

THE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Learning through law, striving for justice



2022-2023 Yondr Information for Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm writing to share the exciting news that we will continue the Yondr system to improve teaching and learning by making our school a phone-free space. It is a significant financial investment but we believe that the success of our students is worth it.

We understand that cell phones have great utility, but cell phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, antisocial behavior, and conflict at school. Maybe you as a parent are experiencing the same issues at home.

The Charter High School for Law and Social Justice believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all of its students. Research shows that the mere presence of cell phones in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance. According to a survey and report from Common Sense Media that involved 1,240 interviews with parents and their 12 to 18-year-old children, 50% of teens feel attached to their mobile devices, and 59% of their parents agree that their kids have a problem putting their devices down (U.S. News & World Report).

Yondr is currently used across the world in hundreds of schools, at concerts, comedy shows, courtrooms, weddings, and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr program employs a simple, easy-to-use case that stores a cell phone/smartwatch and requires an unlocking base to open. At the beginning of each school day, students will place their phone/smartwatch in a Yondr pouch that locks when they enter the school building. Students will maintain possession of their phones/smartwatches but will not be able to use them until they are unlocked at the end of the school day when they leave the building. If the students as a whole respect the Yondr policy, they will have the opportunity to earn the privilege of using their phones during lunch.

We believe this will allow our students to be:

- Engaged in classroom activities and assignments
- Less dependent on electronics for social interactions
- Less likely to engage in conversations around bullying

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- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in class
- Less likely to be involved in social media tension that often leads to dangerous situations

In an effort to best serve your child, we will need your full support of the Yondr program. We want to assure our families that you can reach your child or relay an important message to your child at the main office at (347) 696-0402. Please save this number for easy access. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.

To learn more about Yondr, visit <https://www.veryondr.com/schools>. At the bottom of the page, you will find three news articles/videos about the use of Yondr in schools. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ferrer, the Assistant Principal of School Culture, at jferrer@chslsj.org

Sincerely,
Mr. Burke
Executive Director/Head of School

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. Please refrain from contacting your child during the school day unless it is urgent. You may contact the main office at (347) 696-0402 to reach your child or relay an urgent message.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Yes, because students are in possession of their phones in the Yondr case and should keep the case stored away in their backpacks or lockers.

What if the case gets damaged or lost?

The Yondr case is school property. If a student damages a pouch due to an attempt to forcibly open it during school hours, he/she will be responsible for the \$15 cost of the pouch in addition to disciplinary action. If a student loses the pouch, he/she will be responsible for the \$15 cost to replace the pouch.