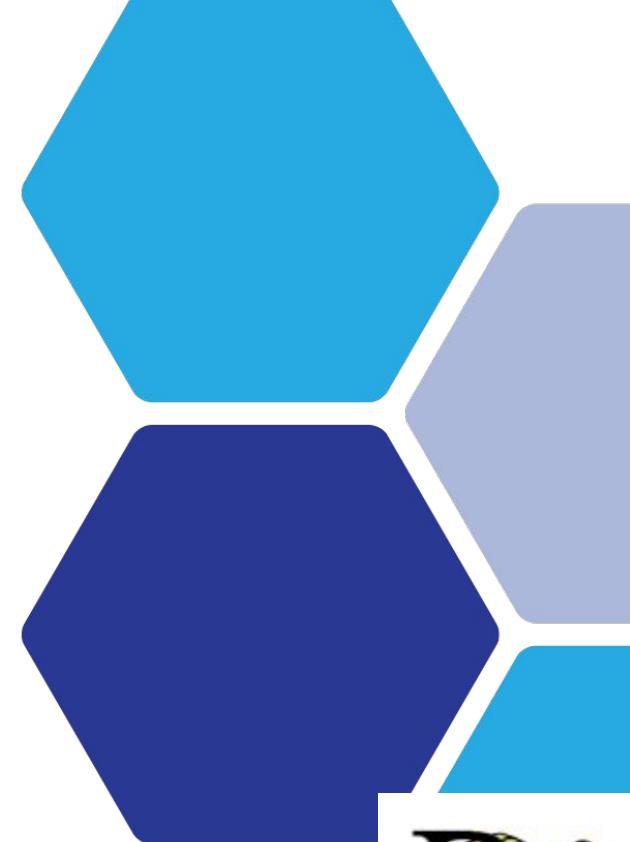


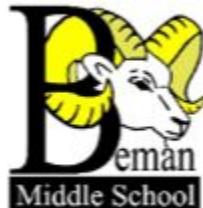
Managing Cell Phone Use with Yondr Pouches

Year 2 Implementation - Beman Middle School

Dr. Lily Auster



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



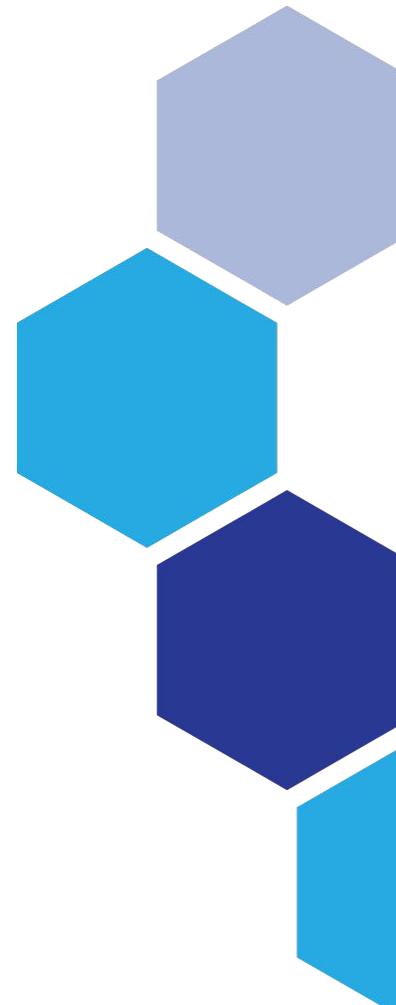
MHS CELL PHONE POLICY



Middletown Public Schools
Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student

Timeline

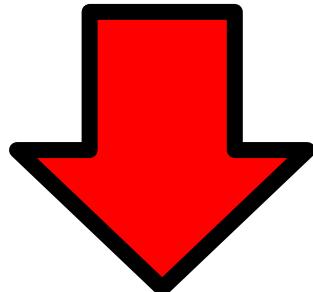
- Communication began in early August, reminders continued as school year approached
- Faculty & staff made aware during PD
- Students given YONDR pouches during first advisory
- Pouches checked at entry daily & weekly when possible
- Expectations for students delivered during in-person assemblies
- 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**

