



AVON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

285 West Main Street • Avon, MA 02322 • Tel 508-583-4822 • www.avon.k12.ma.us/amhs

Shawn Desmond
PRINCIPAL

Julie Minahan
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Adam Dackers
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

February 29, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about an important initiative that we are implementing at Avon Middle High School to enhance the learning environment and promote focus and engagement with our students.

Starting on Monday, March 4, 2024, we will be introducing Yondr Pouches at AMHS for all students, grades 6-12. Students will be assigned a Yondr Pouch during their Flex Block/Advisory period. Yondr Pouches are innovative locking pouches designed to create phone-free spaces by securely storing students' electronic devices during the school day. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to minimize distractions and foster a conducive learning environment that increases student engagement.

Research shows that the presence of cellphones 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). Last summer, we surveyed AMHS parents, students, and staff members regarding cell phone use in school. Of those that answered the survey, 54% agreed that cell phone use should be limited during the school day. Recently, Yondr surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**

As a school, we agree that cell phones can be valuable tools for communication and learning, however, they can also be a source of distraction. Research also shows that excessive phone use during the school day can negatively impact academic performance and hinder students' ability to focus and engage with the material.

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 are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

By implementing the use of Yondr Pouches, we aim to create a more focused and productive learning environment where students can fully immerse themselves in their education without the temptation of distractions from their devices. We believe that this initiative will not only benefit students academically but also help promote healthier screen-time habits and foster better interpersonal connections within our school community. We encourage you to support us in this endeavor by discussing the importance of minimizing phone use during class with your child and emphasizing the benefits of staying focused and engaged during instructional time.



AVON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

285 West Main Street • Avon, MA 02322 • Tel 508-583-4822 • www.avon.k12.ma.us/amhs

Shawn Desmond
PRINCIPAL

Julie Minahan
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Adam Dackers
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

If you have any questions or concerns about the implementation of Yondr Pouches, please do not hesitate to contact us. If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Principal Desmond



AVON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

285 West Main Street • Avon, MA 02322 • Tel 508-583-4822 • www.avon.k12.ma.us/amhs

Shawn Desmond
PRINCIPAL

Julie Minahan
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Adam Dackers
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

How Yondr Works



POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release 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 **508-583-4822**.

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 caught on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is property of **Avon Middle High School**. If a student damages their Pouch, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home for one or more of the following:

- Parent Pickup
- Office Consequence that may include: Social Probation, Office Detention, Saturday Work, In-School Suspension, or Out of School Suspension
- Charged a replacement cost of \$25.

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.