



Dear Families

At the October 18, 2018 board action meeting the Saginaw Board of Education voted to adopt a new policy on electronic devices. The intent of this policy is to remove distractions from the classroom and ultimately increase learning and student achievement. I am sending you this communication to make you aware that over the course of the next two weeks, school administrators, teachers, and support staff will be conducting parent meetings and class level meetings, informing parents and students of the new policy and the consequences embedded within the policy.

We are asking for your full support in implementing this policy as we know it will assist us in improving the learning environments in our schools and ultimately increasing student achievement. Please review the policy (see below) with your child and reiterate the importance of focusing in school during instructional time. In addition, please attend the scheduled parent meetings at your child's school, so that you can hear an explanation of the policy and have a chance to have a discussion with your child's principal. The Saginaw Public Schools electronic communication policy states: *"Students may not use electronic communication devices on school property during the school day. Electronic communication devices must be turned off and out of sight between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m."*

Saginaw Public Schools will be using a system called "Yondr" Pouches this semester to improve teaching and learning by making our secondary schools phone-free learning environments. Following the parent and student meetings, all students will be issued a Yondr pouch for the remainder of the school year. When students arrive to school each day, they are to place their phones in their assigned Yondr cellphone pouch. Each pouch will be inspected upon arrival. The pouch locks and the students keep their pouch with them. Students maintain possession of their cellphones throughout the day, but they will not be able to use them until they are unlocked at the end of the day. (This process is pictured on the next page.) If a student fails to bring a pouch or is uncooperative with the policy, there will be a discipline process followed that principals will communicate through the parent meetings. If your student damages the pouch, there will also be a fee of \$20.00 assessed for replacement.

Our collective efforts will continue to assist in transforming our school district and community. Our consistent mission will be to provide the strongest educational program possible and create consistent opportunities for our students to learn and grow in an environment which is safe, orderly and respectful to the individual child.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me or your child's principal if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ramont M. Roberts, Ph.D.

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HOW YONDR WORKS

STEP 1



CASE

As students enter the phone-free space, phones will be placed in a Yondr case.

STEP 2



LOCK

Once inside, the case will lock. Students keep their phones throughout the day.

STEP 3



UNLOCK

To unlock the case, tap it on any teacher or administrator's unlocking base.

YONDR POUCHES

As students enter the building, their phones will be placed in a personally assigned Yondr pouch and locked for the remainder of the day.

2. SCHOOL DAY

Students maintain possession of their locked phones throughout the school day and are now free to learn without distraction...

3. UNLOCK

Students will unlock their phones as they exit the building at the end of the day and will have access to their devices.

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