



Dear Friends of Bedford Village Elementary School,

Did you know that the average age a child gets a smartphone is 10 years old and that children are spending between 6 and 9 hours a day on media? Childhood is changing, and the negative impact of too much screen time is hitting kids hard., with the impact rippling into schools where teachers are dealing with it firsthand.

There is some good news for you though. There is a wonderful resource to help parents delay the smartphone and access to social media and give their children more time smartphone and social media free.

The **Wait Until 8th** pledge empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone and access to social media until at least 8th grade. By banding together, this will decrease the pressure felt by kids and parents alike over the kids having a smartphone and social media accounts.

Please note that this pledge is for smartphones and social media only! If you would like your child to have a basic phone that just calls and texts, you still can sign the pledge! The basic phone avoids many of the distractions and dangers of the smartphone.

A pledge becomes "active" once 10 or more families from a grade at a school sign. The organizers designed the pledge this way so you don't have to fear "what if I am the only parent that signs this in my kid's grade." This takes the pressure off because the pledge only kicks in once at least 10 families sign from your grade.

To learn more, please visit www.waituntil8th.org . Also, you can check out these recent news stories about the pledge!

The Today Show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkCUaW_usRw

Good Morning America

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/movement-calls-parents-give-children-smartphones-8th-grade-51153665>

NPR's On Point news program

<http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2017/12/03/smartphones-kids-wait>

Close to 20,000 families from all 50 states have said yes to waiting for the smartphone. Will you join us? Childhood is too short to waste on a smartphone. Let's let kids be kids a little longer. Take the pledge at www.waituntil8th.org.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
The BVESA Board