

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to announce the implementation of the Multi-tiered Safe Pouch® program. Our goal is to create a safe, focused, and engaging learning environment, and managing students' personal electronic device use during school hours is essential to achieving this vision.

Recent studies have highlighted that excessive phone usage can significantly increase anxiety and depression, negatively impact sleep quality, and reduce academic performance. Additionally, frequent phone use during school hours has been linked to increased cyberbullying and social isolation among students.

Why Safe Pouch? The Multi-Tiered Safe Pouch is a simple and effective tool that allows students to secure their phones and smartwatches during school hours. Safe Pouch has no built-in conditions for locking and unlocking, allowing for quick unlocking during emergencies or when accommodation is needed.

How It Works: Each student will receive a Blue Safe Pouch with their name printed on it. Students will lock their phones and smartwatches in their pouches upon entering school and keep them in possession throughout the day. First-period teachers will verify that all students have locked their devices. After the last period, teachers will unlock the pouches. Students who lose or damage their Blue Safe Pouch can borrow an Orange Safe Pouch from the Main Office using their ID, with a nominal fee for repairs (\$5) or replacements (\$15). Arrangements are available for students experiencing financial hardship through community service alternatives.

Benefits of a Phone-Free School:

- **Reduced Distractions:** Students can focus more on learning without the temptation of checking their devices.
- **Improved Social Interaction:** Encouraging face-to-face communication and collaboration among students.
- **Enhanced Academic Performance:** More attention to classroom activities and assignments.

We understand that adjusting to this new system may take time, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

[Principal's Name] [School Name]