



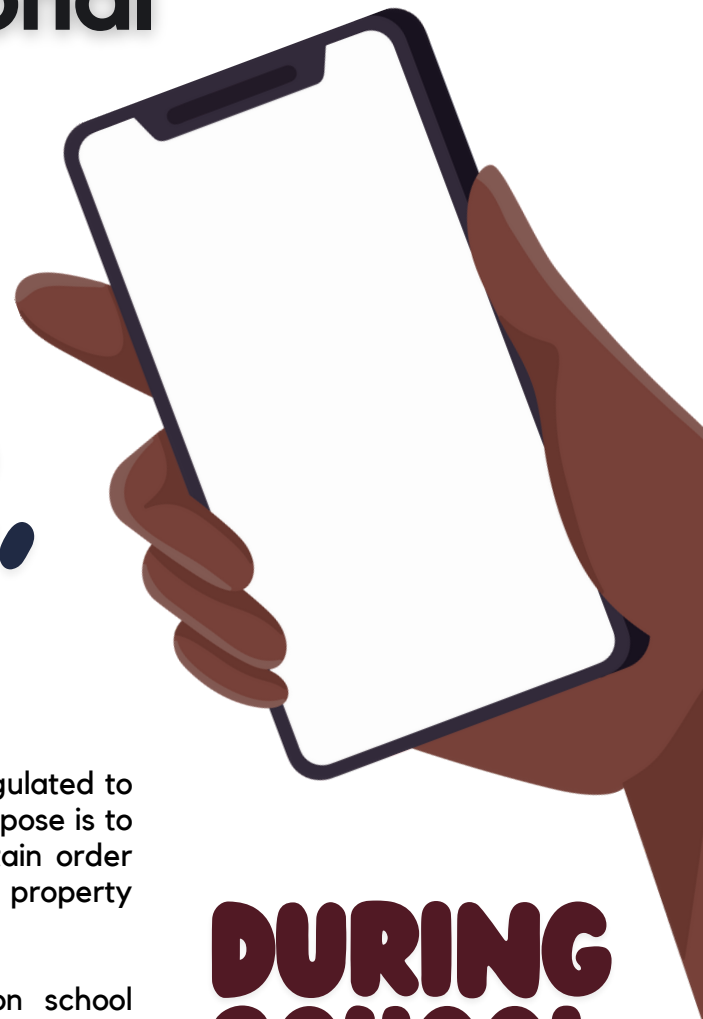
Cell Phones & Personal Communication Devices (PCDs)

OFF, YONDR, & AWAY

The use of PCDs on school grounds must be appropriately regulated to protect students, staff, and the learning environment. The purpose is to prevent disruption of the learning environment and to maintain order during the school day on school property and off school property during instructional activities.

Secondary students in grades 6-12 may possess PCDs on school property. PCDs must be powered completely off, properly stored away, and not visible in instructional settings during instructional time.

- Cell phones should be locked in Yondr pouches during the school day.
- During instructional time, PCDs must be stored in a personal backpack or similar personal bag or purse, in teacher-designated areas within the instructional setting, in lockers, or in a personal vehicle. PCDs should not be kept on the person or in the clothing of a student.
- Students are expected to use the FCPS-provided computer for all educational activities.



DURING SCHOOL

Cell phones must be turned off, stored in Yondr pouches, and away in a backpack, purse, personal bag, etc. All other PCDs must be turned off and stored away.

WHY?

We firmly believe that we need to minimize distractions to promote teaching and learning, as well as to improve student mental health and school safety.

It is imperative that we instead prioritize:

- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Building Social Skills
- ✓ Mental Health

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PHONES ARE NOT OFF, YONDR, & AWAY?

WHEN DEVICE IS RELINQUISHED BUT IT IS AN ONGOING ISSUE:

The student may be given in-school suspension; but, **we really need families to help change behavior.**

WHEN A STUDENT IS DEFIANT AND REFUSES TO HAND OVER DEVICE:

We will suspend defiant students from school when they refuse to hand over a device to an administrator. A parent will be required to meet with administration prior to the student being allowed back in school.

Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) will be confiscated if they are not *Off, Yondr & Away*.

If a student is found using or displaying a device outside of the pouch:

1. The student will be asked to hand it over. A parent must come to school to pick it up.
2. If the student refuses to hand it over, the parent must come to school to pick up both the student and the device.

In either case, students will not be permitted to retrieve the device on their own. Repeated violations may result in additional disciplinary action.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

We want healthy students who are 100% engaged in learning.

WHAT ARE PCDs?

Communication technology is always changing. Basically, we are talking about items that interfere with teaching and learning, relationships, and mental health to include cell phones, smart watches, headphones, etc.

CAN STUDENTS USE CELL PHONES BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL?

Yes.

CAN STUDENTS USE CELL PHONES ON SCHOOL BUSES?

Before and after school, yes.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE?

Yes. Students who have medical conditions or have special education plans that require a cell phone will be allowed to keep a phone turned on and outside of a Yondr pouch. Families should contact an administrator to set up a meeting.

HOW DO STUDENTS GET MESSAGES TO FAMILIES?

Students should email families or make a phone call from the main office.

HOW DO FAMILIES GET MESSAGES TO STUDENTS?

Families should send students an email or call the main office.

WILL TEACHERS AND STAFF BE USING CELL PHONES DURING THE DAY?

Teachers and staff members should model "off and away" so they can focus on teaching and learning by being fully present. They are expected to keep cell phones on or near them in the event of an emergency for communication purposes.

HOW WILL STUDENTS CONTACT AUTHORITIES IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

Students should contact a teacher or staff member. There are also school phones in nearly every instructional space.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A SAFETY OR WEATHER EVENT?

Families should rely on factual information from the school division by phone, text, and email.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT USES A PHONE INAPPROPRIATELY (CYBERBULLYING, HARASSMENT, ETC.)?

This hasn't changed from previous years and depends on what the inappropriate behavior is. Consequences could range from suspension to expulsion and may include court or legal action.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT FORGETS THE YONDR POUCH?

The phone will be stored in the main office until a parent comes to collect the device.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT LOSES THE YONDR POUCH?

The replacement cost is \$30. The student will not be allowed to bring a phone to school until the \$30 is paid.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT DAMAGES THE YONDR POUCH?

The replacement cost is \$30. The student will not be allowed to bring a phone until the \$30 is paid.

**LEARN
MORE**

For more information, visit us at
<https://www.fxbgschools.us/>

09/24/2025