students. Please discuss the importance of taking full advantage of the experiences we deliver with the goal of supporting each young person in learning and contributing positively to our school communities.

On the reverse of this letter, you will find a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Should there be a need to learn more about how you can support our efforts to maintain the safest and most engaging schools possible for our deserving young people, please contact me using the information in the header.

Sincerely,



Patricia McDermott
Principal KCAPA

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the Yondr process work at morning arrival and dismissal?

- All students will be assigned a Yondr pouch for their phone that they keep all year.
- The pouch is the property of the school and is considered on loan to the student during the school year.
- Upon entering school, students will turn their phone off, place the phone, smartwatch, electronic watch, and ear buds, inside of the Yondr pouch, and lock it in front of the designated staff.
- If a student needs to leave school early for an approved early dismissal, medical emergency, work roster, athletic event, or other school-sponsored trip, unlocking will be available to allow for a quick opening of the pouch.
- Students will take their pouch to and from school with them each day.

What if a parent/guardian needs to reach their child during the school day?

- We understand that emergencies will occur. Parents/guardians may contact the main office to speak with their child if the need arises at 215-400-7400.

Will the phone be safe?

- Phones NEVER leave the possession of the students.

What happens if a student does not have their pouch?

- The phone will be turned over to a designated staff member and secured in the school, safe until the end of the school day.
- At the end of the school day, students will retrieve their phone by showing their school ID.

What happens if a Yondr pouch is damaged?

- Students will be required to purchase a replacement pouch from the school at the current market value.

What if a student refuses to put their devices into a Yondr Pouch?

- The parent will be notified that if the student fails to comply he/she will not be admitted to a school.
- Students still refusing to cooperate prior to entry into school will then be denied entry (not suspended) by the principal/designee until such time as they choose to comply.