

**MARK TWAIN SCHOOL**  
*ALTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11*  
907 MILTON ROAD  
ALTON, IL 62002



Stacie Franke, Principal

TELEPHONE: (618)463-2063

Dear Parents,

Starting January 4th, when students return from Christmas break, we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called [Yondr](#). Yondr has been implemented in over 2,000 schools across 16 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

It has been proven that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. While phones serve many purposes, they also have become a distraction and a barrier to learning.

**The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone.** Every student will secure their phone and all wearable technology (earbuds, apple watches, etc.) in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and wearable technology. Students will not use these items until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Yondr pouches will remain at school and students will be responsible to place their phone inside their pouch in front of staff upon arrival.

Yondr received responses to their annual surveys from over 1,200 school partners, and after implementing the Yondr Education Program:

- **84% saw a change in student engagement**
- **72% saw a positive change in student behavior**
- **68% saw a positive change in academic performance**

Their most recent impact survey of over 370 of their school partners:

- **86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness**

A Vimeo video has been placed on our website that will give an overview of the Yondr Program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 618-463-2063.

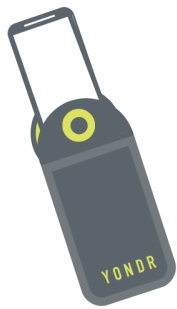
If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to Lori Davis, secretary at 618-463-2063.

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

Thank you,

Stacie Franke  
Principal

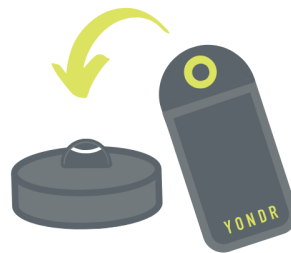
**How Yondr Works**



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve 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 618-463-2063.

#### **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.

#### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - 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 Alton School District. If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:

- **The Parent will come to the school and pick up their child's phone**
- **AND/OR Consequences may include: School discipline/Replacement fee.**

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.