August 2022

Provident Charter School recognizes that at times cell phones/electronic devices may serve as instructional tools and learning resources if used appropriately. However, it has been clear that PCS students who are on cell phones and/or other electronic devices when it is not part of the instructional lesson are not fully engaged in learning. In order to preserve the teaching and learning environment, this document is to clarify the cell phone/electronic devices policy for Provident Charter School.

The following cell phone policy will be effective on August 24, 2022.

Student use of cell phones, personal digital assistance (PDA’s), or other electronic devices during the school day is strictly prohibited. Cell phones and all functions within the cell phone (i.e. cameras and all other applications) are prohibited in the following areas: Classrooms, Science Labs, Restrooms, all Physical Education Areas, School Office Areas, and School Grounds including transportation to and from school. Adherence to the guidelines below is essential to maintaining an appropriate academic environment and the integrity of the classroom. Abuse of this privilege will result in consequences beginning with the placement of the device within the school office, and if reoccurring, may result in the loss of bringing any cell phone and/or personal electronic device to school.

Students must comply with staff directives, including but not limited to, the use of a pouch and/or lockbox. Cell phones must be in silent mode so that no audible ring tone is heard.

1) For students in grades 2-3, students will place their silenced cell phones in a secured lockbox in their homerooms. For students in grades 4-8, students will place their silenced cell phones in a 1:1 school-provided pouch upon entry into the building.
   a) If any student comes to school with their cell phone but not their 1:1 pouch, the student will be asked to place their cell phone in a secured lockbox in the main office, where it will remain until the end of the day.
Students will be able to retrieve their phones before they leave to go home.

b) Once inside the school, students must store their cell phones/electronic devices in a location that is not visible to the teacher or other students, even though they are on silent. It is the responsibility of the student to keep their personal devices secure.

2) If a cell phone/electronic device rings, vibrates, or is used for any reason without teacher permission, or is visible anytime during class time, or if a student is caught using it on campus during class time, a staff member may escort the student to the office where the student's phone will remain in a secure lockbox until the end of the day.
   a) Under no circumstance are phone calls, texting, photographing, and/or video recording allowed anywhere on the school premise.

3) Phones must remain silent at all times throughout the school day.
   Parents/Guardians, in the event of an immediate emergency, please note you can contact your child by calling the school's main office at (412)-709-5160.

The administration and staff of Provident Charter School request your full cooperation with our policy. It should be noted that the school and staff are not responsible for the loss or damage to any student’s phone/electronic device and/or pouch, whether that device is in the student’s possession or being taken to the office by the staff. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to this policy and to secure his or her belongings at all times. Classes and/or instruction will not be stopped to search for lost phones/devices. If damage occurs to the school-provided cell phone pouch, a fee of $25.00 may be issued to the student’s family.

It should be noted that refusal to surrender a cell phone or other electronic device when directed to do so by a school staff member, teacher, or administrator is a violation of our school's Cell Phone Policy. Violation of the cell phone rule as stated above will result in consequences beginning with the placement of the device within the school office, and if reoccurring, may result in the loss of bringing any cell phone and/or personal electronic device to school.
PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
CELL PHONE POLICY

STUDENT CONTRACT

I, ____________________________, have read and understand this cell phone policy and contract. I understand that possession of a cellular phone/electronic device on the school campus is a privilege and that it may be revoked at any time by the administration for violating the school policy as outlined above. I understand that if I choose to bring a cell phone onto school grounds that it must be placed in a pouch or lockbox, and I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any damage that may occur to the cell phone pouch/lockbox. Furthermore, I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage to my cell phone while on school grounds.

Student Name (Please print) ________________________________________________________
Student Signature: ________________________________ Date:__________________________

PARENT CONTRACT

I, ____________________________, have read and understand this cell phone policy and contract. I understand that my child's possession of a cellular phone/electronic device on the school campus is a privilege and that it may be revoked at any time by the administration for violating the school policy as outlined above. I understand that if my child brings a cell phone onto school grounds, it must be placed in a pouch or lockbox, and I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any damage that may occur to the cell phone pouch/lockbox. Furthermore, I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage of my child's cell phone while on school grounds.

Parent/Guardian Name: (Please print) _______________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date:______________________
Dear PCS Families,

Our Board recently approved our new cell phone policy which means we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning. While this is a change for this school year, we are excited to minimize the distractions of cell phones as we have found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

If your child is in Grades 2 and 3, we will have lockboxes available for your child’s cell phone where it will remain for the duration of the school day.

If your child is in grades 4 through 8, students will be using a cell phone pouch system known as Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

Every student in grades 4 through 8 will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at (412)-709-5160, or attend our upcoming Back to School Family Information Session on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. to hear more about our new cell phone policy. Registration for this event is required and child care will be provided if requested on the registration form.

A copy of the cell phone policy can be found on our school website at this link. In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the new cell phone policy, and we look forward to a productive school year.

Thank you,
The Team at Provident
**How Yondr Works**

**POUCH**
As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.

**SECURE**
The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.

**EXIT**
When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release 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 (412)-709-5160 and we will be able to connect you with your child.

**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 cell phone pouch - for the entire school day. They can stay in the pouch with the student or be kept in their lockers.

**What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?**
The Yondr pouch is the property of Provident Charter School. If a student damages their cell phone pouch, a fee of $25.00 may be issued to the student’s family. If a student is caught on their phone, a staff member may escort the student to the office where the student’s phone will remain in a secure lockbox until the end of the day.