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2018-2019 Policy for Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices

Rationale

Bronx Envision Academy is committed to providing a safe and supportive educational environment. The University of Chicago Press notes a study in which *“Results from two experiments indicate that even when people are successful at maintaining sustained attention—as when avoiding the temptation to check their phones—the mere presence of these devices reduces available cognitive capacity.”* Cell phones and other electronic devices have become major sources of distraction and have been substantially disruptive to the educational process within our school community. In addition, the use of these items both in school and outside of school have led to unhealthy and unproductive conversations and physical altercations.

Policy

To support our students, faculty, staff and families, we revised the electronics policy for beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and continuing for the 2018-2019 school year. Students may bring small electronic devices, including cell phones, to school. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices during the school day. To best support our students in complying with this policy, Bronx Envision Academy is partnering with a company called YONDR to provide secure storage pouches for student devices. Students must store all devices in Yondr pouches upon entering the building.

What communication devices are permitted (stored in Yondr pouch) in the building?

Students are permitted to bring the following communication/electronic devices, provided they fit in the Yondr pouches: cell phones, ipods or music players, smart watches, headphones.

How will Yondr work with phones and other permitted devices?

Before entering the building, students will turn off their phones and other electronic devices. Before leaving, staff will unlock the Yondr pouch, students will retrieve their devices, and students will return the Yondr pouch. *(Note: The example refers to the phone, however, all permitted devices must fit in the Yondr pouch, otherwise they CANNOT be brought to school.)*

How will families contact a BEA student?

Parents and guardians noted on the New York City Department of Education Emergency Contact Card will call the main office at (718) 589-1590 to reach their child for emergency purposes. We ask that



families not disrupt the instructional day for non-emergency concerns. Please alert guidance staff of any emergencies (such as a death in the family or an accident) so we can effectively support your child. Changes in travel and pickup plans can be communicated directly to your children as they will be able to turn on devices and access messages upon dismissal from school. Upon request, students are permitted to use the courtesy phone that is located in the main office.



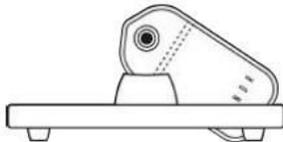
ENTRANCE

Upon entering the school, student phones are placed in a personal locking Yondr pouch.



EXPERIENCE

Students retain possession of their locked phones throughout the school day. Teachers are able to instruct without distraction



EXIT

Upon exiting the school, student phones are unlocked and they are free to use their devices to coordinate transportation and contact family members.

What will happen in the event of an emergency and evacuation to another building?

In the event of an emergency, to ensure the safety of all in the Bronx Envision Academy community, students must follow all directions provided by administrators, faculty, staff, and Building Response Team (BRT) members. If necessary, students will proceed to an evacuation site and the school will contact all families. In addition, school staff will transport an unlocking device to the evacuation site where students will be able to unlock their devices and make contact with a parent or guardian.

What happens if a student vandalizes or damages a Yondr pouch?

Yondr pouches are school property. We expect that students will safeguard the pouches as they do their electronic devices within them. Any vandalism or damage to the Yondr pouch will result in a fee to replace the pouch.

What will happen if a student forgets or willfully withholds electronic devices and is found with the device in his or her possession?

The device will be confiscated and *will not* be returned directly to the student. A parent or guardian will need to pick up the device from the dean or other school personnel between the hours of 9am and 2pm. Additional disciplinary action can and will be taken for repeat offenders.