



# P.S./M.S. 161

## Don Pedro Albizu Campos



**Voice. Talent. Grit.**

### **DON PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS ~ P.S./M.S. 161**

#### **The Future of Harlem, One Student at a Time**

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#### **Ms. Jasmira Caceres, Principal**

Mathias Guishard, Asst. Principal, Yiliany Fernandez, Asst. Principal, Alysha Brown, I.A. Asst. Principal

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August 1, 2025

Dear PSMS161 Families,

As part of a citywide initiative to support safe, focused, and distraction-free learning environments, all New York City Public Schools will implement a bell-to-bell cell phone and electronic device policy beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

At Don Pedro Albizu Campos School, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. To support this goal, we will be implementing the following policy for all students in grades 3–8:

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#### **Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy**

- All student cell phones and personal electronic devices (with internet capabilities and/or connects to WiFi such as a smart watch, ipads, tablets, Kindle) must be turned off and stored securely in a **NYCPS approved Cell Vault** from the start of the school day until dismissal (8:00 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.).
- Devices may not be used during class, transitions, lunch, recess or on school trips.
- Students will store their devices upon arrival in their assigned spot in the Vault. At the end of the day the device will be returned to the student who placed the phone into the Vault.



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#### **Why This Policy Matters**

This policy is designed to:

- Minimize distractions during instructional time
- Promote face-to-face interaction and engagement
- Support student safety and well-being

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#### **Emergency Contact**

If you need to reach your child during the school day or for emergency purposes, please contact our Parent Coordinator - Mr. Williams at 347-563-5138 or our Pupil Personnel Security-Ms. Cerda at 212-690-5945 ext 1177. **Students will not be permitted to use personal devices during school hours.**

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**Exceptions:**

- Medical condition that requires students to have access to internet enabled devices. Medical documentation must be submitted to school for clearance.
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**Response when Expectations are not met:**

- First Offense: Reminder and review of the policy with student and parent/guardian
  - Second Offense: Parent/guardian contact and temporary device confiscation. Parents will be notified and must pick up their child's device.
  - Third Offense: Meeting with administration and device will be dropped off with Dean daily
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**Our Commitment**

We understand that this is a shift for many students and families. To support a smooth transition, our school has received funding from NYCPS to purchase secure storage solutions that meet the needs of our community. We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a focused and respectful learning environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 347-563-5138 or email Mr. Williams at [KWilliams2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:KWilliams2@schools.nyc.gov). **This form is due back to the school no later than September 5, 2025**

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms. Jasmira Caceres

School Principal

I understand the new cell phone policy and will ensure that we adhere to the **Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone (8:00 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.) & Electronic Device Policy for the 25/26 School Year**

**Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name (PRINT) :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

