

# The ***BETHANY MIDDLE SCHOOL***

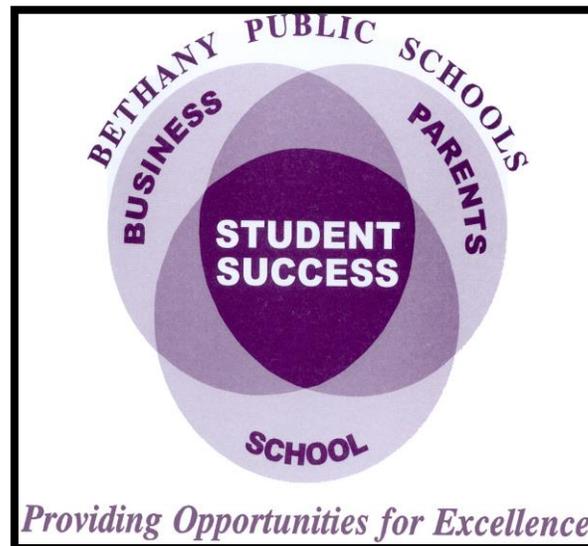
405-787-3240

Website: [www.bethanyschools.com](http://www.bethanyschools.com)

Office Hours: 7:30-4:00(M-Th) 7:30-3:30(F)

Classes: 8:30-3:00(M), 8-3:00(T-F)

## **STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK 2020-21**



To enhance a successful home/school communication policy, Bethany Middle School has provided this handbook for each student. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to read this handbook to ensure that they are aware of the rules and procedures of the school and the consequences of breaking those rules. The parents are encouraged to work with the Bethany staff in maintaining and encouraging proper standards of behavior for their children. There is a Student/Parent Acknowledgment page at the back of this handbook that should be signed and returned to your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> hour teacher.

Bethany Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or marital or veteran status.

## **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL**

**Welcome to Bethany Middle School! Home of the Bronchos!**

**At BMS we strive to build relationships with our students and to provide them with skills to be lifelong learners. Communication and collaboration between faculty, students, parents, and community members are essential for creating a positive environment in which our students can learn.**

**Middle school is a time of growth and change for your child. Bethany Middle School has a variety of programs and a range of services to support students throughout this time of transition. We know that by working together every student at our school can be successful.**

**Please feel free to contact me at 787-3240 if you have any questions or need any more information.**

**Proud to be a Broncho!**

**Trey Keoppel**

### **BETHANY MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF**

*Trey Keoppel, BMS Principal*

*Tracy Williford, BMS Counselor*

*Kristie Escoe, BMS Principal's Secretary*

### **BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Angela Palmer, President*

*Courtney Marquez, Vice President*

*Heather Miller, Clerk*

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*Kent Walstad, Member*

*Drew Eichelberger, Superintendent of Schools*

*Tyler Thomas, Bethany Foundation President*

### **BETHANY MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION**

**To maximize every student's academic potential and personal responsibility!**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome! - 4	Incompletes - 16
Important Dates/Immunizations - 5	Insurance - 16
Absences and Tardies - 6	Late Work Policy - 16
Academic Honesty Policy - 6	Law and Privacy Rights - 16
Academic Intervention Process(RTI) - 7	Lockers - 16
Activities and Clubs - 7	Lunch Room - 17
Activity Absences - 8	Mark System - 17
Administrative Detentions - 8	Media Centers - 17
Admission - 8	Medications - 17
AHERA - 8	Mid-term Testing -17
Attendance - 9	Parent Portal - 17
Awards - 9	Parents Right to Know - 17
Bags, Binders, and Purses - 9	Positive Behavior Incentive System - 18
Bicycles - 9	Protection of Pupil Rights - 18
Bus Riding Rules - 9	PTO - 18
Campus - 9	Proficiency Test - 18
Child Abuse - 9	Promotion/Retention - 18
Child Custody - 10	Report Cards -18
Child Find - 10	Safe Calls - 18
Clothing - 10	School Hours - 19
Communications During Classroom Instruction - 11	Security Drills - 19
Control and Discipline Action Plan - 11	Sexual Harassment - 19
Cops in Schools - 11	State Mandated Tests - 19
Corporal Punishment - 11	Stealing - 19
Credit for Advanced Course - 11	Student Directory Info - 19
Discipline - 12	Student Due Process Rights - 19
Drug Dog - 12	Student Expectations - 20
Early Dismissal - 12	Student Placement - 20
Electronic Devices - 12	Student Residency - 20
Eligibility - 12	Technology - 20
Exemption Program - 13	Test Retake Policy - 20
FERPA - 13	Transfers - 21
Field Trips - 14	Volunteers - 21
First Aid/Nurse - 14	Weapons - 21
Grades - 14	Weather Closings - 21
Grade Checks - 14	Withdrawals - 21
Guidance Offices - 15	Meningitis - 22
Harassment, Bullying, and Hazing - 15	Supply List - 24
Head Lice - 15	Textbook Price List - 25
Homework Info - 16	Walk Home Permission Form - 26
Incentive Program - 16	Signature Page - 27

# Welcome to Bethany Middle School – Home of the Bronchos!

At Bethany, it is our mission to maximize the academic potential and personal responsibility of every student. Bethany is truly a special place because of our outstanding teachers, hardworking and respectful students, supportive parents, and an underlying belief that it is our collective goal to meet the individual needs of every child. The Bethany staff works tirelessly to assure that every “Broncho” student...

## Feels safe and respected

At Bethany our first priority is assuring the safety and well-being of every child.

## Meets high expectations

Bethany ranks in the top one percent of all middle schools in the state of Oklahoma because we “set the bar high” for our students, which in turn allows them to reach their fullest potential.

## Has numerous opportunities for “exploration”

Middle school is a time for students to experience different subjects, electives, and activities. These experiences can lead to a future career or life-long hobby, but more importantly these experiences develop a well-rounded person.

## Has access to state-of-the-art technology

Technology skills are now considered “life-skills.” Bethany is committed to providing our students access to the latest technology and assuring that all students leave Bethany having mastered our district technology standards.

## Has Fun!

Academic success at school requires hard work and responsibility – but these demands must be balanced with activities that make school fun. In the end this balance will develop life-long learners.

Our Guidelines for Success, the 4Ps, encourage students to be Productive, Prepared, Prompt, and Polite in all situations whether at school or at home. These guidelines are the foundation of behavior expectations on campus and at school events.



**IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ALL GRADES  
2020-21**

	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE
DTP/DTA/TD	5	5	5
POLIO	4	4	4
MMR	2	2	2
HEP B	3	2 OR 3	2 OR 3
HEP A	2	2	2
VARICELLA	YES	YES	YES
Tdap	NO	YES	NO

*All must be completed.*

<p><b>IMPORTANT DATES FOR BETHANY MIDDLE SCHOOL</b></p>
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**August 3-6**

**Schedule Pick-up (10-2:00 daily)**

8/3 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 8/4 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8/5 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
8/6 – open to all

**August 6**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Broncho Bonanza – 6:00-6:45pm**  
**Shellenberger Performing Arts Center (students and parents)**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Back to School Night – 7:00-7:30pm**  
**Shellenberger Performing Arts Center (parents only)**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Back to School Night – 7:45-8:15pm**  
**Shellenberger Performing Arts Center (parents only)**

**October 12 and 13**

**Mid-term testing**

**December 17 and 18**

**First Semester testing**

**March 11 and 12**

**Mid-term testing**

**April 13 – 17**

**State mandated testing in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades**

**May 18 and 19**

**Second Semester testing**

## **ABSENCES AND TARDIES**

Student absences not cleared by parents/guardians, truancies, leaving campus without checking out, staying on campus but not reporting to the student's assigned class, not reporting to assigned class when arriving late or checking into school, or working with another teacher or organization without prior approval from the office are some examples of unexcused absences. All work missed for an unexcused absence may be entered as zero credit.

If a parent or guardian contacts the school regarding a student's absence, that absence will be excused. However, the absence still counts against the student for exemptions and awards. A student must be present in class a minimum of 90% of the time (no more than 10 days unexcused absence) each semester to receive credit for class.

### **PROCEDURE AFTER ABSENCE**

Parents/guardians should call the office by 10am when you are absent. If the child's parent or guardian does not phone or write a note, the absence will be considered unexcused. The BMS office staff will attempt to contact parent/guardian to confirm unexpected absences.

A student is considered tardy when he or she is not in his or her room when class begins. Students arriving to school after school has started must report to the office prior to reporting to class. If a student misses more than 20% of class (10 minutes), the student will be counted absent. Students who are checked out of a class early will receive an Early Release, which is calculated the same as a tardy. Tardies are calculated for disciplinary purposes per semester and totaled by class. Three tardies in the same class is equal to one absence.

### **Consequences for tardies may include:**

**Tardy #1, #2** - Warning

**Tardy #3** - Mark

**Tardy #4, #5** - Warning

**Tardy #6** - Mark

**Tardy #7, #8** - Warning

**Tardy #9+** - Mark

See "Mark System" for explanation of marks.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

BMS believes that a sound educational program must insist upon academic honesty. We expect BMS students to display personal integrity and self-respect. Students should understand that learning to prepare for an exam is as important as the material being covered. The final value of one's education is what is learned and not what grade a student receives. Grades mean little when cheating is accepted. Assisting someone else to cheat is no different than cheating yourself.

The following actions, but not limited to, are in violation of BMS's Academic Honesty Policy:

- Copying from another student's assignment or test.
- Using a "cheat" sheet or other external assistance.
- Stealing or borrowing without expressed teacher permission of a test, quiz, and/or other confidential document.
- Making a copy, in part or in whole, of a confidential document, including but not limited to, taking a picture of a test or quiz.
- Using a paper one has written for one class in another class without teacher permission.
- Creating false data for a bibliography.
- Watching a video or reading "Cliff Notes" of a literary work in place of reading the piece.
- Borrowing a study sheet or object with answers and copying them as one's own work.
- Plagiarism: Copying word for word in part or in whole from a source without giving proper credit to the author. This includes electronic sources and/or services found on the internet.

- Turning in someone else’s work, in part or in whole, including but not limited to, erasing/deleting someone else’s name and substituting it for your own.
- Forgery of a parent or guardian signature on a school document.
- Unauthorized collaboration: Working with another student on a project, assignment, homework, test, etc. without expressed permission from the teacher. This also includes but is not limited to lending or showing your paper and/or assignment to another student for any reason without the expressed permission from the teacher.
- Successfully or unsuccessfully attempting to solicit another in the process of violating Bethany Middle School’s Academic Honesty Policy.
- In any way assisting another student with the process of Bethany Middle School’s Academic Honesty Policy.

**Consequences for violating the Bethany Middle School’s Academic Honesty Policy may include:**

**First Offense:** Student receives an “F” grade on the assignment. Teacher calls the parent/guardian and informs them that the student will be referred to the principal. Referral to principal. Administrative detention assigned.

**Second Offense:** Student receives an “F” on assignment. Teacher calls the parent/guardian and informs them that the student will be referred to the principal. Student suspended. Parent conference.

**ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PROCESS (RTI)**

All students will be expected to turn work in on time and at a mastery level. Students with missing work will be expected to attend morning make-up, lunch make-up, or after school make-up sessions until work is completed. Teachers will document late work with date of completion.

**Tier One:** During the first weeks of noticing a student is missing work or is struggling academically on a consistent basis, the teacher will begin an “Intervention Plan” which includes assessing learning strategies that will be a best fit for the student, reviewing student folders, providing extra time to complete assignments, and meeting with colleagues to discuss best strategies for making each student successful in our school. Points will be deducted for late work according to policy.

**Tier Two:** A student who is chronically missing work or who is struggling academically, and who is regularly attending and/or offered make up sessions will be reported to the RTI Team for intervention. The intervention will run for a designated period of time. Parents will be contacted at this time. A parent conference will be required with teachers and principal. At this conference, the teachers, parents, and principal may recommend an Intervention Program. Points will be deducted for late work according to policy.

**Tier Three:** A student who is continually missing work or is struggling academically during this time will require a parent conference attended by counselor, teachers, and administrator and consideration will be taken into account for Intensive Support Program, Special Education Testing, frequent parent conferences, and alternate placements to ensure work completion. Points will be deducted for late work according to policy.

**ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

**BUILDER’S CLUB**

Builder’s Club is a community service organization supported by Kiwanis International. It is the middle school component of the high school Key Club and the elementary school K Club, all supported by Kiwanis. The goal is to give members opportunities to have fun while performing service, building character, and developing leadership. Membership is open to all Bethany Middle School students.

### **FCA**

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) – This is a student-led, Christian-based club which meets monthly to fellowship and play games. All MS students are eligible to participate in this club.

### **LEAP**

Learning Enrichment Accelerated Program is a program for gifted students. Students may qualify by their scores on specific tests. Contact the counselor, LEAP teacher, or principal, if you would like to have your child tested.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL OKLAHOMA HONOR SOCIETY**

Grades are calculated over the first semester of the current school year and the first and second semester of the past school year. The scholastic grades plus citizenship grades are compiled. The upper 10% of each class are selected for Middle School Honor Society. Students must be at BMS 2-3 semesters to be eligible.

### **NJHS**

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Bethany students who maintain a 3.75 grade point average. The purpose of NJHS is to foster high standards of scholarship, service, and citizenship at the middle school level.

