



Blissfield Middle School

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Mr. Scott Riley, Superintendent

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Blissfield Community Schools Mission Statement

Blissfield Community Schools provides the programming, culture, and climate necessary to create well-rounded, creative, critical thinkers.

Blissfield Middle School Mission Statement

The Blissfield Middle School is dedicated to creating a respectful environment where individuals learn and succeed by developing character, intellect, wellness, and a desire for lifelong learning.

Blissfield Middle School Values PRIDE:

Preparation ~ Respect ~ Integrity ~ Determination ~ Encouragement

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Blissfield Middle School! The faculty and administration are excited about the upcoming school year and are committed to providing the best quality of education possible. We hope you will take advantage of the many educational opportunities available to you, and that the 2022-2023 school year will be a rewarding and enjoyable one for you.

This handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of June 20, 2022. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced are revised after this date, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

ATTENDANCE

Classroom attendance instills a concept of self-discipline, exposes a student to group interactions with teachers and fellow students, and enables a student to hear and participate in class discussion and other related learning experiences.

Regular attendance is critical in the development and learning of all students. Absences are lost hours of learning and instruction, rather than a simple tally of days. The mission of our attendance policy is to clearly and effectively communicate the ways in which absences will be defined.

Research shows that chronic absence is a directly linked factor contributing to lower test scores, an increased dropout rate, and significantly lower levels of reading and math abilities. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% or more of any school period for any reason. Therefore, when interventions take place, it is not necessary to determine whether absences are excused or unexcused.

Goal

The goal of the school district is to link all students and families with the appropriate resources which will enable them to overcome the barriers that interfere with regular attendance.

Absences

All absences must be communicated to the school office by the parent or guardian on the day of. Absences will be either counted or not counted, depending on the circumstances surrounding the absence. All absences will be counted with the exception of the following appropriately documented circumstances:

1. Funeral Visitations
2. The day of a doctor's visit
3. Hospitalization
4. School related activity including suspensions
5. Court dates

Counted absences may be blocked with approval for recurring health issues where a doctor's visit is made. This will allow for several related absences to be blocked as one. Assignments will be allowed to be made up with the rule of one day per absence. All counted absences will be handled in the following manner per semester:

1. Per semester, after (4) counted unexcused absences the office will call home and a letter/email will be sent home explaining the attendance policy and the next steps in the process should the student continue to be absent.
2. After (6) counted unexcused absences the office will call home and a letter/email will be sent home explaining that if the student reaches (8) unexcused absences CPS (Child Protective Services), CMH (Community Mental Health), and/or DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) will be contacted and given the attendance information.
3. If the student reaches 8 unexcused absences CPS (Child Protective Services), CMH (Community Mental Health), and/or DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) will be contacted and given the attendance information.
4. If the student meets or exceeds (10) unexcused absences, the Truancy Officer will be contacted. The letters, phone calls, and contact with CPS, CMH, and DHHS will be shared with the Truancy Officer. The Truancy Officer will make contact with the parents explaining that if the student reaches (12) unexcused absences the Judge will be contacted and a court hearing will be scheduled. The Truancy Officer will also explain that the court costs will be the responsibility of the parent, and a probation officer will be assigned to the student for the remainder of the semester.
5. Exemplary attendance will be recognized and rewarded on a regular basis through our PRIDE / PBIS Program.

Unexcused Absence Policy (Per Period)

An unexcused absence occurs anytime a student does not report to class prior to the halfway point of the class period and a reason has not been provided to the school office/attendance line by a parent/guardian on the day of the absence. Unexcused absences per period are tabulated throughout the semester. Students are expected to be prepared and on time to each class period throughout the day. Unexcused absence reports will be pulled daily by office staff. Below are the procedures for how unexcused absences per period will be handled per semester:

- 3 Per Period: ½ day ISR
- 4 Per Period: 1 day ISR
- 5 Per Period: 2 days ISR
- 6+ Per Period: 3 days ISR

Truancy

Any student whose absence is not communicated by the parent/guardian will be considered truant. Classwork for that day cannot be made up and no credit will be given for those daily assignments.

