



The School District of Philadelphia  
**ELIZA B. KIRKBRIDE SCHOOL**  
1501 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147



**Ms. Rebecca O. Julien**  
Principal

Office: (215) 400-7980  
Fax: (215) 400-7981

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**We will be making our school a phone-free space, including all personal technology, to improve teaching and learning** using a system called [Yondr](#). Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior greatly improve when students are 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 are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr recently 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**

At the Kirkbride School, we are implementing this program according to extensive research, and following the decisions of many school districts recently, to support student focus by eliminating personal technology use in schools. [The U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory](#) and recommendations to limit adolescent use of cell phones and personal technology. It is our primary goal to keep students safe and healthy, followed by our responsibility to help them reach their academic goals.  
(You can read the Surgeon General's full report [HERE](#)).

Our staff and teachers will be reviewing our policies and guidelines closely with students, and this will go into effect beginning Monday, September 16, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the school directly at 215-400-7980, or stop by the school's library at Back to School Night, Thursday September 12, between 6:00 pm-7:00 pm for Question & Answer with Dean Oteri.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please follow our usual procedures that all communication should go through the main office.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,  
Rebecca O. Julien



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### 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 215-400-7980.

#### **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. Emergency Management protocols actually indicate that in a true emergency, communication through the proper school channels is the safest procedure. Please be assured that our students' safety is well-being is always our top priority.

#### **Will my student's personal technology be safe?**

Students are in possession of their personal technology - 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 Kirkbride School. Please review [Kirkbride School's Personal Technology Policy](#) in detail for more information.



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### Kirkbride's Cell Phone and Personal Technology

Parents and Guardians,

Please read over Kirkbride's Cell Phone and Personal Technology Policy that will go into effect on Monday, September 16, 2024. After you have read and reviewed the policy, please sign and return this page by Friday, September 13, 2024. Once the slip is returned the student will receive their Yondr pouch. Please note that this policy will be in place for ALL students in grades 5 through grade 8, even if they do not receive a pouch. (Students in lower grades are discouraged from bringing any technology to school.)

**Please sign and return this page by Friday, September 13, 2024.**

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Student brings a phone to school and will need a pouch: YES \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and reviewed the Kirkbride's Cell Phone and Personal Technology policy.**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_