

# Enhancing Student Engagement: Implementing Cellphone Pouches in Schools

**June 2024**

# **The Challenge**

**In today's digital age, smartphones have become omnipresent, posing a significant challenge to classroom engagement and academic performance.**

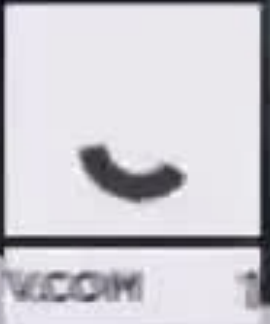
**The constant temptation to check notifications, text messages, and social media platforms disrupts learning environments and impedes student concentration.**

# Introduction

- **Understanding the negative impact of cellphone usage on children during school hours.**
- **Introducing Yondr as a solution to manage cellphone usage and enhance the learning environment.**

# Distractions From Learning

- **Reduced Attention:** Research shows that students who use their phones during class have lower levels of attention and engagement (source: *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 2018).
- **Lower Academic Performance:** A study found a significant correlation between in-class cellphone use and lower academic performance (source: *Computers in Human Behavior*, 2015).
- **Interruptions:** Notifications and messages cause frequent interruptions, disrupting the flow of learning (source: *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 2014).





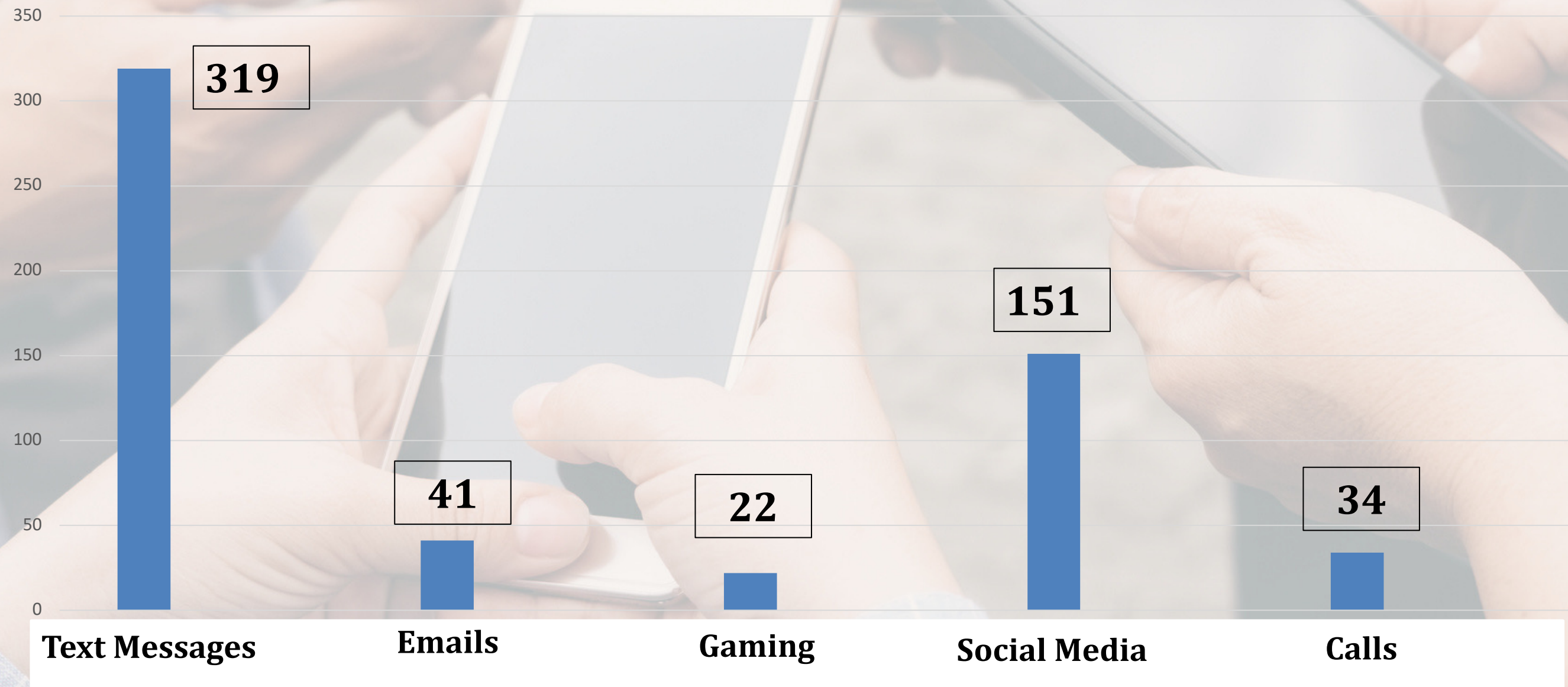
**WE WANT  
YOUR FEEDBACK**

# Baseline Data Collection Information

- School: Southwest DeKalb High School
- Two Classroom Observations
  - Classroom #1: Spanish
    - 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Graders/24 Students
  - Classroom #2: ELA
    - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade/25 Students
  - Total of 49 Students
- Data Collection Duration: 30-minutes Per Class

