

PS/MS 20
POLICE OFFICER GEORGE J. WERDANN, III SCHOOL

Dr. Michael Pontebbi, Principal

Giselle Fortiche, AP / Sonia Santana-Cruzado AP

3050 WEBSTER AVE ~ BRONX, NY 10467
PHONE (718) 515 9370 ~ FAX (718) 515-9378
WEBSITE PSMS20BRONX.ORG

PSMS 20 Community,

To create an environment conducive to learning by minimizing distractions caused by cell phones and other personal internet-enabled electronic devices, ensure the safety and focus of all students during school the school day, and follow Education Law §2803, effective August 1, 2025, all New York State 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 and entertainment systems.

Policy statement:

PSMS 20 students will not be permitted to use or access their personal internet-enabled electronic devices upon arrival at school until the end of the school day. The school day is defined as the moment students enter the school building until the last class of the day ends, including during lunch. **The school day starts at 8:10AM and ends at 2:30PM.** Students will be able to use school/NYCPS-issued devices during the school day.

1. COLLECTION/STORAGE

- Upon arrival, students must power off their devices and can store them in their school issued YONDR POUCHES.
- If a student loses their YONDR POUCH they will be subject to turn their cell phone in for storage into a secure Cell Vault.

2. DESIGNATED PICK UP LOCATION/S:

- A designated collection point, supervised by staff members, will be set up at the entrance to the building, between times 7:40AM and 8:20AM.
- At the end of the school day, devices will be distributed by school staff in Exit 15 and Exit 16.
- Students who are late will have to pick up their device from the main office after dismissal.
- Students with approved early dismissal will retrieve their devices in the main office before leaving.

3. Our school provides students with locked YONDR pouches...

- a. Students will place their devices in their Yondr Pouches and secure it in front of school staff.
- b. Students will store their locked pouches in their Grade bin for the day. *They can carry their pouches throughout the day.
- At the end of the school day, students will retrieve and unlock their pouch in exit 15 and 16.
- Students with approved early dismissal will be able to unlock their pouch in main office.
- In the event that a student's YONDR POUCH is lost or damaged, the student will be subject to hand on their cell phone daily for it to be stored in our Cell Vault Locker.

4. **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

- In case of emergency or special circumstances, parents or guardians can call the main office to reach their child or email the parent coordinator.
- In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, the school will use [NYCPS messaging system and Bloomz to communicate information to parents or guardians. *All families must keep their personal information up to date with office staff by submitting new Blue Cards. Our main office updates family information using our Blue Cards.

5. **EXCEPTIONS**

- Parents/guardians must contact Dr. Pontebbi, Principal, if a student requires an exception for reasons such as: medical monitoring/treatment s (for example to monitor blood sugar or other similar circumstances), if student is a caregiver, for approved language purposes (such as translation or interpretation services if no other means are available), or where otherwise required by law.
- Exceptions will be processed and approved within two weeks of notification.

6. **DISCIPLINE**

- Students who use electronic devices in violation of the NYCPS Discipline Code, the school's policy, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, and/or the NYCPS Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy ("IAUSP") will be subject to progressive discipline. This means that the disciplinary responses will escalate based on the nature and frequency of the violation.
- Repeated incidents of insubordination (i.e. refusal to surrender or store device) **may** result in a suspension **if approved** by the Office of Safety and Youth Development.

7. **OTHER: If lost or stolen**

In the unlikely event that an electronic device is stolen or damaged at school, parents can submit a claim to the Comptroller's Office. More information on submitting a claim is available on the Comptroller's webpage.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and productive learning environment. If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding these policies, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Dr. Pontebbi

Principal