### **SPORTS**

Athletic sports are available to students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Practices and competitions take place during the school day and after school. BMS students compete against other middle schools. Satisfactory grades and a sports physical are required for participation per Bethany School Board Policy.

### **ACTIVITY ABSENCES**

When a student is absent for a school sponsored activity, they will be given the appropriate number of days to make up work with the following exceptions:

- Long Term Projects – They are defined as projects that have a timeline of 1 week or more. If you are not going to be at school that day for any reason, you must send it to school by someone to receive full credit.
- Tests - Tests will be taken on the day which the student returns if no new material was covered and if the test date was known prior to the activity absence.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS**

Detentions are typically during lunch/recess or after school. It is the student's responsibility to complete their detention on time or to request an extension for excused reasons only from the Principal's secretary prior to the deadline. As a courtesy and best practice, BMS will communicate with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) via phone. Students failing to complete their detentions on time may be subject to being assigned additional detentions, In-School Reflection, Out-of-School Suspension, or other disciplinary consequences for Defiance of Authority. Students with outstanding detention time may not participate in extra-curricular activities and student privileges including but not limited to sports, leadership activities, field trips, end of the year privileges, etc...

### **ADMISSION**

Bethany schools shall accept any legally transferred student unless, in the opinion of the administration, it is to the best interests of the school and/or student not to do so. Absences, tardies, and discipline are factors that are considered, also.

### **AHERA**

The AHERA management plan was developed and has been submitted to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, Public Law 99-519; and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Rule; Asbestos Containing materials in Schools, 40 CFR Part 763; and the undersigned does hereby certify that the LEA has and will ensure the following; all management plans are available for

inspection and notification of such availability has been provided and may be reviewed at the Administration building during normal business hours.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is essential to school success. Students are to attend classes unless officially excused. Tardies, early releases, and absences can prohibit the student from participating in special opportunities such as the exemption program.

### **AWARDS**

- **Student of the Month** – Each grade level team selects a student of the month. This award follows our Guidelines for Success program and recognizes students who demonstrate the 4 Ps consistently.
- **Broncho Academic Performance Award** - Awarded at the end of the year to students who have no grade below a “B” and no office referrals.
- **Broncho Academic Excellence Award** – Awarded at the end of the year to students who have no grade below an “A” and no office referrals.
- **Broncho Achievement Award** - Awarded at the end of the year to students who have demonstrated exemplary achievement in a particular course of study.

### **BAGS, BINDERS, AND PURSES**

The Fire Marshall has requested that no items are to be placed on top of the lockers, in the hallways, in the commons, or in classrooms; therefore, students are required to store backpacks in lockers and athletic bags in specified areas. No bags or purses are allowed in classrooms.

### **BICYCLES**

Students may wish to ride bicycles to school. For the safety of all students the rules are:

- Walk your bicycle on the school grounds.
- Obey traffic rules and safe riding practices.
- Use the bicycle parking rack and cage that has been provided by the PTO. It is in the NW corner of the school building.
- Provide your bike with an adequate lock. The school cannot be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged bikes.

### **BUS RIDING RULES (BP 719)**

1. Keep hand and head inside the bus at all times after entering and until leaving the bus. NEVER USE BACK DOOR.
2. STAY IN SEATS WHILE THE BUS IS IN MOTION.
3. KEEP THE BUS AISLES CLEAR OF ALL OBJECTS.
4. In case of emergency; students are to stay with the bus until otherwise directed.
5. Do not tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.

### **CAMPUS (BP # 705)**

The entire campus is a part of the total school environment and all laws, policies, rules, and regulations apply. DO NOT LEAVE THE CAMPUS UNLESS YOU ARE AUTHORIZED (See truancy). A person whose presence is deemed detrimental to the normal function of the school and who is not enrolled in BPS, may be asked to leave by the school administration or its designee. If they do not comply, the Bethany Police Department will be called. **ENTER BMS THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS before 8:15am and after 2:45pm. Enter through the Asbury security entrance, 8:15am-2:45pm.**

### **CHILD ABUSE (BP #711)**

In compliance with the state law, every teacher or other employee of the school district is to report promptly any **suspected abuse** or **neglect** of any student to the Department of Human Services.

## **CHILD CUSTODY**

Custody of children has been a frequent concern of the schools. In order to prevent confusion over this issue, the parent with custody should fully inform the school office as to who may and may not sign out students and is authorized to sign permission slips and placement requests. It is absolutely mandatory that we have court documentation that the person with whom the child is living has legal guardianship of the minor child.

## **CHILD FIND**

The Bethany Public School District recognizes its responsibility to provide a free and appropriate public education to eligible students with disabilities within its geographical boundaries. The District has a “child find” process that is designed to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities residing within its geographical boundaries preschool through grade 12 or through age 21 if they have not received a high school diploma. If you know a child who lives within the boundaries of the Bethany Public School District and attends school in the District who may be in the need of special education and/or related services, please contact the Director of Special Services for further information regarding the referral and evaluation process. If the student is a school age student who attends a non-public private school that is not located within the geographical boundaries of the school district, the student may need to be referred to the school district in which the non-public school is located in order to receive services during the regular school year. Please contact that school district for information regarding time deadlines for requests for services. The District’s Child Find process extends to students with physical or mental impairments that substantially limit a major life activity. Such students may be eligible for services or accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is a federal civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and programs receiving federal financial assistance. Please contact our special services department for more information regarding Section 504 eligibility and services.

## **CLOTHING**

The **clothing** worn to school is part of our learning environment and should not cause disruption or present health or safety problems. The MS office conducts periodic clothing checks.

- **Obscene, suggestive, or disruptive writing/illustrations or gang graffiti** on clothing or skin will not be permitted.
- Clothing is not allowed that **advertises alcoholic beverages, weapons, tobacco or marijuana products, or illegal substances.**
- In the interest of health and safety, **footwear** must be worn at all times. No house shoes are to be worn.
- Clothing is to be free of dragging the floor.
- **No pajamas are allowed except on specified days.**
- **Clothing should cover back, chest, and abdomen. Sleeveless garments should fit tight around the arm.**
- **Dresses, skirts, and shorts** must reach the student’s mid-thigh when the student is standing.
- **Straps** are to be a minimum of **one and one half inches in width.**
- **Leggings** may not be worn unless the shirt is long enough to cover the buttocks.
- Students will not wear **see-through clothing** unless another shirt that meets the strap requirement is worn underneath.
- **Clothing with holes** is only allowed if the holes are below the mid-thigh requirement and do not violate any other dress code requirement.
- **Underwear** should always be covered by other clothing.
- **Headgear**, such as hats, sunglasses, or bandanas, **IS TO BE WORN ONLY WHEN DETERMINED BY THE PRINCIPAL.**
- There are to be **no chains** worn, such as billfold chains.

