

Blytheville School Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy

The School board has banned the use of personal cell phones and other types of electronic devices during the academic school day. Scholars may possess and carry cell phones; however, they must be completely turned off (not simply on silent or vibrate mode) during the academic day. Every scholar will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch with an ID number. Just like with your laptop, you are expected to bring your Yondr Pouch every day and return it in good shape at the end of the year.

The “academic school day” is defined as the start of the school day and throughout the day until the last hour/bell is over. Scholars are permitted to use cell phones only during the following times: before and after school hours.

Scholars who violate this policy shall face disciplinary action by the administration including confiscation of the cell phone or other type of electronic device.

As used in this policy, “electronic devices” means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound or data.

The purpose is to ensure that disruptions and interference of the instructional academic climate of the school does not occur. Text messages and photo transmissions are covered by the policy.

Yondr Policy & Process for Pouch Use

Start of School Day:

- 1) Prior to the 1st bell, turn off your phone, airpods/earbuds, and smart watch off (not simply on silent or vibrate mode).
- 2) Unlock your empty Yondr Pouch using an unlocking base.
- 3) Place your phone, airpods/earbuds, and smart watch inside the pouch, securely close it, and store it in your backpack/purse. (Must not be visible)
- 4) This process may take a few minutes. **You are responsible for getting to class on time with a secured pouch.**

During the School Day:

- 1) Keep your phone, airpods/earbuds, and smart watch inside your Yondr Pouch for the duration of the school day.
- 2) If you leave school grounds for an appointment, or school event, stop by the designated location and unlock your pouch upon leaving and lock it upon re-entry.
- 3) You may not access your phone during the school day anywhere on school grounds unless you are leaving school grounds.

End of School Day:

- 1) When your school day ends, unlock your pouch using the unlocking base.
- 2) Securely close your empty pouch so the pin does not get bent and place it in your backpack for the next day. Failure to return with assigned pouch will result in

progressive discipline.

- 3) Scholars are free to use their phones on school grounds after school ends **UNLESS** you are required to attend after-school detention or make-up classes.

Violations

Each of the following violations will result in the scholar's phone and/or pouch being confiscated by school staff and will follow the consequences shown in the chart below.

1. If a scholar's phone is visible at all during the academic day (a scholar is found using their phone, a phone is not in a Yondr Pouch, etc.)
2. Physical damage to the pouch in an attempt to circumvent its intended purpose. (Ex. Inappropriate markings, holes, bent pin, stripped lock, cut, tamper, etc.)
3. Losing the pouch.
4. Damaging or taking someone else's pouch.
5. Using a cell phone/electronic device anywhere on school grounds during regular school hours.

If school personnel hear or see any cell phones or other electronic devices as defined above being used by a scholar, the following consequence will be taken:

Consequences

1 st Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confiscation of the device to be returned to the scholar no earlier than the end of the school day.• Scholars can retrieve phones upon dismissal at the end of the day.
2 nd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After School Detention.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Scholar will attend after school detention on the next school day.• Administration will schedule a conference with the parent/guardian.• The confiscated device will be returned to the parent/guardian after the parent conference.
3 rd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars cannot bring their cell phone/personal electronic device on campus for two weeks.
Damaged Pouch Immediate Consequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholar's parent or guardian will be called.• Subject to Suspension.• Will be required to pay for a replacement pouch.

Repeat Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholars may be subject to additional disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Conduct. • Scholars cannot bring their personal electronic device on campus for one month.
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Use of cell phones or other types of electronic devices to take pictures is not permitted on school property without the expressed consent of the administration and the expressed consent of the individual whose photo, picture, or electronic image is taken.

Using the device to record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms; creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Board approved: 12/14/2023