# Classroom #1 Cell Phone Usage Data

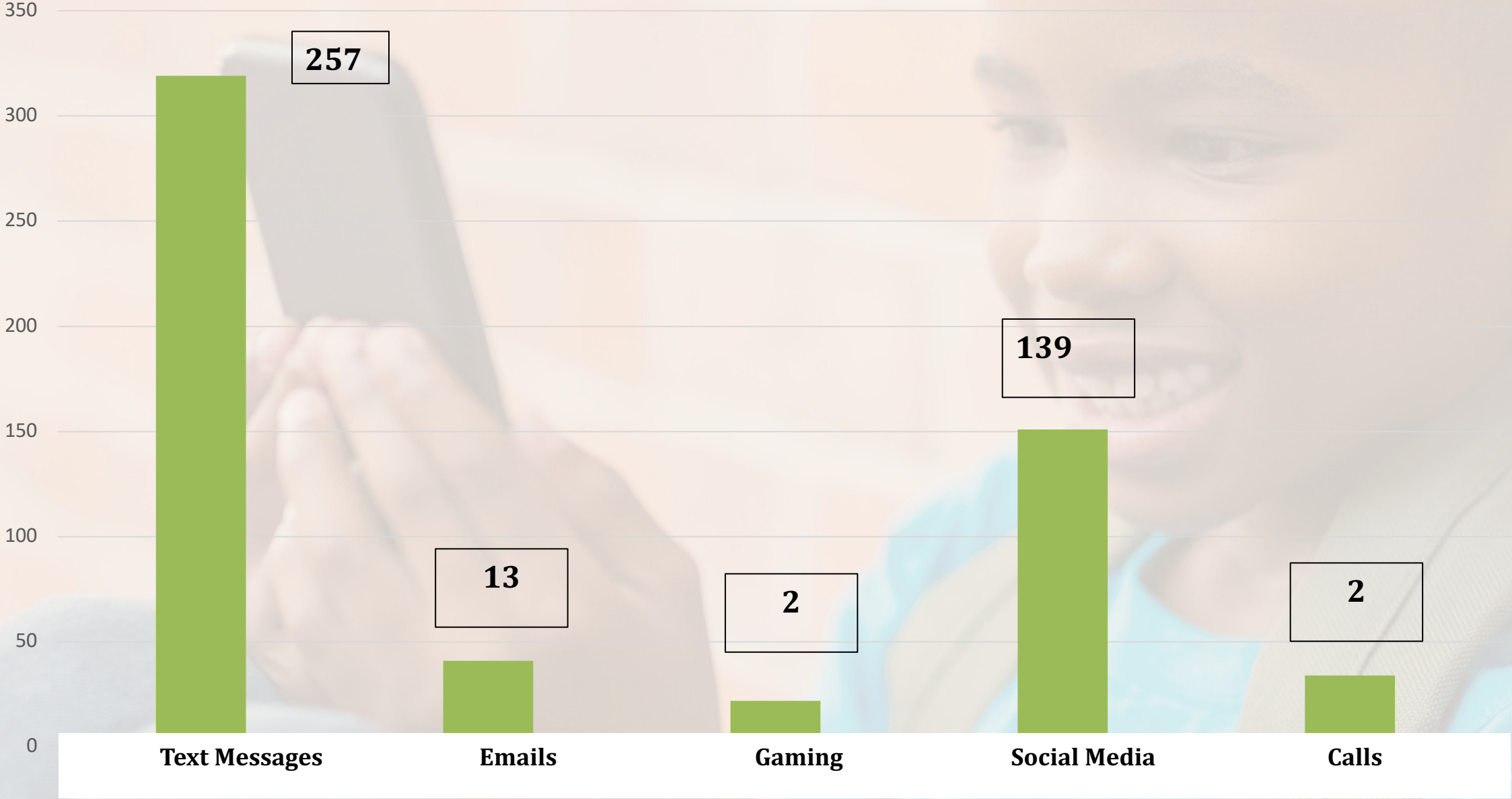
Spanish 1/10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Graders  
24 Students/30-minutes Data Collection



**567 Notifications**

# Classroom #2 Cell Phone Usage Data

**ELA/10<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
**25 Students/30-minutes Data Collection**



**413 Notifications**

# Impact on Social Skills

- **Limited Face-to-Face Interaction:** Excessive cellphone use reduces opportunities for direct communication, impairing social skill development (source: *Developmental Psychology*, 2017).
- **Weaker Social Bonds:** Over-reliance on digital communication can weaken relationships with peers (source: *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 2016).
- **Impaired Social Development:** Lack of direct interaction hinders the development of essential social skills (source: *American Journal of Public Health*, 2018).