**Students who do not conform to the dress code will be sent to the office. If the office is unable to provide acceptable clothing, the student will have to wait for clothing from home; time out of class will count as a tardy or absence. Repeated incidents can lead to disciplinary actions.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS DURING CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION**

Classroom instruction should not be interrupted with phone calls, text messages, or emails to students. If you need to reach your student, contact the MS office. If you send a message to the classroom teacher, he/she may not be able to respond until his/her planning period. Your questions or concerns are very important. We appreciate your patience as you await a response to your question or concern.

### **CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE ACTION PLAN (BP #408, 715, 718)**

The BMS administration believes that the school's primary goal is to educate, not discipline. However, when the behavior of an individual student interferes with the rights of others, corrective action may be necessary for the benefit of the individual as well as the school.

Oklahoma Law, Title 70, section 6-114, provides teachers with the same rights as parents to control and discipline school children within local school policies. The following schedule of steps and disciplinary actions are provided as an aid in exercising control and discipline of students. **The schedule is not intended to include all possible infractions.** Therefore, behavior, which is not included in the following schedule, may warrant appropriate disciplinary measures.

**STEP ONE: PARENT CONTACT FROM THE TEACHER**

**STEP TWO: ASSIGNED DETENTION**

1. Morning Detention 7:15am-7:55am
2. Afternoon Detention 3:05pm-4:00pm
3. Saturday School 7:00-11:00am

**STEP THREE: SHORT TERM SUSPENSION (OSS "Out of School SUSPENSION or "ISR In School Reflection").** Federal and state guidelines and board policy are to be followed

**STEP FOUR: LONG TERM SUSPENSION (OSS):** Notification of authorities will be made if necessary.

### **OTHER INTERVENTIONS**

- Time Out
- Corporal Punishment – Corporal punishment is to be administered in compliance with federal and state guidelines and board policy.

### **SEVERE CLAUSE**

Severe clause usually will be OSS. The police may also be contacted. A list of some of the reasons, but not inclusive, for dispensing the severe clause are: weapons, firearms, lighters, marijuana, tobacco, vaping, alcohol, inappropriate body language or cursing directed toward a school employee, threatening (verbal or written) a school employee, fighting, making physical contact with a school employee with an object, under the influence of a drug. Parents may obtain a free drug test from the principal.

### **COPS IN SCHOOLS**

A School Resource Officer is a law enforcement officer that is placed within the educational environment for the purpose of facilitating a positive, preventive, and proactive interaction between law enforcement and the youth of our society

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (BP #715.R3)**

Corporal punishment can be used at BMS. It should be administered only in the administrative office of the school and in the presence of an administrator, the principal, or a teacher designated by the administrator. The parent is to be contacted prior to the corporal punishment.

### **CREDIT FOR ADVANCED COURSES (BP #609)**

One method of encouraging students to challenge themselves is to provide qualified students, from all grades, the option of enrolling in high school math courses for credit. High school credit can be obtained in Algebra 1; however, Algebra 1 will be counted as an elective, and high school students will be required to take four more mathematics classes while in high school.

## **DISCIPLINE**

### **IN-SCHOOL REFLECTION**

Students who violate any school rules may earn In-School Reflection in lieu of Out-of-School Suspension at the discretion of Administration. Students that qualify for In-School Reflection may be allowed the opportunity to complete their suspension in the office. Students serving In-School Reflection will be allowed to complete school assignments. Students serving In-School Reflection are to report to the office at 7:50am on the first day of their In-School Reflection with their school supplies and a reading book.

### **SATURDAY SCHOOL**

Students who violate any school rules may earn Saturday School. Students may be assigned Saturday School based on the severity of the incident, the student's prior discipline incidents, response to interventions, tardies, etc.

### **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

Students who violate any school rules may earn Out-of-School Suspension. Students may be suspended for one to ten days based on the severity of the incident, the student's prior disciplinary incidents, and response to previous interventions. Students that are suspended from school may not return to any campus or school-owned property in which Bethany Public Schools own and/or operate during school or non-school hours and on school or non-school days, including school activities, during the length of the suspension. While on suspension, students may not loiter on public streets without adult supervision during regular school hours (8:00am-3:00pm). Failure to abide by these rules is a violation of law which can be punished by arrest and/or incarceration in Juvenile Detention or other appropriate law enforcement facilities.

### **DRUG DOG (BP #712)**

Bethany Police Department has hired drug dogs. The owner and drug dog may be stopping by at different times to check our premises. The police will handle the incident if anyone is caught with drugs or alcohol.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

If a student is to be dismissed early, the office should be notified by a parent. The student's parent/guardian must sign the child out in the office before leaving campus. Early dismissal counts the same as a tardy.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Middle school students are not allowed to have electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc.) or device accessories on their person at any time during the school day, 8am-3pm. Therefore, if parents feel it is necessary for the student to bring the device to school, it must be kept in the student's locker or in the MS office. If a student is caught with the device during school hours, 8am-3pm, he/she will face the following consequences:

1. Confiscation of item – student must pick up after 3:00
2. Confiscation of item – parent must pick up after 3:00
3. Confiscation of item, parent p/u required, and 1 Saturday School.
4. Confiscation of item, parent p/u required, and 2 Saturday Schools
5. Confiscation of item, parent p/u required, and 5 days In-School Reflection

### **ELIGIBILITY (BP #606)**

OSSAA has specific eligibility guidelines for athletics and the music department. BMS adheres to these guidelines. In addition, a student will only be allowed to miss school for an activity if all grades are a "D" or better. (The grades that are posted to Eligibility on Thursday at 3:00pm determine the athletics and activity Eligibility List for the following week.)

### **EXEMPTION PROGRAM: SEMESTER TESTS**

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, changes have been made to the Exemption Policy. Our first line of defense will be for students who are sick or having symptoms to stay home. We do not want to put any undue pressure on sick students to feel like they have to attend for exemption purposes. Students may be exempt from taking Semester Tests if they meet the following criteria for that class:

1. An A average in the class
2. No more than 5 tardies in the class
3. No unexcused absences or trancies in the class
4. No Saturday School, In-School-Reflection, or Out-of-School Suspensions for the semester
5. No unpaid library fines, overdue books, or cafeteria balances for the semester

**\*\*NOTE:** Students will not be allowed to take Semester Tests early or to leave during a testing session.

**Student exemption will be contingent upon behavior and attendance through the day before semester tests.**

Students who qualify for semester test exemption will qualify for the incentive trip. The incentive trip is the same day as the semester tests.

