



Electronic Device Policy

Unity Prep High School is a Distraction Free Zone

Unity Prep High School's (UPHS) policy around the use of electronic devices (cell phones, wireless headphones, non-school issued laptops/tablets, and smart watches) is that students are not permitted to have unpouched electronic devices on their person during the school day.

Please be advised that for the purpose of this policy, electronic devices are defined as *cell phones, wireless headphones, and smart watches* etc. So long as the electronic device is powered off and locked in a Yondr pouch, it can neither be seen nor heard, and therefore will not be confiscated. ***We strongly recommend that students keep their pouched electronic devices in their assigned locker throughout the school day. Another option is to place it inside of your backpack.***

Any student observed pouching a second device instead of their primary device will have both devices confiscated and will not be returned until a caregiver can pick it up. There are no excuses for having an electronic device outside of your Yondr pouch during the school day.

Entrance Procedure

Upon entry to UPHS, students are to place all electronic devices into a school-provided YONDR pouch.

Daily Process



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.

I. Exit Procedure

As students exit the school building for dismissal, students unlock their YONDR pouches at designated bases on the 2nd or 3rd floor or at the student dismissal exits. All students keep their YONDR pouches with them every day.

I. Late Arrival + Early Dismissal

Students who arrive late or are authorized to leave early from school must lock/unlock their electronic devices in the following areas:

- Main Office
- Main Entrance designated for Tardy Arrivals/Early Dismissal
- Administrator's Office

I. Students Who Do Not Own/Have CellPhones

Students who do not own cell phones and therefore will not pouch a phone at school must bring in a **No Cell Phone Verification** form signed by a parent with a phone number at which the school can confirm the form's validity. If this status should change and the student will be bringing a cell phone to school, the school must be notified immediately *Any student who hands in the form but is found with a cell phone*

will have their cell phone confiscated and a parent meeting will be required to receive their phone back.

For students who have had their electronic devices taken away by their parent/guardian or they left it at home, they will report to the main office upon entry and have their parents contacted for verification.

I. Off Campus Lunch

Students with Off Campus Lunch are permitted to have their electronic devices during that time. At the end of lunch, students must lock their cell phones back into their YONDR pouches until the end of the school day. If students have an electronic device that is not in a YONDR pouch after lunch, they will not be allowed to go out for Off Campus Lunch the following day and their phone will be confiscated and returned at the conclusion of the school day.

Damage to a Yondr Pouch

Yondr pouches will be checked each day at morning entry. **Any evidence of tampering with the lock or damage to the pouch (including pen marks, ripped pouch material, and/or bending or clamping of the pouch's needle) will result in the pouch and electronic device being confiscated.**

Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by UPHS.

Damage includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Ripped
- Cut
- Torn
- Inappropriate markings
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap

If the pouch is damaged, the student/their caregiver is responsible for purchasing a new Pouch (\$30). The student also serves an after school detention on that day.



Personal Devices Policy (Laptops & iPads)

At Unity Prep High School, personal laptops and iPads are **not permitted** on campus. If technology is required for a class or school activity, students will be provided with **school-issued devices** for use during the instructional period.

Any personal laptops or iPads brought to school will be **confiscated and securely stored** until a caregiver is able to retrieve the item. **Unity Prep High School is not liable for any loss or damage** that may occur while the device is in our possession.

- **First Confiscation:** The device will be returned directly to the student, and the student will be assigned **after-school detention**.
- **Second Confiscation:** A **caregiver must pick up the device** in person.

This policy is in place to ensure a safe, focused, and equitable learning environment for all students.

Family Frequently Asked Questions

My child follows the current electronic device policy without fault. Why are they being punished (i.e. losing access to their electronic devices) because of the behaviors of others?

Limiting access to electronic devices during school hours should not be considered a punishment. In alignment with ongoing research and recent bell-to-bell smartphone ban, this policy is to help increase both academic and social engagement for your child at school. Any anti-social behaviors that are also negated by the removal of electronic devices from school is an additional benefit.

What if my student does not have an electronic device or smartphone?

Students who do not have a cell phone or smartphone, must fill out a form stating so. Students will still be issued a pouch and will be expected to always keep the pouch in their possession.

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

We want our students to be engaged in their learning; however, if a situation arises that cannot wait until school is dismissed, please contact the main office at (718) 682-3725.

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 pouch for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

Will my child's electronic device be safe?

Students will retain possession of their electronic devices, securely encased within Yondr pouches, throughout each class period. We will encourage students to safely stow the pouches in their backpacks or lockers.

What about student athletes that leave early for a game?

Student-athletes will be able to unlock their electronic device in the main office or with an administrator prior to leaving campus.

What if the pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch is assigned to all students on the first day of school and is a mandatory school supply. If a student damages a Yondr pouch, he/she will be held responsible and will be required to purchase a replacement pouch from the school.

Damage includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Ripped
- Cut
- Torn
- Inappropriate markings
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap

The student's electronic device will be confiscated until the end of the day. In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly (718) 682-3725.

How will the Yondr Pouch process work at arrival and dismissal?

- Upon entering school, students will turn off their electronic device, place them inside of the Yondr pouch, and lock it in front of the designated UPHS staff.
- If a student needs to leave school early for an approved early dismissal, medical emergency, work, athletic event, or other school-sponsored trip, unlocking bases will be available to allow for a quick opening of the pouch.

WHAT IF A STUDENT REFUSES TO PUT THEIR DEVICE IN THEIR YONDR POUCH?

- The parent will be notified.
- Students will be subject to disciplinary consequences as per our Family Handbook and UPHS Schoolwide Expectations to Support Student Learning.

What if my child has an Apple Watch or other Bluetooth devices like headphones? How are these affected by the change in policy?

All electronic devices are to be switched off before they are locked in the Yondr pouch which will eliminate their connectivity to smart watches and their messaging functionality. Headphones are to also be placed in Yondr pouches or bookbags. It will be assumed that any student seen with headphones that are not connected to a laptop with a cord are using them in conjunction with a mobile phone and, therefore, will be subject to the consequences of that behavior as stated in the phone policy.