# The Surgeon General Warns That Social Media May Harm Children and Adolescents

The report by Dr. Vivek Murthy cited a “**profound risk of harm**” to adolescent mental health and urged families to set limits and governments to set tougher standards for use.

New York Times, May 23, 2023

# Mental Health Concerns

- **Increased Anxiety:** Constant connectivity and social media exposure can heighten anxiety and stress levels (source: *Clinical Psychological Science*, 2019).
- **Cyberbullying:** Cellphones can facilitate cyberbullying, which significantly impacts emotional and psychological well-being (source: *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2015).
- **Sleep Disruption:** Late-night phone use negatively affects sleep patterns, leading to fatigue and reduced academic performance (source: *Sleep Medicine*, 2016).

# Physical Health Issues

- **Sedentary Lifestyle:** Excessive screen time promotes a sedentary lifestyle, contributing to obesity and related health problems (source: *Pediatrics*, 2017).
- **Eye Strain:** Prolonged use of screens can cause eye strain and discomfort (source: *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, 2015).
- **Poor Posture:** Extended phone usage can lead to poor posture and related musculoskeletal issues (source: *Applied Ergonomics*, 2016).

# Academic Integrity

- **Cheating:** Easy access to information on cellphones can tempt students to cheat during exams and assignments (source: *Ethics & Behavior*, 2018).
- **Fairness:** Ensuring academic integrity is crucial for a fair and just educational environment (source: *Educational Research Review*, 2019).

# Introducing Yondr

- ✦ Yondr offers a solution by providing patented cellphone pouches designed to create phone-free spaces.
- ✦ These pouches are easy to use, secure, and ensure that students retain possession of their devices while restricting access during specified times.



# How Yondr Works

✦ **Phone Placement:** Students place their phones in the Yondr pouch at the beginning of the school day.

✦ **Locking:** The pouch is locked, and students keep the pouch with them.

✦ **Unlocking:** At designated times or at the end of the school day, pouches are unlocked using the base station.




# Benefits in Schools


- ✦ **Promotes Classroom Focus:** Eliminates distractions and fosters a conducive learning environment.
- ✦ **Improves Academic Performance:** Reduces interruptions, leading to enhanced comprehension and retention of course material.
- ✦ **Encourages Social Interaction:** Facilitates face-to-face communication and collaboration among students.
- ✦ **Enhances Safety:** Minimizes the risk of cyberbullying, inappropriate content exposure, and classroom disruptions.


**OVER 1 MILLION STUDENTS USE YONDR EVERY DAY**

## YONDR'S IMPACT

We received responses to our annual surveys 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.**

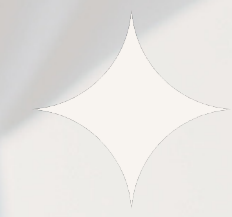
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*"The changes have already been profound. There's so much more joy and interaction, and I can't count the number of parents who have asked me, 'How do I buy this for my home?'"*



# Addressing Concerns

- ✦ **Acknowledge common concerns such as emergency communication, parental contact, and access to educational apps.**
- ✦ **Provide reassurance by outlining protocols for emergency situations and alternative communication channels.**
- ✦ **Emphasize the flexibility of Yondr, allowing educators to customize usage policies based on specific needs and circumstances.**



# Implementation Strategies

✦ **Collaborate with school administrators, teachers, and parents to develop comprehensive guidelines and protocols for implementing Yondr.**

✦ **Conduct training sessions to familiarize staff, students, and parents with the proper use and benefits of Yondr.**

✦ **Establish clear communication channels to address questions, feedback, and concerns throughout the implementation process.** ✦



# MORE SCHOOLS BANNING CELLPHONES





**TAKE AWAY**

# Key Insights

✦ **Integrating cellphone pouches into school environments offers a proactive approach to managing cellphone distractions and promoting student engagement.**

✦ **By creating phone-free spaces, schools can cultivate focused learning environments conducive to academic success and holistic student development.**

✦

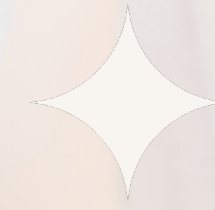
# Pilot Schools

## Middle Schools

**Salem MS**  
**Henderson MS**  
**Sequoyah MS**  
**Lithonia MS**  
**Tucker MS**

## High Schools

**Martin Luther King, Jr., HS**  
**Lakeside HS**  
**Cross Keys HS**  
**Lithonia HS**  
**Tucker HS**





Q & A

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