

Managing Cell Phone Use with Yondr Pouches

Year 2 Implementation - Beman Middle School

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Middletown Public Schools
Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student





Why Yondr Pouches?

- Designed to minimize distractions and promote focus.
- Encourage face-to-face interaction and engagement.
- Provide a consistent system for managing devices across the school.
- Align with district goals of improving climate and culture.





Current Implementation

- Pouches distributed to team leaders
- Teachers assign them to students.
- Students lock phones upon arrival; unlock before dismissal.
- Two unlocking stations at the first floor, one in the main office, one in the nurse's office





Quick Data and Observations

- 95% of students follow the cell phone use rules
- On average day, less than 1% of students come without pouches; their phones remain in the main office
- Last year, about 30 pouches were not returned
- September - October - November: only 4 incidents of unauthorized cell phone use
- Some students do not lock pouches and use cellphones in the bathrooms
- Many students wait until dismissal to unlock, causing congestion





Student Feedback

- Unlocking at dismissal is inconvenient.
- Long lines at stations create frustration.
- Students value quicker, smoother processes.





Staff Feedback

- Using pouches in secure boxes
- Using secure boxes to store cell phones





Operational Challenges

- Limited number of stations to unlock Yondr pouches
- Inconsistent compliance with dismissal unlocking





Results

- Using Yondr pouches has reduced unauthorized use of cellphones
- Structured management of cell phone has positive impact on teaching and learning due to fewer distractions





Action Plan

- Re-evaluate the distribution procedure at the beginning of the year
- Support teachers in monitoring process
- Maintain accountability of policy
- Reinforce communication with families to encourage using locked Yondr pouches; parents will be surveyed in the future





Action Plan (continued)

- Make the use of Yondr Pouches as a part of Beman culture (posters, announcements, and fact sheets)
- Frame the use of Yondr pouches as a tool to build respect and focus
- Celebrate compliance with recognition



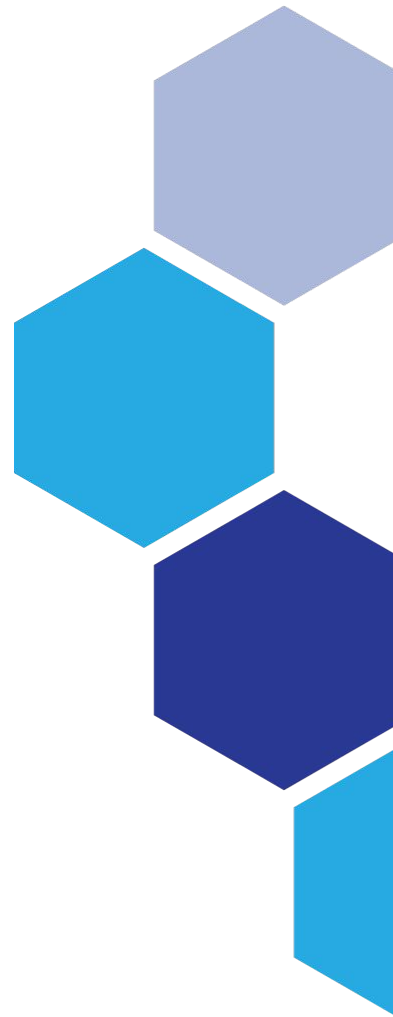
MHS CELL PHONE POLICY



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Timeline

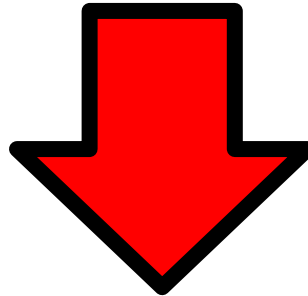
- Communication began in early August, reminders continued as school year approached
- Faculty & staff made aware during PD
- Students given YONDR pouches during first advisory
- Pouches checked at entry daily & weekly when possible
- Expectations for students delivered during in-person assemblies
- Admin, staff, CEO still holding true to policy
- Regular announcements going home to parents & guardians



General Daily Practices

- Daily announcements to reinforce expectations
- Teachers asked to call security desk for phone violations
- If confiscated, secretaries will log incident in PowerSchool to track
- Parents & guardians notified if confiscated, or other discipline
- While some students continue to push boundaries, admin & staff remain firm in enforcing policy

**OVERALL STUDENT
PHONE USE**



Results

PHYSICAL ALTERCATIONS

- From Sep.-Dec. 2024: 17 physical altercations during school hours
- From Sep.-Dec. 2025: 3 physical altercations during school hours

