



# Madison Middle School

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Andrew Walanski, *Principal*



Thomas Berger, Molly Kamari, Dr. Rocky Blessey-Bragg, *Assistant Principals*

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that we will be making Madison a phone-free campus to improve teaching and learning using a program called [Yondr](#). While we understand that phones have great utility, we have found that they are extremely detrimental to the campus environment and our students' overall health and wellness. We also know that learning, social behavior, and student mental health improve drastically when students are not constantly distracted by the draw of their mobile devices and social media. It is for these reasons that we will be implementing Yondr for the 2024-2025 school year.

Yondr has been implemented in over two thousand schools across sixteen countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment, and Madison Middle School will be the flagship school in San Diego County to implement this approach.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone and any accessories like earbuds. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch upon arrival at school. Students will maintain physical possession of their phones, but will not have access to them until their pouches are opened upon dismissal 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.***

Surveys from over 1,200 of their school partners show that school sites that have implemented the Yondr Program have seen the following:

- 84% saw a change in student engagement
- 72% saw a positive change in student behavior
- 68% saw a positive change in academic performance
- 86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness

Our goal at Madison Middle School is to continue to build a campus environment where all students feel safe and cared for where they can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. It is our belief that VUSD's updated cell phone policy and our partnership with Yondr will play a vital role in that for this school year.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school. Additional information will be provided at registration and prior to the start of the school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at (760) 940-0176.

Thank you,

Andrew Walanski, *Principal*

## How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve 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 **(760) 940-0176**.

### **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 Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

### **What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?**

The Yondr pouch is property of **Madison Middle School**. If a student damages their Pouch or violates the VUSD student cell phone policy, the phone will be collected and parents will be contacted at which point the following will take place:

- Parent will be required to meet with admin and pick up the student's phone from the main office
- Families will be charged a \$30 replacement fee for any damaged or lost pouch
- Student must turn in their phone to the office daily or will be prohibited from bringing their it to campus
- Student will receive consequences including but not limited to: community service, detention.

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