

# OASIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you have had an incredible summer! The 2018-19 school year is right around the corner. Congratulations to all of our students, staff, and parents for earning an “A” for the 10th consecutive year from the State of Florida! This is a significant accomplishment, and I am so proud to be a part of OMS.

I’m writing today to share the exciting news that Oasis Middle will be using a system called “Yondr” this year to improve teaching and learning by making our school a phone-free zone.

We understand that cell phones have great utility, but cell phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, anti-social behavior and conflict at school. 100% of my teachers and staff agree that student’s cell phones create daily distractions during the school day.

"According to a survey and report from Common Sense Media that involved 1,240 interviews with parents and their 12- to 18-year-old children, 50 percent of teens feel addicted to their mobile devices, and 59 percent of their parents agree that their kids have a problem putting their devices down." - US News & World Report, 2016

Additionally, more and more studies are showing the ways cell phones interfere with a student’s academic success. Just last year (2017), the University of Chicago concluded that “the mere presence of cellphones reduces available cognitive capacity.”

The way Yondr works is simple. When students arrive at school, they will place their phones in an assigned Yondr phone case in their homeroom class. The case locks and the student keeps their case with them. Students maintain possession of their phones throughout the day, but they will not be able to use them until they are unlocked at the end of the day. (This process is pictured on the next page.)

Yondr is already used by hundreds of middle and high schools, corporations and artists across the world to improve focus, production and the overall human experience of its users.

We want to assure families that you can reach your student as you have in the past, by calling the attendance office at **239-945-1999**. This year, one elective offered to students will be “Office Assistant”. Our student office assistants will be running messages to students in class each period. I recommend adding our main phone number to your contact list for easy access.

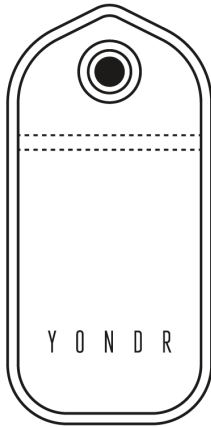
Thank you for supporting our school and our students as we move forward with this change. I will be available during our August 8 Open House to answer any specific questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
**Donnie Hopper, Principal**



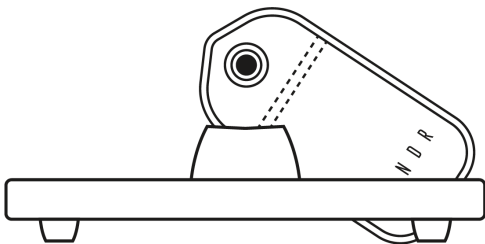
## 1. YONDR CASES

*As students enter the building, their phones will be placed in a personally assigned Yondr case and locked.*



## 2. SCHOOL DAY

*Students maintain possession of their locked phones throughout the school day and are now free to learn without distraction...*



## 3. UNLOCK

*Students will unlock their phones as they exit the building at the end of the day and will have access to their devices to coordinate transportation.*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

Answer: If at all possible, resist the urge to contact your student during the day. It is important for students to be able to focus on school while they are here. Even if a student doesn't answer the text in class, there is research that shows cognitive processing is disrupted by notifications and even just the presence of the phone on a desk. Learning to schedule activities and plan ahead are skills that our students need to develop. Of course, sometimes, it can't be helped. Please direct all messages to students through the front office.

- What if there is an emergency?

Answer: There are many instances when parents need to communicate information to students. Most of the time, students are unable to act on these issues until after school. In these cases, students can just read messages at the end of the day. In the case of a true emergency, administrators and all teachers have devices that can unlock the Yondr cases quickly.

- Will my student's phone be safe?

Answer: It will be as safe as before the change, as your student will be in possession of his/her phone all day.