



BE HERE NOW



Dear SEED PCS Families,

We are writing to share the exciting news that we are partnering with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space. We understand that cell phones have great utility, but cell phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, antisocial behavior and conflict both at home and at school.

The SEED School of Washington, D.C., believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all of its students. Research shows that the mere presence of cellphones in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr program employs a simple, easy-to-use case that stores a cell phone and requires an unlocking base to open. Scholars maintain possession of their phones, but will not be able to use them until they are unlocked by our Student Life Counselors (SLCs) in the afternoons and evenings. **Any defacing of Yondr cases will result in a \$25.00 fine. This fine will be added to their official transcripts. Failure to pay the fine will result in non-participation of academic activities to include graduation, school dances, and field trips.**

We believe this will allow our students to be:

- Engaged in classroom activities and assignments
- Less dependent on electronics to do classwork
- Less likely to engage in conversations around bullying
- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in class

Scholars in Grades 9-12 have the option to use the technology one-to-one devices (Chromebooks) to support and access content relevant material. **In an effort to preserve our technology, scholars will be charged an activity fee of \$50.00 per year.** The program is optional and if families choose not to participate, technology will be available for scholars in their classrooms and residence halls. Families that choose to participate in the One-to-One program can contact the Family & Community Engagement Office to remit the annual activity fee.

In an effort to best serve your child, we will need your full support in adoption of the Yondr program at our school. We want to assure our families that in the event of an emergency or urgent matter you can call the main school number at (202) 248-7773. Please save this number for easy access.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our scholars. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

Sincerely,

Rashida Holman-Jones
Director of Family and Community Engagement

Quinhon N. Scott, Ed.D.
Principal



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HOW IT WORKS



CASE

As students enter the phone-free space, phones will be placed in a Yondr case.



LOCK

Once inside, the case will lock. Students keep their phones throughout the day.



UNLOCK

To unlock the case, tap it on any teacher or administrator's unlocking base.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I want to reach my student during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Please contact the main office at (202) 248-7773 to reach your student.

What if there is an emergency?

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr case in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Yes, because students are in possession of their phone in the Yondr case and should keep the case stored away in their backpacks.

What if the case gets damaged?

The Yondr case belongs to The SEED School of Washington, DC, just like any other school supply. If a student damages a Yondr case, he/she will be held responsible through the discipline policy, located in the Scholar-Family Handbook.