Tardy Policy

A tardy occurs anytime a student reports to class late. Students arriving after the halfway point of a class period are considered absent. Students arriving late to school, must report to the office for a pass and sign-in, in order to report to the classroom. Students already present in school do not need a pass from the office, and will be marked tardy by the classroom teacher. Tardies are tabulated throughout the semester. Students are expected to be prepared and on time to class, prior to the end of the passing period. Students will be considered tardy if they fail to be prompt to class. Tardy reports will be pulled daily by office staff. Below are procedures regarding how tardies will be handled per semester:

- 1st and 2nd tardy: Verbal warning
- 3rd tardy or more: Detention for each

Parents Role

It is the goal of the school to maximize the amount of learning time for each student while they are in our care. Chronic absence, or missing 10% of the school time, is a substantial predictor of negative outcomes. We ask for your cooperation in helping to ensure that your child does not fall into this category. The following are things that you can do to be a partner in the education of your child.

- Plan family vacations on weekends or around school breaks. A one week vacation causes each student to miss approximately 35 hours of instruction that his/her classmates will receive. This is valuable learning that is difficult to make up for when the student returns. Please make every effort to schedule any doctor and dentist appointments after school hours.
- Have a plan as well as a backup plan to get your child to school on time every day. Too often a disruption in the morning or transportation issues cause children to miss entire days of school. Communicate to school officials if this is a problem, so that appropriate resources can be sought to help correct the issue.
- Only allow your child to stay home if they are too sick to come to school. Fever, vomiting, pink eye, or severe viral infections are causes to keep them at home. Complaints of a headache or stomach ache can be signs of anxiety and should be communicated to school officials.
- Keep track of your child's attendance. Chronic absence is missing just two days per month, but over the course of a school year equates to about 126 hours of learning. Parents can use a calendar system at home to track attendance, or use the school's online program.
- Communicate. Most attendance related issues can be solved fairly easily by utilizing the appropriate resources and staff. Talk to your school officials about what is causing attendance problems and remember, we are here to help. We will commit to eagerly work with you to provide the services needed to ensure that your child has the opportunity to have excellent attendance.
- If you are going to be absent for several days, you may have your absences **prearranged**. A prearranged absence form may be obtained in the office and completed in advance of the extended absence. **Teachers are not expected to plan work ahead for students who have prearranged absences.**

BICYCLES

Students may ride bicycles to school. Bicycles are not to be ridden during the school day. Bicycles should be secured by a padlock and must be kept in the parking rack. Skateboards and roller blades are not allowed on school property.

BULLYING AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD STUDENTS

Parents are encouraged to view the PRIDE Behavior Flow Chart provided with this handbook.

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

NOTIFICATION: Notice of this policy will be **annually** circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, **confidentiality** will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

PROCEDURE: Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

NON-RETALIATION/FALSE REPORTS: Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

DEFINITIONS: The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- Adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with a person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Blissfield Community Schools has developed a District Transportation Student-Parent Handbook which includes guidelines regarding student transportation, school bus safety and rules, student misconduct and discipline as well as other helpful information. Please refer to the District Transportation Student-Parent Handbook for items relating to transportation. Below, you can read an excerpt regarding how bus misconduct and discipline will be handled.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE

Riding the school bus is a **privilege not a right**, so good student behavior is expected and enforced. When on the bus, the driver is in charge. One of the leading causes of bus accidents is driver distraction due to misconduct by students. Safe transportation to and from school is a team effort that requires the cooperation of students, bus drivers, parents, and school administrators. In the event that disciplinary actions are necessary due to misconduct, the following Board approved procedures will be followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR BUS MISCONDUCT

First Offense: The bus driver will communicate to the student(s) the inappropriate behavior(s) and initiate some type of intervention such as assigned seating. The driver will contact the parent or legal guardian within 24 hours to make them aware of the offense. A Bus Conduct Report must be used to document the offense and the driver's intervention. This form will be sent home to parents to sign and return to school with students the next day.

Second Offense: The bus driver will communicate to the student(s) the inappropriate behavior(s). A Bus Conduct Report will be filled out by the driver with supporting documentation and given to the building principal. The driver will contact the parent or legal guardian within 24 hours to make them aware of the offense. The building principal will contact the parent or legal guardian

to discuss disciplinary action. Second offense will result in a **three (3) day bus suspension**. Parents will receive a copy of the Conduct Report to sign and return.

Third Offense: The bus driver will communicate to the student(s) the inappropriate behavior(s). A Bus Conduct Report will be filled out by the driver with supporting documentation and given to the building principal. The driver will contact the parent or legal guardian within 24 hours to make them aware of the offense. The building principal will contact the parent or legal guardian to discuss disciplinary action. Third offense will result in a **five (5) to ten (10) day bus suspension**. Parents will receive a copy of the Conduct Report to sign and return.

