



Christina Monfasani | Principal

Samantha Ramos, AP
6th Grade

Ivelisse Fanas, AP
7th Grade

Jacqueline Incorvaia, AP, IA
8th Grade

Helen Brock, AP
Organization

2025-26 School Year Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

This year we will continue to make our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning. Personal cellular phones, iPads, and other handheld electronic devices, including ear buds and smart watches are not to be used in the building. We will continue to use the YONDR system that we started 2 years ago. Yondr has been implemented in over 2,000 schools across 16 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone and other personal electronic devices. Every student will turn off and secure their phone/ device in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school (8:00 AM). Students will maintain possession of their turned off and locked personal electronic devices and will not use them throughout bell to bell instruction. Their pouches are unlocked as they exit through the courtyard at the end of the school day (2:25 PM). Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. If a student loses their pouch, they are to notify their grade level dean, to be provided with an additional pouch. The replacement fee is \$20.00. In the unlikely event that a student believes their device/s were stolen or damaged at school, they should notify their grade level dean (Ms. Torres (6th), Mr. Zambito (7th), or Ms. Markland (8th)) immediately, where we will investigate and follow the discipline code. Parents can submit a claim to the Comptroller's Office. More information on submitting a claim is available on the [Comptroller's webpage](#).

All students with an approved early dismissal, will sign out with a parent/ guardian in the main office. Once the parent/ guardian signs out their student, the student will be able to unlock their YONDR pouch as they exit the main office or by the main entrance exit.

If a student requires an exception and requires the use of their device/s during the school day, due to the reasons below, we ask that the parent/ guardian send an email to the Principal, Christina Monfasani at cmonfasani@schools.nyc.gov. The principal will respond to the request email within 48 hours with whether or not the exception is approved.

Reason for Exceptions:

- Authorized by the school for a specific educational purpose;
- Where necessary, management of a student's healthcare, as determined by the student's medical provider and subject to review by the Office of School Health;
- On a case-by-case basis, after review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member;
- Where required by law.
- In the event of an individual student emergency, where the parent has notified the principal/designee of the specific nature of the emergency.
- For translation and interpretation services if other means of translation or interpretation are not available.
- Provide that students must be permitted to use personal internet-enabled devices where such use is contained in an IEP or 504 plan, for (i) medical purposes or (ii) educational purposes, but the school has not yet secured a DOE-issued device for such purpose.

Parents who need to contact their children during the school day in emergency situations may do so by calling the Main Office (718-236-1344 ext. 0), where a school secretary will always be available to answer the phone. If students need to contact a parent, they will be able to do so in any dean, guidance or assistant principal's office. In an emergency, we will contact families through GAMA, which is directly linked to your New York City Schools Account (NYCSA). Here is how parents/guardians can access the automated messaging system: (include [directions](#) for setting up [NYCSA account](#) to access GAMA). If you need support with setting up your account, please contact our Parent Coordinator, Brenda Morales- Salas at ext. 2291.

In alignment with the NYC DOE Discipline Code and our commitment to progressive discipline, students will be given three opportunities to follow our cellphone policy during the school day:

• First Opportunity – Reminder

If a student is seen with their cellphone outside of the pouch, they will receive a verbal warning and a reminder of the policy.



Telephone: (718) 236-1344
Fax: (718) 236-2397



Website: sethlowis96.org



Seth Low Intermediate School 96,
99 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY 11204



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- **Second Opportunity – Temporary Confiscation**

The device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

- **Third Opportunity – Parent Involvement Required**

The device will be confiscated, a parent or guardian will be contacted, and the device must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

We look forward to a year where students can be present, focused and not distracted by electronic devices. We know that with your continued support, this will be a successful program. If you have any questions, please contact your grade dean. By signing below you acknowledge the implementation of our new Yondr cell phone policy.

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent Name: _____ Contact number: _____

I understand the Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent Name: _____ Contact number: _____

I understand the Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy.

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____