



PELHAM PREPARATORY ACADEMY



Benvenuto Ferron, Principal

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September 5, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Pelham Prep is writing to share the exciting news that we are continuing our partnership with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space.

Pelham Prep believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all of its students while effectively making use of staff resources. Our piloting of the Yondr program last school year was proven successful for both students and staff.

The Yondr pouches will be distributed on the first day of school, Thursday, September 5, 2019. For those new to Pelham Prep, Yondr allows students to keep their phones in their possession throughout the day, but only allows them access to the phone at the end of their day upon leaving the building. The Yondr program employs a simple, easy-to-use case that stores a cell phone and requires an unlocking base to open. When students enter scanning in the morning, the phones are placed in their bags, which they will keep in their possession, locked until the end of their day at which time they unlock the bag retrieving its contents, keeping the bag in their possession for use at scanning in the morning. Also be advised that this year we will be collecting ear pods and smart watches as well.

We encourage parents to remind their children that their phones are now in their possession and are their responsibility. They should never leave their belongings unattended. It would be helpful to remind your child to bring their Yondr bag in the morning before leaving for school. Additionally, Yondr pouches are considered school equipment and therefore should not be tampered with. In the event that the pouch is damaged, the pouch and phone will be collected and a parent will have to come in and retrieve their child's cell phone. A new pouch will be issued to the parent. However, if the second pouch is damaged, the pouch and phone will again be collected; parent called to come in and at which time there will be a \$20 replacement fee. Be advised that any continued misuse will result in a reevaluation of the students' participation in the Yondr program. This school policy aligns with Chancellor's Regulations on electronic devices.

In an effort to support your child's attendance, any student who scans after 10am will have their pouch and phone held, the parent/guardian will be called and the phone will be returned 3:00pm.

We hope that this new process gives the students an opportunity to feel more comfortable and responsible by controlling their property while assuring parents that, while the phones are always in their child's possession, they will not interfere with their educational day.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Benvenuto Ferron
Principal

Kerry Campbell
Assistant Principal

Kimberlee Davidson
Assistant Principal