OLNEY HIGH SCHOOL

"We Welcome. You Choose. Let's Grow!"
"Sean Bienvenidos. Tu Eliges. A Crecer!"
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Mr. Michael Roth, ***Principal***
Dr. Shantel Small, ***AP of Instruction and Specialized Services***
Mr. Andre Beckett, ***AP of 9th Grade***
Dr. Tony Watlington, ***Superintendent***

Ms. Legnaly Moret, ***AP of 10th Grade***
Mr. Ernst, ***Dean of 11th Grade***
Ms.Blair Downie, ***AP of 12th Grade***

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers, August, 2025

We are excited to announce that the cell phone lockers for **Olney High School** have arrived and will be in use starting **the first day of classes, August 25, 2025**.

Research supports the notion that phone-free schools are safer and more conducive to student learning. While cell phones have been prohibited, per Olney High School's policy, this is the first year that we are taking steps to implement a much more affordable option for families and the school community.

Lockers are located on the side of **Front Street** for **11th & 12th grade** and on the side of **Mascher Street** for **9th & 10th grade**.

We will have a staff member monitor the area of the cell phone lockers during arrival and then lock the area during the school day. This area will be off-limits to students during the school day except under the supervision of a staff member. The area will also be monitored by our school cameras and random security checks.

During the **first week of school**, locks may be purchased for **$1**. After the first week, locks will be sold for **$5 for those who lose or wish to re-purchase**. Students have the option of bringing their own standard combination lock.

Upon arrival, students who bring their **cell phones and smartwatches** must place them in a locker before entering the building. Students may retrieve their devices only if they have an early dismissal, leave for a sporting/club event, or depart early for another approved reason.

No student is allowed inside the building with a cell phone. If a phone is seen, the Grade Level Climate Manager will be contacted, and consequences for non-compliance will follow. Phones will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian in accordance with the school's progressive discipline policy.

We are inviting ALL students and families up this Friday, 8/22, at 12 noon for a brief intro to our new cell phone policy and the chance to get your locker and lock in advance of the school year. Students in attendance of our meeting will receive a FREE master lock.

We appreciate your support as we implement this policy. Keeping phones away during the school day improves focus, increases academic achievement, and creates a safer and more positive school climate for teaching and learning.

Stay connected by following our social media pages and checking our website for updates.

We met with some student leaders to address concerns or misconceptions about our new phone policy. Below were some of the concerns and our school's response.

- **Lockers will not be safe for student phones.**
    - The Lockers will be in a secure area and in a locked section during the school day. Students will be able to use padlocks to secure their phones in each individual locker. The lockers will be monitored by cameras and random checks from our security team throughout the day.
- **Inclement Weather.**
    - The lockers are very weather-resistant. Even after a hard rain, it is unlikely for water to get into a locker if it is properly closed. We have tested this. In addition, we will have sandwich bags at the entrance if students want to be extra cautious.
- **Cost.**
    - The locker usage is **FREE**. The only cost will be purchasing a lock. We are selling locks at a serious discount the first week of school, $1, regular cost $8. After the first week, we will sell locks for $5. Students may opt to use their own lock if they choose. This is all much cheaper than the $25 dollars per pouch that Yondr was charging.
- **Senior and Junior Trojans**.
    - Last year we allowed the juniors and seniors who earned Trojan status through demonstrating continual leadership to access their phones during non-academic times. We will allow this again a few weeks into the school year for those students who have demonstrated leadership, pledged as Trojans, and wear their Trojan Red.
- **Implementing a policy that feels more strict without giving in any other area.**
    - Student leaders said they would support our policy but wanted us to loosen up some other rules we had in place. Our compromise was to allow for Friday dress-downs in exchange for their support of our updated phone policy. They agreed! As a result, students will receive **a free dress-down day every Friday this year!**

Sincerely,

Olney High School Administration

Olney students meeting with Mr. Roth and Climate Managers to discuss the shift in phone policy.



Student leaders in agreement to support the phone policy in exchange for Friday dress-down days.



Secured Area Where Phones Will Be Stored



Phone Lockers