### **FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except in the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5920

## Location of Education records at Bethany Public Schools:

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CUSTODIAN</b>
Cumulative School Records of present and former students	School Principal's Office	Principals
Health Records	School Principal's Office Nurses Office	Principals Nurse
Speech Therapy	School Principal's Office	Principals
Psychological Tests, Special Education Records of current students, Special Education Records of former students (Up to 5 years)	Special Services Counselor's Offices	Director Counselors
Special Test Records	Principal will collect and make available at parent's request	Principals
Occasional Records		

(Federal Law Board Policy)

### **FIELD TRIPS**

The following procedure is in effect for school-sponsored trips:

- All students who take a trip sponsored by the school will be under the supervision of a faculty member.
- Students are expected to return with a group. If some occasion calls for a variation of this rule, arrangements should be made with the principal and the sponsor **BEFORE THE GROUP LEAVES THE SCHOOL.**
- Students cannot be on the weekly F list in any class, AND student has maintained a 94% attendance record in all classes to miss school for a field trip.
- Students must have a signed parent permission form.

### **FIRST AID/NURSE (BP #720)**

The school attempts to prevent accidents from occurring, but if an accident does occur, first aid is administered by the school nurse. For illness/injury of a more serious nature, we will attempt to notify the parent. If this is not possible and the child's condition seems to warrant an urgent medical referral, EMS will be called to transport student at the parent's expense. The school district does not provide medication for students. All medications for individual student use must be provided in the original container along with written authorization by parent. All prescription medications (including inhalers) or non-prescription meds to be administered for more than 15 consecutive days also require a physician or licensed provider authorization.

### **GRADES**

The meaning of letter grades is:

- A = 90% to 100%
- B = 80% to 89%
- C = 70% to 79%
- D = 60% to 69%
- F = 59% and below

Grades will be based on:

Daily Grades/Notebooks/Homework 35%

Tests/Quizzes 50%

Midterm Test/Semester test 15%

### **GRADE CHECKS (BP #606)**

Parents can check students' grades by obtaining a personal password from the administration office to go online (see Parent Portal) or by using the Campus Portal smart phone app. Teachers will enter grades on a weekly basis. If you do not have Internet access, you can request a grade check for a specific subject or for all subjects through the MS office.

### **GUIDANCE OFFICES (BP #620)**

(BUILDING COUNSELOR, PSYCHOLOGIST, PSYCHOMETRIST)

The middle school counselor is responsible for assisting students who are having difficulty, performing various duties, conferencing with parents/guardians/teachers, attending IEP conferences, preparing student/parents/teachers for various middle school tests as well as aiding other sites for their tests, preparing schedules for students and teachers, and helping students learn the consequences for their actions through discipline, etc.

### **HARASSMENT, BULLYING, AND HAZING**

It is the policy of Bethany School District that no student or employee of the district shall participate in or be members of any secret organization that is in any degree related to the school or to a school activity. It is the policy of this school district that threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, during school transportation, or while attending school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district.

Harassment is intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes but is not limited to harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability.

As used in the School Bullying Prevention Act, "harassment, intimidation, and bullying" means any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying include but are not limited to, gestures or written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications, including circulating, showing, creating, or sharing emails, websites, and social media posts or messages of a harassing nature. Such behavior is specifically prohibited.

For the purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for sanctions of the school district.

At school means on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events.

No student in this district will be subject to harassment, bullying, hazing or any other form of persecution by any student or employee at school or on school-sponsored activities whether connected to an organization or not.

The administration will take necessary and appropriate disciplinary action toward any student or employee who violates this policy. Disciplinary action of a student may include short or long term suspension, or education in an alternative setting, among other consequences as set forth in District policy. Employees may be recommended for termination in compliance with state law. Transfer students who violate this policy may have their transfer terminated depending upon the degree of the offense. The administration may involve law enforcement in any situation it deems appropriate.

### **HEAD LICE AND OTHER DISEASES (BP #722)**

The Bethany Board of Education believes that any student with a contagious disease should not attend school until he/she is free from the contagious disease, head lice, NITS, or egg cases. Contagious diseases include, but are not limited to head lice, (NITS), scabies, impetigo, strep throat, fifth's disease, temperature of 100 degrees or more, diarrhea, and/or vomiting.

### **HOMEWORK INFORMATION (BP# 604)**

The way to obtain homework is through the Bethany Schools website, [www.bethanyschools.com](http://www.bethanyschools.com). Go to Middle School and click on Student Agenda to see detailed class assignments, notes, web links to math and reading sites, activity announcements, and much more.

### **INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Students that qualify for semester test exemption also qualify to attend the incentive trip. These students will be taken on a special field trip the same day semester tests are given. This is an incentive program; therefore, rewards must be earned. In order to protect the integrity of the program, exceptions cannot be made. Participation is voluntary; however, if a student chooses not to participate, he/she will be counted absent from school that day(s).

### **INCOMPLETES (BP #613)**

If a student receives an "I" (incomplete) on their report card, they have two (2) weeks from the end of the term to complete the work. If longer time is needed, the principal must approve it.

### **INSURANCE**

The district provides each student the opportunity for medical coverage as a service to its families. Parents should read the information and instructions very carefully and make sure that the insurance coverage is understood. The school district is not an agent for the insurance company nor does it determine the amount of payment for claims. **PARENTS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANY.** If Medicaid covers you, please furnish the office with your Medicaid numbers.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

A student who is out of school for one or two days may obtain make-up work from each teacher upon returning to school. For a student who is absent three (3) days or more, the parent should contact the Middle School Office (787-3240) as early in the morning as possible and make arrangements for the schoolwork to be picked up. Parents of a student who will be absent for an extended period of time should contact the MS office so that arrangements can be started for a homebound teacher. Work missed because of absence can be made up on the student's return to school. Make-up provisions vary depending upon the type of absence. Teachers are granted discretion in settling deadlines for make-up work within these guidelines.

1. Unexcused absence: All work missed for this reason may be entered as zero credit. If make-up work is required in any class, the deadline may be set at whatever time the teacher feels is appropriate.
2. Excused absence/Activity absence: It is the responsibility of the student to check with each teacher and arrange for making up missed assignments. A student will have two days after the first day of absences and one more day for each additional consecutive day of absence to hand in make-up work.
3. All work that was due the day(s) the student was absent and had been assigned previous to the absenteeism, would be due on the day the student returned to class.

### **LAW AND PRIVACY RIGHTS**

Pupils shall not have any reasonable expectation of privacy towards school administrators or teachers in the contents of a school locker, desk, or other school property in order to properly supervise the welfare of pupils. School lockers, desks, and other areas of school facilities may be opened and examined by school officials at any time, and no reason shall be necessary for such search. Schools shall inform pupils in the discipline code that they have no reasonable expectation of privacy rights towards school officials in school lockers, desks, or other school property.