Fourth Offense: The bus driver will communicate to the student(s) the inappropriate behavior(s). A Bus Conduct Report will be filled out by the driver with supporting documentation and given to the building principal. A meeting may be arranged between the bus driver, parents, administrator, and transportation personnel to discuss long term **eleven (11) days or more suspension** of transportation privileges. Parents will receive a copy of the Conduct Report to sign and return.

The Transportation Department will receive a copy of the disciplinary action taken by the building principal.

CAFETORIUM / FOOD SERVICE

The cleanliness of the cafetorium is everyone's responsibility. You are expected to display your best behavior. You should remain seated unless you are throwing your trash away or purchasing food. You are expected to keep your table and floor area clean of litter, and to return trays and deposit all waste in the receptacles before leaving. If you need to leave the lunchroom area, you must obtain permission from the supervisor prior to doing so. It is expected that all food be consumed while in the cafetorium or deposited in the waste receptacle prior to your departure. Students may purchase their lunch/breakfast by the week, month, or even the whole year. Students will utilize an automated system which will record the food selection made each day. The safest way to send money to school is by check. Charging school lunches is not an option. Cost of meals is published each year. If a child forgets their lunch money, they will be provided with a substitute lunch on an emergency basis. For more information on free and reduced lunch applications, online lunch deposits, menus and prices along with other cafeteria information, please visit www.blissfieldschools.us.

CHEATING / PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious infraction of the student discipline code. A student found guilty of cheating/plagiarism, will be given a zero for the assignment and the teacher will set up a conference with the student, parents and the administration. A second infraction of this nature during a student's tenure at B.M.S. will result in a zero for the assignment and suspension from school. Any further infractions of this code will result in a failing grade for the marking period.

CHEWING GUM

In order to keep the carpet in our building clean, students are prohibited from chewing gum in the middle school.

CLOSED CAMPUS

No student will be allowed to leave the school once they have started the first period class without signing out in the office. Office personnel must also get permission from a parent or guardian before the student is allowed to leave. Students are not permitted to leave the building for lunch under this policy.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY

The computers in the school are intended for student use and enhancement. All students are expected to use them in a reasonable and responsible manner. The use of the computer network is a privilege that may be revoked by the District at any time and for any reason. Appropriate reasons for revoking privileges include but are not limited to, the altering of system software or placing of unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer system in either public or private files or messages. The District reserves the right to remove files, limit or deny access, and refer the student for other disciplinary actions. Students may be responsible for any cost associated with improper use of District software/hardware. The following procedures have been established for all students using school computers:

- Students are expected to abide by the **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY** found on the school website (www.blissfieldschools.us) approved by the Board of Education.
- Computers are for educational use directly related to the curriculum of Blissfield Middle School. Surfing the Internet or gaming is not acceptable use.

DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins each morning at 7:40 am and concludes at 2:40 pm. During half days, school will dismiss at 11:00 am.

Walkers – Students who walk to school (or get dropped off,) should not arrive before 7:25 am. The outer doors will remain locked until 7:25 am at which time students may enter the building. Upon getting to school all students should drop off their coats and backpacks in their lockers.

Student Drop Off / Pick Up – Parents who drive their students to school are asked to follow the posted signs and cones and drop their students off on the sidewalk at the northwest entrance of the school building. This is for the safety of our students.

DANGEROUS ITEMS

The possession of weapons is strictly prohibited. In addition, the use of an object to threaten, harm, or harass another is also prohibited. A pupil who possesses a weapon or uses an object to threaten, harm, or harass another person is subject to expulsion unless School District officials, in their discretion, impose a lesser penalty. The prohibition against possession of weapons and the use of an object to threaten, harm, or harass another person applies to incidents which occur on School District property, in vehicles used by the School District to transport students, at School District sponsored functions, events or activities, on property adjacent to School District property and while students are in route to or from school or school district functions, events, and activities. "Weapon" includes: a firearm; gun; revolver; pistol; dagger, dirk; stiletto; knife; iron bar; brass knuckles; any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas, including bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines, or device that can be converted into such a destructive item. "Firearm" means (a) a weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by and explosive, or by gas or air; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device, including explosives, incendiaries, poison gas, or any weapon which will (or may readily be converted to) expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant. For purposes of application and enforcement of this policy, a B-B gun and pellet gun are considered to be a "firearm".

