



McKenzie County Public School District No. 1

Watford City Middle School
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August 14, 2025

Dear Watford City Middle School Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to share that we are making our schools a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called [Yondr](#). 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. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Parents will still be able to contact their students through the main office or through the student's school email. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr received responses from over 1,200 school partners, and after implementing the Yondr Education Program:

- **84% saw a change in student engagement**
- **72% saw a positive change in student behavior**
- **68% saw a positive change in academic performance**

Of our most recent impact survey of over 370 of our school partners:

- **86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 701-444-3626.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,
Watford City Middle School Administration



McKenzie County

August 1, 2025

We hope you are enjoying a safe and restful summer! As we prepare for another successful school year, we want to inform you of some important updates to our technology and personal device policies, made in response to **North Dakota House Bill 1160** and our continued commitment to the safety and academic success of all students.

Beginning in the **2025-2026 school year**, the following updates will take effect:

- **Grades K–5:**
 - Students will be required to keep cell phones, smartwatches, and other electronic devices in their lockers during the school day.
- **Grades 6–12:**
 - All cell phones *and smartwatches* will be secured in Yondr pouches during the school day.
- **All Grade Levels**
 - Bluetooth headphones/earbuds (including AirPods and similar devices) will not be permitted during the school day. Students may use personal corded headphones.
 - Personal laptops or tablets will no longer be allowed; all students will be required to use school-issued devices to ensure digital safety and consistent access to learning tools.
 - Meta glasses or any wearable devices with recording capabilities will not be allowed on school grounds.

These updates are part of our ongoing efforts to foster a safe, focused, and distraction-free learning environment. By reducing access to personal electronic devices during the school day, we are creating more opportunities for student engagement, interpersonal connection, and academic growth.

We appreciate your support and partnership as we implement these changes. Our staff is committed to helping students adjust smoothly and will be working closely with them to ensure understanding and compliance with the updated policy.

Thank you for your continued support in making our schools a safe and supportive place for all students to learn and thrive.