### **LOCKERS**

Every student will be assigned a locker. Backpacks, binders, lunches, electronic devices, and outer garments are to be stored away in the student's locker. Sports equipment can be stored in the sports closet.

## **LUNCH ROOM**

Students who bring lunches or buy school lunches are to eat them in the designated areas in the lunchroom. YOU MAY NOT EAT LUNCH IN THE COMMONS OR OUTSIDE WITHOUT PRINCIPAL CONSENT. All students are to be in the cafeteria during the lunch period until dismissed. It is the responsibility of each student to maintain a neat and clean cafeteria. Applications for free and reduced meals are available in the office or at the cafeteria and must be renewed each year. Please assist our school's finances, if you are eligible, and complete this form even if you choose not to use it. If you do not have any money on your card, tell the cashier, and they will provide a cheese sandwich with milk.

## **MARK SYSTEM**

The mark system is a behavior management program used by all Bethany Middle School teachers. When a student chooses to be disruptive, disrespectful, defiant, or to engage in any unacceptable behavior, he/she will receive a warning. (Some behaviors may warrant skipping a warning.) If the behavior continues, he/she will be given a mark, and marks are accumulated across all 7 hours. The parent will be notified each time a student receives a mark. The mark system has the following schedule:

**Marks 1, 2** – no consequence

**Mark 3** – recess/lunch detention

**Marks 4, 5** – no consequence

**Mark 6** – after-school detention, 30 minutes

**Marks 7, 8** – no consequence

**Mark 9** – Saturday school and **loss of exemption**

**Marks 10, 11** – no consequence

**Mark 12** – In-school Reflection-1 day

**Marks 13, 14** – no consequence

**Mark 15** – In-school Reflection-2 days

**Marks 16+** - alternative consequences

## **MEDIA CENTERS**

The High School Media Center is available for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and the Elementary Media Center is available for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to use as a means to further their education. All students are expected to use the Media Center in such a way that their actions do not interfere with the rights of others.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Medications must be kept in the nurses' office in the original container. The parent/guardian is to pick up the student's medication at the end of the year; otherwise, the nurse will discard it.

## **MID-TERM TESTING**

All students are required to take cumulative mid-term tests. Mid-term tests will be given the first and third nine weeks of the school year. Students will not be allowed to take tests early.

## **PARENT PORTAL and CAMPUS PORTAL**

This is a program that parents and students may use to access information regarding student schedules, assignments, grades, attendance, and behavior anywhere they have internet access. The Portals present information to the authorized parent/guardian or student. Authorization for Parent Portal may be obtained through the Administration office. Access to the Campus Portal app must be obtained through your provider's app store.

## **PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW**

Bethany Public Schools will, on request and in a timely manner, provide the parents with information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. The information which will be provided includes the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.

3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification of degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INCENTIVE SYSTEM (PBIS)**

Positive behavior is encouraged through the use of the “Broncho Best” ticket system. Students who consistently demonstrate the 4 Ps by being Productive, Prepared, Prompt, and Polite will receive tickets from their teachers which will be entered into a weekly drawing for treats and a monthly drawing for prizes.

### **PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. 123h, requires Bethany Public School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”) and certain physical exams and screenings.

### **PTO**

The PTO helps supply the school with many items. All volunteers **must** have completed a volunteer application.

### **PROFICIENCY TEST (BP #606)**

If a parent wants a student to skip a grade, the student must pass a proficiency test with a score a 70% or better. Check with the guidance office for this test.

### **PROMOTION/RETENTION CRITERIA (BP #607)**

1. If a student receives more than two (2) Fs in the core subjects, he/she can be retained.
2. If a student receives two (2) Fs in the core subjects, the student’s placement will be determined by a committee composed of the student’s teachers, the counselor, and the principal.
3. A student that falls under Rule #2 can be placed in the next grade with the recommendation of the committee. Age, test scores, and maturity will be considered.
4. If parents want their child placed or retained against the recommendation of the committee, they must appeal to the school board in writing for the final decision.

### **REPORT CARDS (BP #606)**

Report cards are given two (2) times a year. Progress reports are given at nine (9) week intervals and are an indication of pupil progress in each subject. The mid-term grades are not recorded on any official permanent record. Second semester report cards will be mailed. Remember to utilize the “Parent Portal” for up-to-date grades and attendance.

### **SAFE CALLS**

This Confidential School Safety Hotline is a service of the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Call toll free 1-807-SAFE-CAL(L) if you are concerned about your safety or that of your friends or know of a threat to your school.

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

The school day at Bethany is 8:30am-3:00pm on Monday, and 8:00-3:00, Tuesday-Friday. Students are requested to arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the first bell, and students are to stay no later than 3:30pm unless participating in a supervised activity

### **SECURITY DRILLS**

Drills for weather hazards, fire, and security will be conducted periodically. The students will follow the instructions given by their teacher. Each room has a drill map on the wall.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Bethany Public School District believes that every student has the right to attend school and school-related activities free of all form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature such as:

- a. Unwelcome sexual flirtations or propositions
- b. Sexual slurs, leering, epithets, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
- c. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body, overly personal conversation
- d. Sexual jokes, notes, drawings, pictures, or gestures
- e. Spreading sexual rumors
- f. Circulating, showing, creating, or sharing emails, websites, and social media posts or messages of a sexual nature
- g. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- h. Purposefully cornering, blocking, or hindering normal movements
- i. Displaying sexually suggestive objects and clothing

Disciplinary action will occur and may include suspension, expulsion, and legal action depending on the nature of the offense, and employees may be terminated in compliance with state law. Transfer students who violate this policy could immediately have their transfer terminated depending upon the degree of the offense.

### **STATE MANDATED TESTS**

Core curriculum tests in Math and ELA will be given to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Scores of "Basic" and/or "Below Basic" can require remediation and/or retention. Eighth grade will also take a test for Science and Writing. All of these tests are done online.

### **STEALING**

An act of stealing or aiding another to steal is grounds for immediate disciplinary action. The parents shall be notified in writing of the punishment. Students should carry money and other valuables with them rather than leaving these items unattended. Unless these items are needed at school, they should be left at home.

### **STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION/WEBSITE (BP #709)**

The district designates the following items as directory information: Student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, weight and height, courses taken, major field of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent previous school attended, student's statements, photographs, audio or videotapes which identify the student's participation in/and or achievements gained in enrolled courses or officially recognized activities and sports.

The district will disclose any of these items without prior consent, unless notified in writing within ten days from the date of student enrollment that any or all of the above information should not be released without consent or if checked on the Student Personal Data Sheet.

