



P.S./I.S. 226

The Alfred De B. Mason School
6006 23rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204
Phone: (718)234-4940 Fax: (718)234-4945
www.psis226.com



Evan Klein, Principal

“Where Emotions Drive Achievement”

Lisa Killelea, Assistant Principal
Devin Fitzgibbons, Assistant Principal, I.A.

Jenna Shumsky, Assistant Principal
Bernadette Neve, Assistant Principal

August 2025

Dear P.S./I.S. 226 Families,

Two years ago, we implemented the YONDR pouch program to create a safer environment conducive to learning by minimizing distractions caused by cell phones and other personal internet-enabled electronic devices. We had a successful implementation thanks to the partnership and support of our entire school community. This year, we will continue our YONDR pouch program to ensure the safety and focus of all students during the school day, and follow **Education Law §2803**, in alignment with the new policy passed by Governor Hochul effective August 1, 2025. In summary, all NYS schools are required to adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds. An "internet-enabled electronic device" is defined as an electronic device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet. Examples of such devices include cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, iPads, and portable music.

Student Cell Phone & Electronic Device Updated Policy & Guidelines

Cell Phones, air buds, and/or SMART watches are not to be used during school time. This part of our school's policy has not changed. This aligns with **Governor Hochul's electronic device policy** which states there will be:

- No unsanctioned use of smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices on school grounds in K-12 schools for the entire school day (from “bell to bell”), including classroom time and other settings like lunch and study hall periods.
- In the event of an emergency, parents may reach their child by dialing our Main Office, 718-234-4940, press 0.
 - Parent Coordinator, Ashley Lerner, may be reached at the following numbers: 718-234-4940, press 4 and 1-347-930-2817 (C).
- Students with medical conditions that require the use of their cell phone, during the course of the school day, will be provided with a specialized Yondr pouch. In order to obtain this specialized pouch and medical exception, please call Assistant Principal, Ms. Neve, at 1-718-234-4940, ext. 1241, or email her at BNeve2@schools.nyc.gov. Medical exception requests will be processed within one week.
- Students will be directed by a faculty member to place their locked Yondr pouch in their backpack upon entry each morning into the school building.

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, every student in grades 4-8 will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch, if they bring the above-mentioned devices to school. Students in grades K-3 should NOT bring any electronic devices to school. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition. Yondr pouches should ALWAYS remain inside your child's bookbag.

DAILY PROCESS: As students arrive at school, they will:

1. Turn their phone off or on airplane mode.
2. Place their phone, air buds, and/or SMART watches inside their pouch and secure it in the presence of staff.
3. Store their pouch in their backpack for the day.



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- At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch on the magnetic base, remove their phone, and put their pouch back inside their backpack. Students must bring their pouch to school with them daily.
****Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones at the Main Entrance.****

EMERGENCIES: If a student has an emergency and needs to contact a parent/guardian during the school day:

- They are expected to get a written pass from their teacher and utilize one of the many available school phones: Main Office - Room 201, supervising Assistant Principal, school counselor, or parent coordinator.
- In case of a schoolwide emergency (ex. evacuation), the school will utilize the automated communication systems - **School Messenger and Remind** - to notify families.
- Here is how families can access the automated messaging system: [Directions](#) for setting up your [NYCSA account](#) to access School Messenger. If you have any questions, you may contact our school's parent coordinator, Ms. Ashley Lerner at ALerner@schools.nyc.gov or 718-234-4940 ext. 1531.

VIOLATIONS: Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Phone During School

- If a student damages their pouch or is caught using their cell phone, Administration will collect the student's pouch/phone and call home. Repercussions for damaged pouches or unauthorized phone use will include:
- 1st Offense** - Item will be confiscated, family contacted, and item returned to the student at dismissal.
- 2nd Offense** - Item will be confiscated; a meeting will be set with the parent/guardian & school staff. Item will be returned to the parent/guardian at the conclusion of the parent meeting.
- 3rd Offense** - Item will be confiscated and a parent/guardian will be contacted. A meeting will be set with the parent/guardian & Assistant Principal. Items will be returned at the conclusion of the family meeting. The student will serve a one-day lunch detention for violating our cell phone policy.

DISCIPLINE: Repeated violations of our school's policy will result in progressive discipline in accordance with the [NYCPS Discipline Code](#). Disciplinary responses will escalate based on the nature and frequency of the violation.

As provided in the State law, a student may not be suspended solely on the grounds that the student accessed a personal internet-enabled device in violation of school policy. Repeated incidents of insubordination (i.e. refusal to surrender or store devices) **may** result in a suspension **if approved** by the Office of Safety and Youth Development.

- Families will be responsible to pay a **\$30 fee for a replacement pouch if their pouch is lost or damaged**. Examples of pouch damage include: Bent pin, Ripped fabric, Deep scratches on the lock exterior + green ring, Intentional pen marks on the inside of the pouch or Pin & button not fully recessing due to pin damage

FORGOTTEN POUCHES: If a student forgets their pouch, their cell phone, air buds, and/or SMART watch will be collected, and Administration will call home to remind the family of our school's cell phone policy. Students' electronic devices will be returned to the student at dismissal. If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost. **Refer to the Lost Pouch policy above.**

OTHER: In the unlikely event that an electronic device is stolen or damaged at school, families can submit a claim to the Comptroller's Office. More information on submitting a claim is available on the [Comptroller's webpage](#).



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Thank you P.S./I.S. 226 Families in advance for your partnership regarding the implementation of our new Student Cell Phone and Device Policy!

****Please complete the contract below and return it back to your child’s teacher by
Monday, September 8, 2025.****

August 26, 2025

Dear Mr. Klein,

My child and I have read our school’s revised cell phone and electronic device policy. We are aware that our child will receive a YONDR Pouch to store their cell phone, air buds and/or SMART Watch during the school day. We are aware of our new daily expectations when we bring these items to school. We are also aware of the consequences for not following these expectations, including a \$30 replacement fee if our child’s YONDR pouch becomes lost or damaged.

☐ My child is in **Grades K-3**. I am aware that my child should NOT bring any electronic devices to school.

☐ My child (in **Grades 4-8**) brings a cell phone, air buds and/or SMART watch to school and will need a YONDR pouch.

☐ My child (in **Grades 4-8**) DOES NOT bring a cell phone, air bud or SMART watch to school and DOES NOT need a YONDR pouch. I know that it is my responsibility to alert the school if this decision changes so a pouch can be assigned to my child.

Child’s Full Name (Print)

Class

Child’s Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



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