

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the upcoming school year 2023-2024, Schnee Learning Center will be a **phone-free space** to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. We believe that cell phones have great utility. However, research studies have found that learning and social behavior improve dramatically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. At Schnee, and in schools across the country, students are being negatively affected by cell phone and social media use in school. By eliminating cell phone use in our classrooms and increasing student engagement, we expect your students to reap the benefits of better grades, higher standardized test scores, more successful course completion, less disciplinary referrals, and, most importantly, **graduating from high school earlier!**

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores their phone. All students will secure their phones/smartwatches in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them, except for during lunch, until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are responsible for their pouches at all times.

The cost is \$0 to students and families as long as the student does not damage the bag on purpose. If the student damages the bag by ripping it apart, bending the pin, tearing or cutting the bag or other purposeful damage to the bag then they will be charged a \$20 fee for a replacement bag. In addition, once a student has purposely damaged a bag requiring a \$20 charge they will be required to place a \$20 security deposit on another bag. Until the deposit is paid the students phone will be kept in a sealed envelope in the office all day and they will not be given access to their phone at lunch until the deposit is paid. Students will not be charged for normal, everyday wear and tear.

In an attempt to ease any concerns that you might have, we will be posting a video about the program on our website for you to preview.

Additionally, we will be discussing the implementation of Yondr on our students' first day of school, Thursday, August 17th, 2023, and will also have Town Hall Meetings on August 15th, 6:00 pm, August 22nd, 3:00 pm and at our Open House on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 for those interested in obtaining more information.

If there is an emergency, and you would like to get in contact with your student, you will call the main office at (330) 922-1966.

In an effort to best serve your students, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at our school, as approved by the Schnee School Board and Staff.

Thank you,

Tony Pallija, Principal/Executive Director