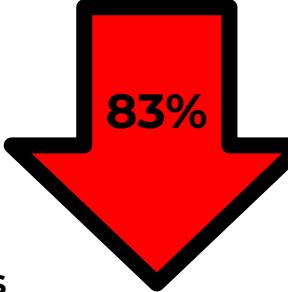


Results

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

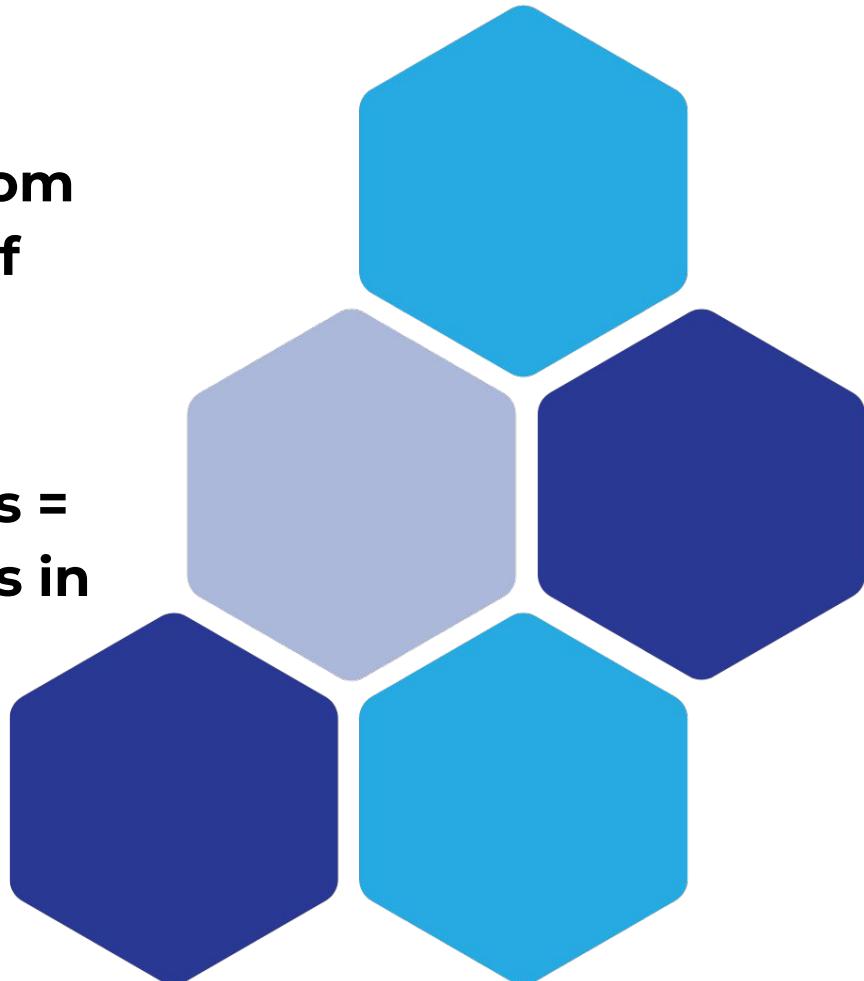
- From Sep.-Dec. 2024: 220 class cuts
- From Sep.-Dec. 2025: 100 class cuts

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

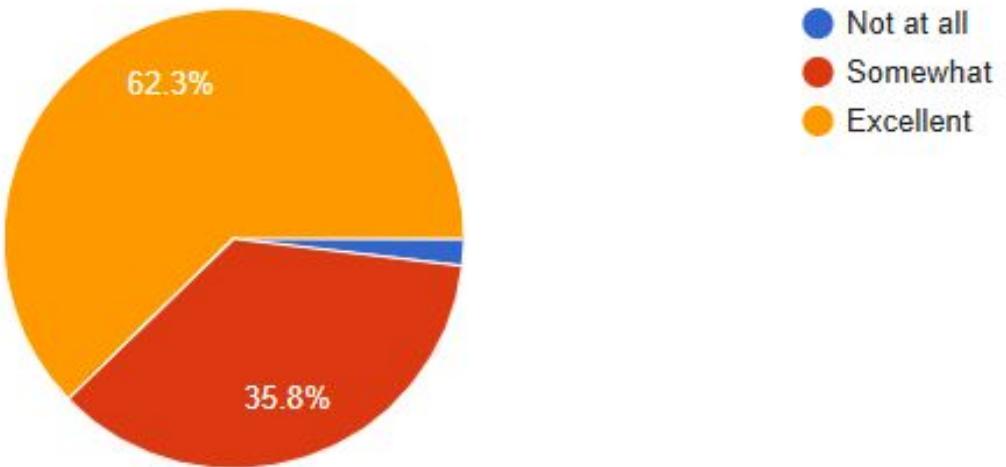
Headphone Use & Other
Tech Distractions

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



Staff Survey Results

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

106 responses

