



The James Baldwin School

351 W. 18th Street, New York, NY 10011 (phone) 212-627-2812 (fax) 212-627-9803
Principal Co-Director Mel Jacobs, Assistant Principal Nadine Mitchell, Co-Director Robert Reyes
www.thejamesbaldwinschool.org

James Baldwin Cell Phone Policy

Our final policy will be available on the school website and disseminated to families prior to September 10th, 2026.

In accordance with the NYC Department of Education's Chancellor's Regulation A-413, and 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, from 8:30 AM until 2:50 PM anywhere on school grounds. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Wi-Fi-enabled headphones
- Smartwatches
- Music players
- Tablets
- Personal laptops or computers

Expectations:

- **All such devices must be turned off and secured in Yondr pouches upon entering the building, in the presence of school staff.**
- These devices should not be visible or audible at any point while on school grounds during the instructional day from 8:30 AM until 2:50 PM. Students will be able to use school/NYCPS-issued devices during the school day.
- Each student will be provided a pouch. If they lose or damage their pouch, their phones will be placed in a cell phone locker instead or will pay \$20 for a new pouch.
- If a student does not put their phone in a pouch, the student must sign a log attesting that they are not bringing a phone into the building.
- Students may access their phones **after school** during official programs or school-sponsored activities.
- Phones will be unlocked when students exit the building. Upon reentry, students must relock their phones in their Yondr pouches. This includes when students go out to lunch.
- Students may NOT have their phones if they stay in the building during the lunch period.
- If a student has a permitted early dismissal, they will visit the main office to sign out, and a staff member will unlock their pouch.
- To contact your student, please call the school main office at (212) 627-2812. A staff member will assist your child in contacting you. You may also call our parent coordinator at (646) 465 - 2379. Google Voice will prompt you to state your name and then connect your call.
- If a student needs to make a phone call, they may call from the main office or one of the administrative offices (304a and 304b).
- In case of an emergency, families will be contacted through the DOE messenger.



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- If the device is damaged or stolen while at school, families may file a claim with the Comptroller's office [here](#).

Exceptions:

- Students are allowed to use their device if they have an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan that includes use of an internet-enabled device and do not have a DOE-issued device for such purpose.
- Parents/guardians must contact Nadine Mitchell - Assistant Principal at [\(212\) 627-2812](tel:2126272812) or email nmitchell3@schools.nyc.gov. If a student requires an exception for reasons such as: medical monitoring/treatments (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. Families will receive determination related to exceptions within 5 school days.

If a Student Uses a Device During the School Day:

Students who use electronic devices in violation of the NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) Discipline Code, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, the school's policy, and/or the NYCPS Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (IAUSP) will be subject to **progressive discipline**. This means that consequences will escalate based on the frequency and severity of the infraction.

We understand that behavior change takes time, and we are proud that most students have adjusted well. For those needing additional support, we follow a **progressive intervention model**:

- If a student has a phone (or other internet enabled device) out in class, teacher asks the student to put the phone in the pouch
- If the student does not do so, the following ladder of escalations will be employed:
 - **First offense** - restorative conversation, and parent phone call, phone placed in locker
 - **Second offense** –parent phone call, restorative circle, phone placed in locker
 - **Third offense** – loss of privileges to participate in trips, in-person parent meeting
 - **More than three offenses**- potential loss of internship, in person parent meeting, restorative circle
 - Second and third, and subsequent breaches of policy will be entered into OORS as a B21, insubordination, and more than three occurrences may result in a suspension