### **STUDENT DUE PROCESS RIGHTS (BP #718)**

Students at Bethany Public Schools have the right to due process as guaranteed by our constitution. Any student accused of an action and threatened with punishment for this action has the right to request a hearing before the principal with the student's parents attending if desired. If the student is still

dissatisfied, he/she may request a hearing before the Superintendent of Schools and, if still dissatisfied, may request a hearing before the Bethany Board of Education. Before taking any disciplinary action, the teacher or principal shall advise the student of his/her right to a hearing.

### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

- No aerosol containers: Axe body spray, deodorant, etc.
- Electronic devices and their accessories are not allowed during school hours, 8-3:00. If a student brings an electronic device to school, it must be turned into the office or kept in his/her locker. BMS is not liable for loss or damages.
- Keep hands, feet, and body to oneself. This includes hugging and displays of affection (kissing, hand holding, and touching).
- No games or activities that involve hitting, pushing, kicking, striking, grabbing, arm or thumb wrestling, or inappropriate displays of affection.
- Know and follow individual classroom rules.
- No inappropriate language, no name calling, and no "put downs," or gossip.
- No bullying or harassing other students.
- Respect the rights and belongings of self and others.
- Remain on campus at all times during school hours.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Rules:**

- Walk to eating area.
- Wait in lunch lines in a single file line.
- Eat food only in the designated areas.
- Place trash in trash containers.
- Respect the cafeteria staff.
- Walk to the next class when the bell rings.

### **STUDENT PLACEMENT (BP #606, 608)**

A student enrolling at Bethany Public Schools will be placed in the appropriate grade and/or class by the principal of the building utilizing the student's records or examinations and observation administered and made by the staff.

### **STUDENT RESIDENCY (BP #701)**

Proof of residency may be evidenced through proof of payment of local ad valorem taxes, title to residential property in district, a valid un-expired lease agreement, or receipts for payment of rent on a district residence in which the applicant actually resides, proof of provision of utilities, etc. If there is a willful misstatement of residency, it is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

### **TECHNOLOGY (BP #615)**

The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of privileges. Security on any computer system is a high priority. A student/parent signed form is required prior to usage.

### **TEST RETAKE POLICY**

1. Students are allowed to retake a test if they score below satisfactory level based on the teacher's expectations of that particular student. In order to retake the test, the student must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Student must complete additional assignment(s) to show mastery of the tested skill.
  - b. Student must attend required tutoring/re-teaching sessions set up by teacher.
  - c. Retake test must be completed within one week of the test, unless additional time is recommended by the teacher.
2. Retake tests are not allowed for Midterm and Semester Tests.

## **TRANSFERS**

It is a privilege for a transfer student to attend Bethany Middle School on an open or emergency transfer. As such, all transfer students must meet the following expectations to remain on a transfer:

1. The student has not been suspended, had multiple discipline referrals, or a major infraction.
2. The student has maintained a 94% attendance record.
3. The student has taken his/her semester tests when an exemption has not been earned.

Students and their parents may appeal a revoked transfer by writing the principal a letter stating why an exception should be made for the family.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We welcome volunteers. Each volunteer must have a volunteer form on file.

## **WEAPONS**

It shall be unlawful for any person, except a peace officer or other person authorized by the Board, to have a firearm or weapon in his/her possession on any public school property or while in any school bus or vehicle used by the school for transportation of students or teachers (Sect. 1030, School Laws of OK). Any custodial parent or guardian of a child under eighteen (18) years of age whose child commits the crime of possession of a firearm on school property may be fined (Sect. 1030, School Laws of OK).

Dangerous weapons including, but not limited to firearms, are a threat to safety of students and staff of Bethany School District. In addition, possession of dangerous weapons or replicas or facsimiles of dangerous weapons disrupts the educational process and interferes with the normal operation of school. Possession by any student of a dangerous weapon or a replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon while on school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a school bus or vehicle is prohibited (Board Policy).

A dangerous weapon includes, but is not limited to, a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun, BB gun, slingshot, blackjack, brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind, nun-chucks, dagger, Bowie knife, dirk knife, butterfly knife, any knife with a blade which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, any pocketknife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position, any pocketknife with blade shorter than 3 inches which can be locked in place, razor, dart, ice pick, explosive smoke bomb, incendiary device, sword cane, hand chains, and any replicas or facsimiles thereof of any item that is used to harm any person or to threaten harm to any person (Board Policy).

## **WEATHER-SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In the event of adverse weather, school closings are announced on television stations and through district-wide automated phone calls.

## **WITHDRAWALS (BP #706)**

Any student considering withdrawal from school is to report to the office so that proper procedures will be followed. After ten (10) days of consecutive absences, the law requires BMS to drop a student.

## **Important Information for Parents About Meningococcal Disease and Meningococcal Vaccines from the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Department of Health**

### **What is meningococcal disease?**

Meningococcal (men-IN-jo-kok-ul) disease is a rare but sometimes fatal disease caused by a bacterium called *Neisseria meningitidis*. The disease causes either meningitis, severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord, or meningococemia, a serious infection of the blood.

### **Who is at risk from meningococcal disease?**

Although the risk is extremely low, disease does occur. Babies less than a year old have the highest risk for meningococcal disease, but no vaccine is available to protect them. Teenagers and young adults, aged 15 to 22 years, are at increased risk because of behaviors that spread the disease. On average two to three people in this age group get meningococcal disease every year in Oklahoma. More than half of these could be prevented by vaccine. College freshmen living in dormitories have a greater chance of contracting the disease than other persons their age. Others at increased risk are those with immune system problems, without a spleen, and traveling to parts of the world where the disease is more common.

### **How is the disease spread?**

The disease is spread by droplets in the air and direct contact with someone who is infected. That includes coughing or sneezing, kissing, sharing a water bottle or drinking glass, sharing cigarettes, lipstick, lip balm—anything an infected person touches with his or her mouth.

### **Is meningococcal disease dangerous?**

Yes, every year in the United States about 2,500 people are infected and about 300 people a year die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, about 400 a year lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes. This is why preventing the disease is important. If your child has symptoms of meningococcal disease contact your health-care provider immediately.

### **How can meningococcal disease be prevented?**

Vaccines can prevent many types of meningococcal disease, but not all types. There are two vaccines available in the United States that protect against four of the five most common strains of the meningococcal bacteria. The newest vaccine, called Menactra, or MCV4, is currently available for:

- Adolescents entering high school (15 years of age),
- College freshmen who live in dormitories,
- Other people at high risk 11- through 55- years-of-age.

