



# La Paloma High School

Liberty Union High School District  
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Chris Holland, Principal



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Dear Parents,

We believe that cellphones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully present so they can engage with their teachers and classmates.

**We are writing to share the exciting news that we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning.** We are using a system called Yondr to achieve this goal. Yondr is currently used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

**The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a cellphone.** Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive in each class. They will maintain possession of their phones, and will not use them until they are unlocked at the end of each class period.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in learning institutions. In 2019, Yondr surveyed over 400 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **69% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **84% of schools saw an increase in student engagement in the classroom**

## 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. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Contact the main office at (925) 634-2888 to reach your child.

### **What if there is an emergency?**

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - each class period. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

### **What if the pouch gets damaged?**

The Yondr pouch belongs to La Paloma just like any other school supply. If a student damages a Yondr pouch, he/she will be held responsible. The student's phone will be confiscated, and a parent must come to school to retrieve it.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly (925) 634-2888.

Sincerely,

Chris Holland, Principal  
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