Although the use of an object to threaten, harm, or harass another person is prohibited, it is not possible to identify all of the objects that could be used for such purposes in violation of this prohibition. Examples include, but are not limited to, padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, scissors, jewelry, and other objects, which do not constitute dangerous weapons.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Items that may distract the learning environment are inappropriate in a school setting, **unless permission is obtained by the classroom teacher or principal**. Such items include, but are not limited to: cellular phones, iPods, electronic devices, trading cards, etc. A student may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication devices (ECD) and electronic storage devices (ESD) in school, on school property, at after school activities and at school-related functions, provided that during school hours the devices remain turned off and stored out of sight. Students may only use such devices in the classroom setting when given permission by the classroom teacher or principal for educational purposes. The use of cell phones and other ECD/ESD in locker rooms or restrooms is prohibited. "Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and confiscation of the ECD. The use of audio or video recording capacity of any cell phone and other ECD/ESD is prohibited in locker rooms. Possession of a cellular telephone or other ECD/ESD by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Students who possess cellular phones or ECD/ESDs shall assume responsibility for its care. At no time shall the District be responsible for preventing theft, loss, or damage to cell phones or ECD/ESD brought onto its property. **Students found using an electronic device will be required to return the device to their locker and may be written up for insubordination.**

DRESS CODE

All students are expected to dress in a manner that contributes to a safe and orderly learning environment. Personal appearance of students is expected to be neat, clean, modest, and appropriate to the school environment. Students who fail to comply with the following guidelines will be in violation of the dress code. For the first violation, students will be given an opportunity to change their clothing and a call home will be made. Subsequent violations will result in the student being assigned ISR.

- All private parts and undergarments must be covered by a non-transparent clothing.
- Foot apparel must be worn at all times. For health and safety reasons, slippers, cleats, spikes and "Heely's" (shoes with wheels in the sole) are not permitted in the building. For physical education classes athletic footwear is required.
- All shirts and tops must cover the shoulder and cover the midriff.
- Shorts and skirts must be mid thigh length. Short shorts, miniskirts and sagging pants or shorts are not allowed.
- If pants or shorts have holes, the holes must be located below mid thigh.
- Pajama attire is not allowed.
- All hats, hoods and sunglasses shall be removed upon entering the building.
- All clothing/jewelry shall avoid drug, alcohol, tobacco, sex, obscene, "dangerous items", or cult/gang related print/slogans/designs.

- All class, sport, or spirit wear designed by the student body must be approved by the principal, athletic director, or class advisor.
- Jackets, coats and backpacks are to remain in your locker during the school day unless authorized to be worn by school personnel.
- Wallet chains, apparel with spikes or studs or any accessories with sharp objects are not school appropriate.
- School personnel reserve the right to require students to change for other reasons not listed here.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Periodic fire, tornado, and lockdown drills will be conducted. Each classroom is directed to assigned areas where students will be expected to remain quiet and orderly throughout. The automated phone call system will be used to communicate with all parents and guardians on an emergency basis only.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY / NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristics, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. If any person believes that the Blissfield Community School District or any of the district's staff has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of Title II, Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Age Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, s/he may bring forward a complaint to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator, Mark Willson, Director of Student Services, Blissfield Community Schools, 630 South Lane Street, Blissfield, Michigan 49228 (517-486-2205).

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Blissfield Middle School offers multiple extracurricular activities for students to participate in. These include, but are not limited to: theater, choir, band, FFA, robotics, student council, etc. Student eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities will include the following:

Academics/Attendance/Behavior

- Students cannot have 2 or more F's (excluding VIP).
- Students must be present in all classes the day of participation, unless an absence is excused.
- In-School Suspension: Students can attend practice/meetings, but cannot participate in events.
- Out of School Suspension: Students cannot attend practice/meetings, and cannot participate in events.

FUNDRAISING

All fundraising must be pre-approved by the principal. There will be no solicitation during the school day.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Step 1 A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the local Civil Rights Coordinator within five business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five business days.

Step 2 If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the local Civil Rights Coordinator, s/he may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within five business days after receipt of the Coordinator's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within ten business days.

Step 3 If the complainant remains unsatisfied, s/he may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board of Education within five business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's response in step two. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within forty days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten business days of this meeting.

