



Public Schools of Plainfield

New Jersey

Office of Community Engagement

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Plainfield Middle School Rolls Out a Telephone Locking Pouch to Keep Students Away From Cellphones during Class

Plainfield, NJ (March 28, 2019) – Maxson Middle School began a program today that will require all students in grades 6-8 to lock their phones in a pouch during the length of the school day. The students will be able to keep their phones with them at all times but their phones will be locked in the pouch until dismissal.

At a presentation for students, Jade Mathis, a representative of Yondr, the company that makes the pouches, said their company works with schools, celebrities and professionals to create a phone-free environment. “At schools the Yondr allows the students to focus more on their school work and school activities.”

Mathis asked the students, what they would you do if they were not on their phone? Many said, “I would talk to my friends,” others said, “I would do my school work.”

The lockable pouches are getting popular after artists such as Dave Chappelle, Cardi B, Alicia Keys, and other artists are demanding their audiences lock up their phones during their shows.

Kevin Stansbury, Principal of Maxson said in a video to parents, “this

year we are beginning to roll out a policy change for phone use, where students won't have access to their phones during the school day. We did a lot of research and found that students are being taken off task because of their cell phones. In order for us to do better and perform better academically, we have decided to introduce Yondr, a pouch that allows students to carry their cell phones during the day but they cannot have access to them."

Mr. Stansbury invited the parents to visit the school so they can learn first-hand how the pouch works. He urged them to support the school with this new initiative.

Yankuba Camara, a student at Maxson said he thinks this is a good idea especially for the students who are addicted to their phones, "The schools have finally found something to help them get off the phone. I think it's a great program and I really appreciate what they are doing." Another student, Dejan Lewis said he is not much on the phone but "It's going to help us more with our grades."

The pouches are rented at a cost of \$15 per student for the remainder of the school year. Next year, the more schools that join the program, the lower the cost according to the leasing company.

For more information, please call 908-731-4333 or email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us



Yankuba Camara, student at Maxson School



Dejan Lewis, Student at Maxson Middle

Jade Mathis, Yondr, presenting to students



Jade Mathis, Yondr, at Maxson Middle School