



**TROY**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Student Cell Phone Use in our Secondary Schools

John Carmello, Superintendent of Schools

Presented June 5, 2024



*Today's Students.  
Tomorrow's Leaders.*

# TROY

## **CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

The Troy City School District will provide a strong educational and social foundation to graduate all students college and career ready.



- Strong...social foundation
  - This needs our attention...especially post-pandemic
- Classrooms where students can learn free from distractions
- Limit exposure to social media and its associated risks during the school day
- Encourage students to engage with their peers and adults



# Cell Phone Use in School

- Distraction
- Anxiety
- Mental Health
- Depression
- Cyberbullying
- Major disruptions



# How does it work?



- Each student would be assigned a Yondr pouch at the beginning of the school year. Students would be in possession of the devices, in their locked pouches, all day.
- The Yondr pouch has a magnetic locking device that can only be opened using a special unlocking device.
- When students arrive each morning, devices are turned off and placed in their individual Yondr pouch. The pouch then locks and students keep it either in their locker or with them all day.
- At the end of the school day, students can unlock the pouch at an unlocking station in the building, and resume using their devices.



# Positive Impact

- Suspensions reduced
- Overall behavior improved
- Increased student engagement
- Academic achievement improved
- Drastic reduction in cyberbullying
- Improved social interaction among students
- Improved overall school climate



# Feedback from Districts using Yondr

- **Watervliet:**

The Yondr pouches have been a successful addition to our school environment. Our students are more engaged in the classroom. They're more engaged with each other.

- Principal Richards, Watervliet Jr/Sr High School

- **Middletown:**

Our law enforcement has given us guidance with how to implement, what to use, what feels safe, what is an emergency response on their part. And they are totally in agreement with the implementation of the YONDR packages and feel that it makes our school a safer place in the event of an emergency.

- Dr. Lynette Williams, HS Principal

- **Schoharie:**

I think it's one of the best initiatives that we've undertaken in my 19 years here.

- Jen McClure, Computer Science Teacher

- **Poughkeepsie:**

Every student is now engaged, talking with one another and getting more work done

- Nashan Anderson, English Teacher

Yondr pouches are the best thing that could have happened for this school

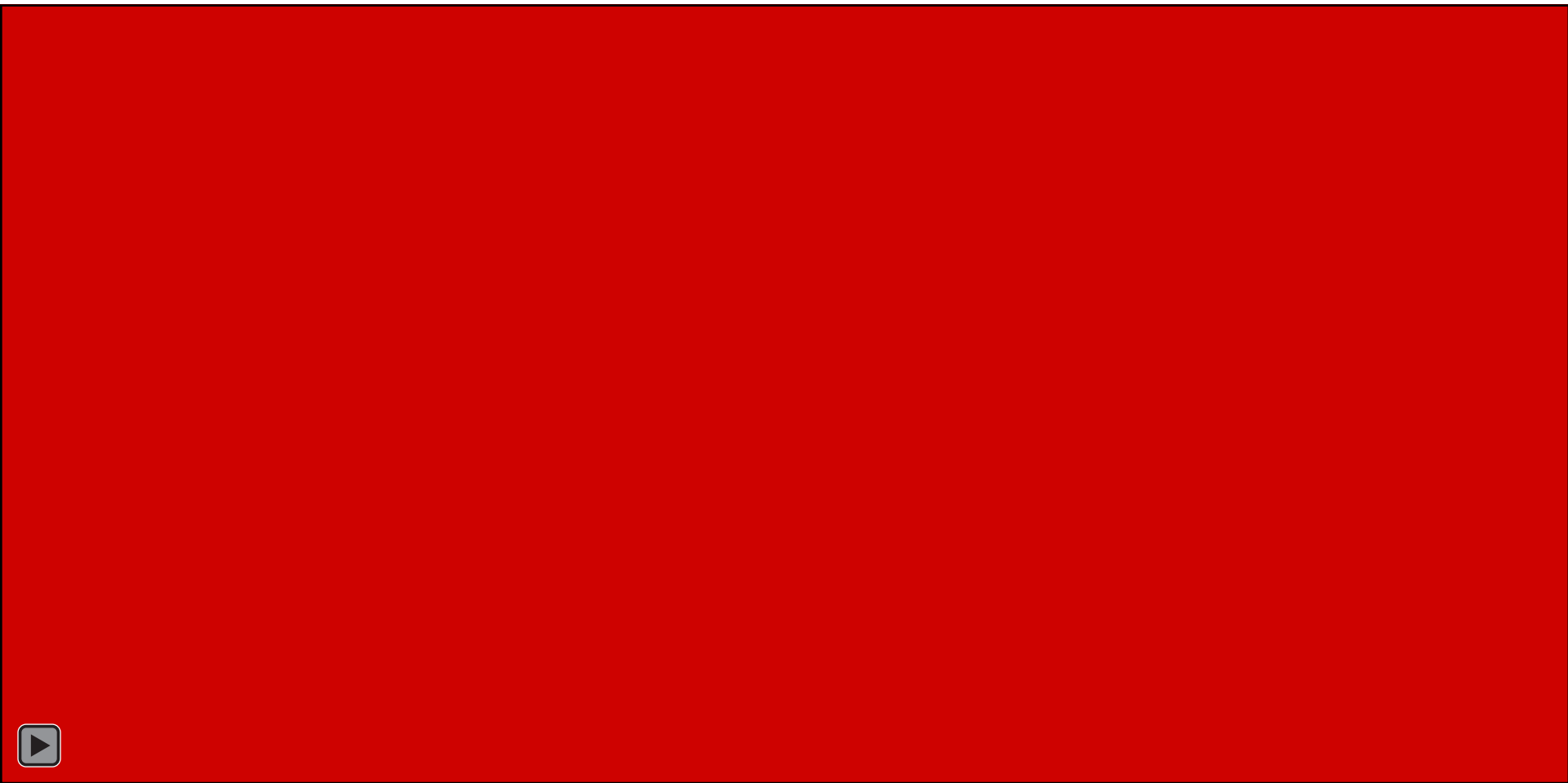
- Danisha Powell, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, Poughkeepsie High School



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When we know better,  
we have to do better



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# Questions?





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We Can  
We Will  
**End Of Story**