DOWN

83%



CLASS CUTS

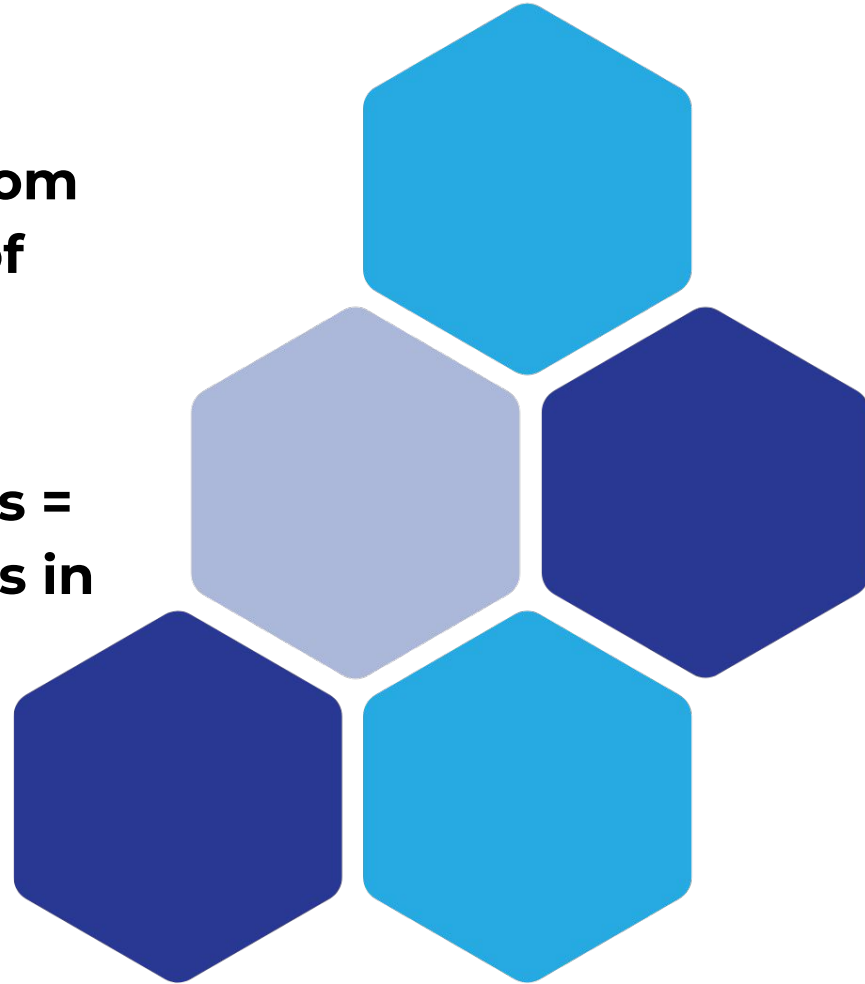
- From Sep.-Dec. 2024: 220 class cuts
- From Sep.-Dec. 2025: 100 class cuts

DOWN

55%



- **Minimum grade was dropped from 50% to 40%, with that, 583 out of 1,192 students made either High Honors or Honors**
- **Hallways are clear during classes = No outside disruptions to classes in progress**



MHS Phone Policy Data

What are some of the positive aspects of the phone policy at MHS?

Increased Student
Engagement &
Focus

Improved Social
Interaction,
Reduced Drama &
Conflict

Fewer
Distractions

Increased
Accountability &
Enforcement

Better Grades &
Quality of Work



MHS Phone Policy Data

What are some of the barriers about the phone policy at MHS?



Student & Parent
Resistance

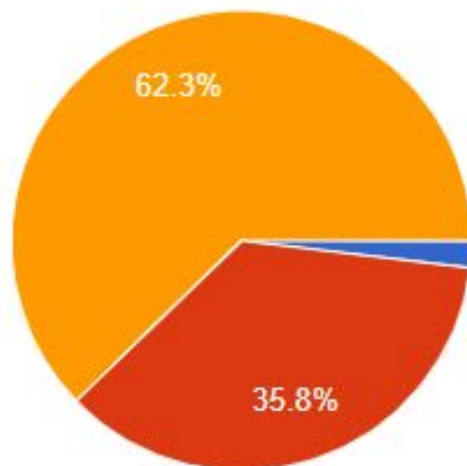
Headphone Use & Other
Tech Distractions

Limits Access to Some
Outside/Post-Secondary
Applications

Staff Survey Results

Overall, how do you think the cell phone policy is working compared to last school year?

106 responses



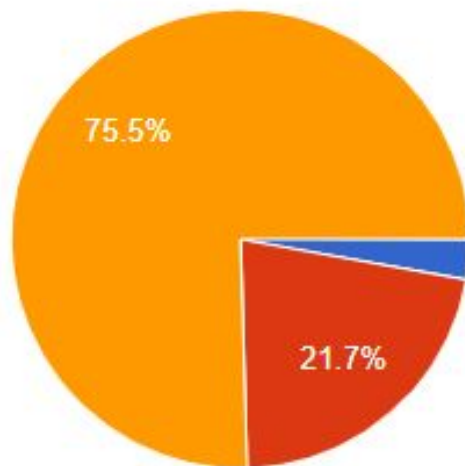
- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Excellent



Staff Survey Results

To what degree has the cell phone policy had a positive impact on the classroom learning environment?

106 responses



- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Excellent