Step 4 If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Plaza Nine Building, Room 300, 55 Erieview Plaza, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201. The local Coordinator, on request, will provide a copy of the District's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure. A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations, on which this notice is based, may be found in the Civil Rights Coordinator's office.

STUDENT RECORDS

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the Board of Education must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, the Board recognizes the need to safeguard student's privacy and restrict access to student's personally identifiable information. The Board of Education is responsible for maintaining records of all students attending schools in this District. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and relevant to the function of the School District or specifically permitted by this Board will be compiled by Board employees. The Board hereby authorizes collection of the following student records, in addition to the membership record required by law:

- Observations and ratings of individual students by professional staff members acting within their sphere of competency
- Samples of student work
- Information obtained from professionally acceptable standard instruments of measurement such as:
 - Interest inventories and aptitude tests
 - Vocational preference inventories
 - Achievement tests
 - Standardized intelligence tests
- Authenticated information provided by a parent or adult student concerning achievements and other school activities which the parent or student wants to make a part of the record
- Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns
- Rank in class and academic honors earned
- Psychological tests
- Attendance records
- Health records
- Custodial arrangements

In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively-based on the personal observation or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, eligible students, and designated school officials and designated school personnel, who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law. The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). The term "eligible student" refers to a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or a student of any age who is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

In situations in which a student has both a custodial and a non-custodial parent, both shall have access to the student's educational records unless stipulated otherwise by court order. In the case of eligible students, parents will be allowed access to the records without the student's consent, provided the student is considered a dependent under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code and has not graduated from the District.

"Legitimate educational interest" shall be defined as a "direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one or more of the educational goals of the District" or if the record is necessary in order for the school official to perform an administrative, supervisory or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family.

The Board authorizes the administration to:

- Forward student records, including any suspension and expulsion action against the student, on request to a school or school district in which a student of this District seeks or intends to enroll upon condition that the student's parents be notified of the transfer, receive a copy of the record if desired, and have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record;
- Provide "personally-identifiable" information not appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if such knowledge is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals; report a crime committed by a child with or without a disability to appropriate authorities and to transmit copies of the student's special education records and disciplinary records including any suspension and expulsion action against the student to the authorities and school officials for their consideration;
- Request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by the Federal regulations concerning the disclosure of information;

- The Board will comply with a legitimate request for access to a student's records within a reasonable period of time but not more than forty-five days after receiving the request. Upon the request of the viewer, a record shall be reproduced, unless said record is copyrighted, and the viewer may be charged a fee equivalent to the cost of handling and reproduction. Based upon reasonable requests, viewers of educational records will receive explanation and interpretation of the records.

The Board shall maintain a record of those persons to whom information about a student has been disclosed. Such disclosure records will indicate the student, person viewing the record, information disclosed, and the date of disclosure, and date parental/eligible student consent was obtained.

Only "directory information" regarding a student shall be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without the written consent of the parent; or, if the student is an eligible student, the written consent of the student, except those persons or parties stipulated by the Board's policy and administrative guidelines and/or those specified in the law.

The Board shall exempt from disclosure directory information, as requested for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitation, unless the Board determines that the use is consistent with the educational mission of the Board and beneficial to the affected students. The Board may take steps to ensure that directory information disclosed shall not be used, rented, or sold for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitations. Before disclosing the directory information, the Board may require the requester to execute an affidavit stating that directory information provided shall not be used, rented, or sold for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitation.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of its intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information": a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, honor rolls, scholarships. Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the District to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the District within ten (10) days after receipt of the District's public notice.

STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Board of Education respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student, (if an adult or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning: political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; mental or physical problems of the student or his/her family; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close, family relationships; legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program). Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal. The district is to notify parents of any surveys, analyses, or evaluations, which may reveal any of the information, as identified above, in a timely manner, and which allows parents to request an opportunity to inspect the survey, analysis, or evaluation. Policy allows the parent the option of excluding their student from the activity. The reporting of collected data will be in a summarized fashion which does not permit one to make a connection between the data and individual students or small groups of students.

REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

Additionally, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student. The parent will have access to the instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal. The term instructional material means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed and representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or assessments.

HEALTH CARE

Blissfield Community Schools are committed to assist parents with their child's health concerns. Questions regarding health matters including the distribution of prescribed medications may be directed through the attendance office at 486-4420.