There is a shortage of both vaccines because the company that makes the vaccines has not been able to keep up with the demand; therefore, it may be difficult to get the vaccine. However, healthcare providers are saving the vaccine for these groups. The earlier vaccine, called Menomune, or MPSV4, was effective in older children and teenagers but booster doses were needed every three to five years. The new vaccine protects against the same types of meningococcal bacteria and probably will not require booster doses. MPSV4 is still used for children 2- through 10-years-old and adults over 55 who are at risk. Teenagers and young adults can also reduce their risk by taking good care of themselves, by eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep and exercise, as well as avoiding cigarettes and alcohol.

### **Signs and Symptoms of Meningitis**

- Headache
- Fever
- Chills
- Stiff neck

- Extreme tiredness
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Rash of small purplish black-red dots

**Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?**

Yes, both vaccines are safe; however, there are risks with any vaccine. About half of the people who get the vaccine will have pain and redness where the shot was given, but because the vaccine is not made from the whole bacteria, it cannot cause bloodstream infections or meningitis. A small percentage of people who get the vaccine develop a fever. Vaccines, like all medicines, carry a risk of an allergic reaction, but this risk is very small. A few cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a serious nervous system disorder, have been reported among people who got the new vaccine, MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine). At this time, there is not enough evidence to tell if the vaccine caused the disorder. Health officials are investigating these reports.

**Does the meningococcal vaccine work?**

Yes. The new meningococcal vaccine protects about 90 percent of the people who receive it from meningococcal disease caused by types A, C, Y, and W-135. These types cause almost two-thirds of all meningococcal disease in teenagers in the United States. It does not prevent type B, which causes about one third of the cases in teenagers.

**Does the meningococcal vaccine prevent all cases of meningitis?**

No. However, 63 percent of the meningitis cases in 18-22 year olds occurring in Oklahoma from 2000 through 2005 could have been prevented by vaccination. The meningococcal vaccine does not include type B. Scientists have not been able to make a vaccine that will protect against type B. Other bacteria and viruses can also cause meningitis. More information about these causes can be found at the National Meningitis Association Web site listed in the box in the next column.

**Where can I get the vaccine for my son or daughter?**

If your child has health insurance you can obtain the meningococcal vaccine from your health-care provider. Local county health departments have the vaccine available now at no charge for all children who:

- Have no health insurance,
- Are Medicaid eligible,
- Are Native American,
- Or whose health insurance does not pay for vaccines, and are either 15 through 18 years of age, or who do not have a spleen, have certain immune system problems, or who will be traveling to certain parts of the world.

**Is this vaccine required to attend school in Oklahoma?**

This vaccine is not required to attend kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Oklahoma. However, it is required for students who are enrolling in colleges and other schools after high school who will live in dormitories or on-campus student housing.

# BMS Supply List 2020-21

**\*\*Backpacks are not required but MUST be able to fit in your locker.\*\***  
If bringing your own lock, we recommend the standard Master Lock.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Take to your 3<sup>rd</sup> hour teacher: 1 box tissues, 1 ream white copy paper, 1 ream colored copy paper, 1 dry erase marker, 2 large glue sticks, 1 pair scissors, 1 roll Scotch tape

### Personal supplies

Pencils, grading pens, colored pencils, loose leaf notebook paper, earbuds with cords

- 1 - pencil bag
- 2 - 1" binders
- 3 - spiral notebooks
- 2 - pocket folders with brads
- 1 - pkg 4X6 notecards
- 1 - 5-pack of highlighters
- 4 - 3X3 pkgs of sticky/Post-it notes (for quarterly Book Talks)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Take to your 3<sup>rd</sup> hour teacher: 1 box tissues, 1 ream white copy paper, 1 ream colored copy paper, 1 Clorox wipes, 2 dry erase markers, 1 can of Play-doh

### Personal supplies

Pencils, large eraser, red pens, colored pencils, loose leaf notebook paper, earbuds with cords

- 1 - pencil bag
- 1 - 2" 3-ring binder or zipper binder
- 2 - 1" 3-ring binders
- 1 - ½" 3-ring binder
- 1 - spiral notebook
- 2 - pocket folders
- 1 - basic 4-function calculator

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Take to your 3<sup>rd</sup> hour teacher: 1 box tissues, 2 reams white copy paper, 1 ream pastel colored copy paper, 1 disinfectant wipes, 1 Magic Eraser, 1 Expo marker

### Personal supplies

Pencils, cap erasers, red pens, 2 handheld pencil sharpener, black or blue pens, 3 pkgs. colored pencils

- 4 - pencil bags
- 3 - 1" 3-ring binders
- 1 - composition notebook, quadrille ruled
- 2 - pkg 5-tab dividers
- 1 - 5-pack of highlighters
- 1 - basic 4-function calculator
- 2 - pkgs. loose-leaf notebook paper
- 4- glue sticks
- 2 - Mylar plastic folders with pockets

**TEXTBOOK REPLACEMENT PRICE LIST**  
**2020-21**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Science 92.49**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**English 89.26**  
**Science 92.49**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Pre-Algebra 68.97**  
**Algebra I 78.99**  
**Science 92.49**



# WALK HOME PERMISSION FORM

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In order to ensure the safety of our students, Bethany Middle School requires (eff 11-1-18) that any student walking home during the school day for any reason must have a signed permission form on file in the office. In addition, we must have a phone call from a confirmed phone number every time you would like your child to walk home. The safety of our students is of paramount importance, and your child will not be allowed to leave campus unaccompanied unless and until this form has been received by the school and a parent phone call has been made to the school.

Walking home unsupervised is a big responsibility and should be taken seriously. If you feel comfortable with your child walking home alone, please review these safety tips with your child:

- Never talk to strangers and never accept rides from strangers.
  - Always look both ways before crossing the street.
  - Walk, don't run across the street.
  - Always cross at the corner. Don't cross in the middle of the block.
  - Pay attention to traffic sights and sounds. Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while walking.
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I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to walk home (or to another specified destination) on their own during the school day, and understand that I must also give verbal authorization each time. The verbal authorization can only come from the following phone number(s):

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I have explained the safety aspects of walking to my child.

I am aware that once my child leaves the school campus, there is no adult supervision for them. I hereby release Bethany Public Schools and their employees from any negligence for any and all claims that I or my child may have arising from walking home from school.

I have made my child aware that for their safety, they are NOT allowed to loiter around the school premises.

This written permission and release will remain in effect for the existing school year and I agree that I will notify Bethany Public Schools in writing if I choose to revoke this authorization.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

For the School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Complete this form and return it to MS office.**

# BMS Student/Parent Handbook

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Print Student Name

Students are responsible for all information, rules, and regulations included in this handbook and set forth by the Bethany School Board. By signing below you are acknowledging that you have received a copy of the BMS Student/Parent Handbook and will be held accountable for familiarizing yourself with and abiding by its contents.

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

\*Signed form should be returned to student's 3<sup>rd</sup> hour teacher.