



Brad Friedman, another teacher at the school, said he was becoming concerned with excessive use of phones at school. He said he often saw students completely lost on their phones, some not socializing at all with other students.

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This week, he's already seeing the difference.

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"Everyone else was socializing and eating lunch together, that's what I wasn't seeing enough of when phone usage is at its worst," he said.

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A senior at San Mateo High School Djelani Phillips-Diop said he definitely panicked at first when he heard he had to lock his phone.

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"I panicked I guess last year when we had phones, I was using it every day," he said.

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In case of emergency, every classroom has the unlocking device. Teachers still have access to their own cellphones and landlines.

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"We've gotten all 1,700 students unlocked with a matter of minutes," said Gelb.

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We spoke to four students who, despite their initial panic, agreed that a phone-free school experience has its benefits.

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"I remember sophomore year, I tried to get my followers, checked my followers constantly," said Joshua Cervantes-