As required by Federal law, parents may be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES

All cases of communicable or contagious disease must be reported to the school office or the school nurse. Certain diseases are reported weekly to the local health department. These include measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis, pertussis, meningitis, scarlet fever and strep throat. The length of time children should remain home from school for specific illnesses is as follows:

Chicken Pox – All lesions must be crusted over, usually five to seven days from onset of illness.

Head lice – If lice are found on a student's head, the parent will be contacted to pick up the student. The child must be treated and all nits and lice must be removed to prevent re-infestation. If, upon returning to school, lice are found and/or the problem has not been addressed, the child will be sent home. In cases where a student in a classroom is found with head lice, parents of the other students in that classroom will receive a handout so they may inspect their children's heads.

FIRST AID

Each building is equipped to handle emergency situations. However, the school is not able to provide long-term sick care. Children who are unable to attend class will be sent home after contacting a parent/guardian. Therefore, it is essential that work phone numbers and emergency contact information be kept current.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

If you become ill at school, report to the office so school personnel can make appropriate arrangements for you. Your parent or guardian may then be notified to pick you up. It is necessary that your parent/guardian sign you out prior to leaving the building. You are never to leave the building to go home without permission. If your illness requires you to go directly to the restroom, notify someone so they may immediately report your illness to the office or your teacher.

IMMUNIZATIONS

A parent/guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a school in the State of Michigan shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school, a certificate of immunization or statement of exemption under Section 9215. New entrants must have at least four (4) DPT, three (3) doses of polio vaccine and two (2) MMR or laboratory evidence of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella, Hepatitis B series as well as the Varicella vaccine or date of disease (chicken pox).

MEDICATION

Medications will be given at school only if students are unable to attend classes without a dosage during school hours. Students are forbidden to possess, use, or transfer any over-the-counter or prescription medication. All medicines will be kept in a designated locked area and administered by authorized school personnel. Medications to be given at school, including over the counter medication (Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.), must be accompanied by a signed physician's order and written permission of parents. These instructions must be renewed every school year. Medications must be in the original container. All medications must be delivered to the office by a parent or legal guardian, unless special arrangements have been made with the principal. *Failure to do so may result in the student being viewed as being in possession of a controlled substance and/or drugs.*

VISION SCREENING

Vision screening is provided annually for Middle School students referred for evaluation.

HOMEWORK

1. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis.
2. All homework will be meaningful and provide reinforcement activities as well as enrichment activities. The teacher will make every effort to make sure homework assignments are clear and due dates understood.
3. All homework assignments are due the following day or upon the day of return in the event of school cancellation, or personal illness or any other legitimate excuse. Each teacher will determine the legitimacy of excuses. Extended assignments will be due at a date established by the teacher.
4. Homework must be ready to be presented by the student at the beginning of the class for which it is required.
5. Under certain circumstances, the teacher may require a student to stay after school to complete an assignment.
6. Homework will be marked and/or graded, but under certain circumstances a teacher may decide not to grade a particular homework assignment in the appropriate grading period. Please remember that homework will be figured into the marking period grade.

7. Extra credit may/may not be accepted. This will be determined by the teacher.
8. Teachers assign homework to meet your child's educational needs. Homework, which is not returned, is a violation of our policy.

HOMEWORK HELP PROGRAM

In an effort to improve student academic success, Blissfield Middle School has developed a Homework Help Program. This program serves to offer students an incentive to complete their assignments in a timely manner and with high quality standards in mind. Students may be required to stay after school to get help on school work if necessary.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND RETENTION POLICY

It is the philosophy of the Blissfield Middle School Teachers, Staff, and Administration that each course a student takes during their time at BMS contributes to their future success. It is our goal that when students transition to high school, they are well prepared for the rigors that come at the next level. Therefore, we have implemented a policy that encourages students to work hard and obtain passing grades in each class. This policy explains a process if a student does not pass classes.

The promotion of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students to the next grade level will be determined by the number of core courses a student has passed that school year. These core classes include language arts, math, science, and social studies. Every marking period of each of these core classes will count for one point. Students can earn up to 16 total points for these classes each year. A student must earn a minimum of 13 points each school year to earn FULL promotion to the next grade level*. See chart below.

| Points Earned | Educator Recommendation |
|----------------------|---|
| 13-16 | Students will be granted full promotion to the next grade level. *EXCEPTION: A student who fails three quarters in any one core class must take and pass one summer school class. If the summer school class is not passed, retention could be recommended. |
| 10-12 | Students must take and pass one summer school course. If the summer school class is not passed, retention could be recommended. |
| 8-9 | Students must take and pass two summer school classes. If the summer school classes are not passed, retention will be recommended. |
| 7 and below | Students will be recommended for retention. No summer school is required of these students. |

