



June 6, 2024

Dear CAA Family,

Over the past several months the CAA staff has been looking at current research regarding student cell phone use and the associated impact it has on students' mental health. Based on this research, in consultation with our Board of Directors, **we will be making our school a phone-free space (including smart watches, tablets, etc.) to protect student mental-health and facilitate learning using a program called [Yondr](#)**. Yondr has been implemented in over 2,000 schools across 16 countries to facilitate full student engagement with teachers and classmates in the learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are not worrying about social media activity (FOMO) and can be fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students will be required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and will be responsible for their pouch at all times.

Recently Yondr received responses to their annual surveys from over 1,200 school partners, and after implementing the Yondr Education Program:

- **84% saw a change in student engagement**
- **72% saw a positive change in student behavior**
- **68% saw a positive change in academic performance**

Of their most recent impact survey of over 370 school partners:

- **86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness**

After watching the [Yondr introductory video](#) or [this News report about Yondr in schools](#) if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email gene.heinrich@caaschool.org.

Please note that we have phones in every classroom and building on campus and staff have cell phones in case of an emergency. If you would like to get in contact with your child during the school day, please call the office at (360) 687-3161.

In an effort to best serve your students, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at Columbia Adventist Academy. To learn more about the impact phones are having on teenagers please watch this [introductory video](#) and/or [this in-depth video](#) with the author of the book The Anxious Generation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Heinrich", enclosed within a hand-drawn blue oval.

Gene Heinrich, Principal

(360) 687-3161

Gene.Heinrich@CAAschool.org

How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

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. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 360-687-3161

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is found on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is property of Columbia Adventist Academy. If a student damages their Pouch or is found on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:

- **Parents/Guardians will come to the school and pick up their student's phone**
- **\$35 pouch replacement fee must be paid for a new pouch if students lose or damage their pouch.**

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

Electronic Devices

To provide the best possible learning environment and support students' mental well-being, laptop computers are the only school approved electronic devices. Phones, iPads, tablets, and other personal electronic devices (including earbuds, smart watches, gaming devices, etc.) are not to be used at school or on school trips. Students are encouraged to bring digital cameras on school trips to capture memories.

Every student is assigned a personal Yondr pouch. While the Yondr pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

Daily Process

As students Arrive to School, they will:

- Turn their phone/device off.
- Place their phone (and any other personal electronic devices, including earbuds, smart watches, etc.) inside their pouch and secure it in front of school staff. Devices too large to fit in a Yondr pouch (e.g. iPads) will be secured in the office for the student to pick up after school.
- Store their pouch in their backpack or locker for the day. At the end of the day, students will unlock/open their pouch, remove their phone and put their pouch in their backpack.
- Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.
- Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the front office.

Violations

Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Phone or Device During School

- If a student damages their pouch or is using their phone (or other personal electronic device) during prohibited times, Staff will collect the device/Pouch until the end of the school day, record the violation in FACTS, and notify the student's parent/guardian.
- \$35 pouch replacement fee must be paid for a new pouch if students lose or damage their pouch.

Any unapproved devices will be collected and stored in the office until the end of the school day/event. After the first violation parents will be notified and students will be allowed to pick the device up at the end of the day/event. After the second violation the device will remain in the office until a parent retrieves the device. After the third violation the student will be referred to the Student Affairs Committee for additional disciplinary consequences.

This policy applies to all school day trips except extracurricular trips such as interscholastic sports and Knowledge Bowl. Some exceptions will be made for overnight trips (such as music tour, mission trips or senior trip), trips involving travel by airplane, or at other times when having access to phones is deemed necessary by the supervising staff. Phones will not be allowed on trips such as Bible Camp and Biology Trip where students have emergency access to phones through staff and/or chaperones.

Misuse of Technology

Students shall never send, share, view or possess pictures, text messages, emails or other material of a sexually explicit nature in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device while on or off school property. Students must avoid any online/electronic behavior that detrimentally affects the personal safety or well-being of other individuals, the governance, climate or efficient operation of the school, or the process and/or experience of staff and students.

Sexting is strictly prohibited. "Sexting" is defined as the possession, sharing, distribution, or transmission of any digital content of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a computer, pager, beeper, MP3 player and cellular/wireless phone, tablet, slate, e-book reader or any photographic and/or video device. Any student who receives a sexually explicit message must immediately inform school administration of the message and only delete the message when instructed to do so by a school administrator or law enforcement officer. Such activity will result in immediate seizure and search of the electronic device used and will also result in immediate suspension and consideration for expulsion. Teachers are mandated reporters of abuse and activity of this kind may result in legal authorities becoming involved.