

Nedrose Public School District #4

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you're enjoying a restful summer. I'm writing to inform you about an important new state law regarding student cell-phone use that goes into effect with the upcoming school year.

ⓘ What's changing?

As of August 1, 2025, **North Dakota law requires all public K–12 students to stow away personal electronic devices**, such as cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, or gaming units, during the entire school day—from the moment school starts until dismissal. This policy is commonly referred to as a **“bell-to-bell” phone free policy**.

These devices must be securely stored—typically in lockers, lockable pouches, or designated parking stations—and remain inaccessible throughout the school day.

🎯 Why was this law passed?

Lawmakers, educators, and child mental health advocates championed this change because:

- It reduces distractions and improves student focus.
- It addresses rising concerns about mental health challenges tied to screen time and social media.
- It fosters more positive social interactions between students and teachers.

Governor Armstrong described it as “a game changer” supporting both academic and emotional wellbeing.

Nedrose School is now working on:

1. Crafting our policy on approved device use during non-instructional times.
2. Beginning the implementation of Yondr pouches (see below).

More information—including details about our school-specific implementation—will be shared during orientation and posted on our website.

Starting in the upcoming school year, we will launch the [Yondr Phone-Free Schools Program](#)—a proven, bell-to-bell approach that supports student focus, well-being, and connection by removing mobile phone distractions during the school day.

For over a decade, Yondr has helped schools across all 50 states and more than 35 countries build healthier, more engaging school cultures. Their pouch-based program, combined with hands-on guidance and dedicated support, has led to powerful results:

- 86% reported improved safety and student wellness
- 84% saw increased engagement in class
- 68% experienced academic gain
- 44% reduced behavioral referrals

How the Program Works

Each student will be assigned a Yondr pouch—a secure, lockable case for storing personal devices. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition.

- **Upon arrival:** Students power off their phone, AirPods, and smartwatch (or switch to airplane mode), place all devices in the pouch, and lock it during their first period class.
- **During the day:** Students keep the locked pouch in their backpack or locker.
- **At dismissal:** Students unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices.

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine.

As this is a state mandate, students will be held accountable for the state law in the following matrix:

Infraction	Interventions/Consequences Menu				
	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th Offense
Cell Phones/Electronic Devices	Parents contacted to come pick up the phone. ISS Day of infraction Plus one day	Parents contacted to come pick up the phone. OSS Day of infraction Plus one day	Parents contacted to come pick up the phone. 3 Days OSS	Parents contacted to come pick up the phone. 5 Days OSS	Parents contacted to come pick up the phone. 7 Days OSS Recommendation of Expulsion

Staying Connected

With student safety as our top priority, we will follow our standard safety protocols in the event of an emergency. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact our main offices and our secretaries will be happy to get a message to your child's classroom.

Thank you for partnering with us to support a focused, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all students.

Warm regards,

Alex Schmaltz
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