Important Notes

- If a student fails two or more core classes for any quarter, a team meeting between parents and teachers should be conducted.
- The summer school tuition fee is the responsibility of the student.
- The principal and/or guidance counselor will approve summer school course selections in cooperation with the student and parent.
- The Blissfield Middle School Educators reserve the right to consider a student's situation on a case by case basis, which may deviate from this policy.
- The placement of a student who has an IEP or 504 will be determined by his or her respective IEP or 504 Team.

LOCKERS

Students will be provided locker space to store their belongings and will be expected to adhere to the following expectations:

- Only one student is permitted to use a locker.
- Any damage to the lockers may require payment for replacement.

- You are expected to keep the locker clean. Please deposit trash in the receptacles.
- Glass or other breakable items shall not be stored in your locker.
- *Items stored in lockers are the responsibility of the student. Lockers are for books and garments only.*
- Neither the Blissfield Community Schools nor any of its personnel will be responsible for any loss or damage to property stored in a locker by a student.
- All gym and book bags shall be stored in the student's locker.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found should be turned into the office. Failure to do so may be considered theft. If you have lost an article, you can check in the Lost and Found box to see if it has been turned in. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity every two weeks.

PETS

Pets are not allowed at school.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

All students must have a certified copy of a birth certificate or an affidavit explaining the lack of birth certificate along with immunization records. Record of any disability (including allergies) should be reported.

It is imperative that your child's current address and phone number are on file. **If you change employers or if any of the contact numbers are altered, please notify the school.** There are times when the Emergency Forms become extremely important. It is much easier if they are accurate, up to date and completely filled out. Any name listed on the Emergency Form may be notified in the event of an emergency if the primary person cannot be contacted.

In the event of divorce, separation, or legal custody is established, the parents should notify the school in writing. In order to enforce any court order, a copy of that court order must be on file with the school. Students and student records are available to both parents unless otherwise specified by court order.

SCHOLASTIC RATING

Report cards are issued at the end of each marking period. Report cards will be available via Infinite Campus (IC) on the Friday following the end of each marking period. If a student owes money for library fines, lost books, lunch charges, etc. the report card may be unavailable in IC until those fees are paid.

Grade point averages are figured on the following basis:

A = 93% (4.0)
 A- = 90% (3.7)
 B+ = 87% (3.3)
 B = 83% (3.0)
 B- = 80% (2.7)
 C+ = 77% (2.3)
 C = 73% (2.0)
 C- = 70% (1.7)
 D+ = 67% (1.3)
 D = 63% (1.0)
 D- = 60% (0.7)
 F < 60% (0.0)

HONOR ROLL

The following Scale will be used to determine the Honor Roll each marking period:

3.0 – 3.49 ...Honorable Mention
 3.5 -3.99...Honor Roll
 4.0...Principal's List Honor Roll

ONLINE COURSES

Blissfield Middle School utilizes Edgenuity as the primary platform for online courses. Other platforms will be considered on a case by case basis. Students who do not pass online courses during the first semester will not be allowed to continue in online courses in the second semester. These students will be scheduled into in-person courses in the second semester. Online courses will be offered and operated the same way online courses are offered at Blissfield High School. While these online courses are an

option, approval must be garnered from the Principal and Counselor, and parents are always encouraged to wait until high school to enroll their student in an online course due to the academic rigor and age appropriateness of these courses.

SCHOOL CLOSING

If school is to be closed due to inclement weather, parents will be notified through the Blackboard Connect 5 System. Announcements will also occur on local radio stations and TV stations. These announcements are official so it is not necessary to call the school.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| WABJ – 1490 AM | WTOL TV – Ch. 13 |
| WQTE – 95.3 FM | WTVG TV – Ch. 11 |
| WLEN – 103.9 FM | |

SCHOOL ISSUED TEXTBOOKS / EQUIPMENT

Students are issued textbooks and other related equipment during the school year. It is the responsibility of the student to care for this material and ensure that it is returned at appropriate times in satisfactory condition. Failure to return school items or items returned in damaged condition will result in fines assessed to the student.

LIBRARY MATERIALS

Blissfield Middle School has an excellent library to which the students are given ready access. Most of the materials are available to be checked out and taken home. Parents are requested to help see that the children return these items by the due date. Students will be charged the replacement cost for any items lost or damaged. There will be no reimbursement after fines are paid. Student report cards will be held in the school office for unpaid lost book charges.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

To maintain a safe learning environment for students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student and/or their belongings under the circumstances outlined below. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

The term “unauthorized material” as used above, includes any item which is dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to the student. A student’s failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in the policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

PERSONAL SEARCHES

A student’s person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If a pat-down search of a student’s person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex and with an adult witness present, when feasible.

If a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has on his or her person an item imminently dangerous to the student or to others, a more intrusive search of the student’s person may be conducted. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness present, and only upon the prior approval of the Superintendent, unless, the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

USE OF CANINES

Blissfield Community Schools and its administration are authorized to utilize canines to aid in the search for contraband in or on school owned property and automobiles parked on school property. Canines shall not be used to search students, unless school officials have established independently that there is reasonable suspicion to believe the student possesses contraband on his or her person. The canine must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer or individual that will be responsible for the dog’s actions. An indication by the dog that contraband is present on school property or an automobile shall be reasonable suspicion for a further search by school officials.

SOLICITING

Students are not to solicit, sell, or distribute items on school property without permission from the office. Distribution of invitations during school hours is prohibited. Solicitation outside of school should not occur without adult supervision.

PERMISSION FOR PHOTO / VIDEO RECORDING

Reproductions of photographs/video recordings may be used by the administration for the purpose of school publicity unless parents indicate on the student registration form in writing that this information not be released.

SPORTS

Blissfield Middle School competes inter-scholastically in the following sports: football, basketball, baseball, golf, cross country, soccer, wrestling, track, softball, volleyball, and cheerleading. Eligibility for sports is based on eligibility reports pulled from the student information system. If a player has 2 or more F's (excluding VIP), at the time grades are pulled they are deemed ineligible. Detailed information is available in the Athletic Code. A copy of the athletic code is available on the Blissfield Athletics website. Any questions concerning athletic procedures or policies can be addressed to the athletic director.

STUDENT PHOTO ID BADGES

Students will be provided with a student photo ID badge at the beginning of the year and are expected to wear it during the school day. Students will use it for lunch purchases, media center material checkout and other school activities such as sporting events and fine arts productions. Lost or damaged photo ID badges are expected to be replaced at the cost of \$5.00, which is the responsibility of the student or parent.

STUDENT SERVICES

PSYCHOLOGIST: A school psychologist from the Lenawee Intermediate School District is available for testing of children suspected of a learning disability.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Services are available to all students who qualify under state guidelines.

STANDARDIZED TESTS: Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Students enrolled in grades 6-9 will participate in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program - MEAP testing. Students in 11th grade will be tested on the Michigan Merit Exam. Assessments will be conducted at various grade levels in Mathematics, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing.

THEFT

Blissfield Community Schools is not responsible or obligated to search for stolen items that were unsecured in student lockers or in the locker room. Students caught stealing or possessing stolen items will be disciplined accordingly.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE USAGE

Students are allowed to use the office telephones for emergency purposes. Students must secure prior approval from the office personnel to use the phone. Office personnel will not issue students a pass to class for using the telephone.

VISITORS

All Incoming Visitors

All visitors coming into the building are to report to the office. The Village of Blissfield Ordinance 81.000 regarding Non-authorized Persons on Community School Property will be strictly enforced. In part, this ordinance orders that no person shall: a) disturb or interfere in any manner with the orderly conduct of classes or other school sanctioned activity conducted in or on any school premises, b) Enter upon school premises during the regular school hours or during any school sponsored activity, unless said person first receives written permission or specific invitation to be in or on premises, c) willfully enter upon school premises at any time without lawful, authority after having been forbidden to do so, or remain upon the school premises after being notified to depart therefrom by an authorized agent of the school. Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, and costs or by imprisonment for not more than ninety days or by both such fines, costs and imprisonment. Blissfield Community Schools welcomes and encourages parent volunteers for school/class events. In order to maximize the educational experience while volunteering, non-school aged children are not permitted to attend with an adult volunteer.

PBIS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed.

PRIDE Student Incentives Program

To positively reinforce students' actions as they meet the behavior expectations of BMS, there is an incentive program in place. Students earn PRIDE cards for displaying PRIDE characteristics: Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Encouragement. As they receive them, they enter the cards into various drawings. PRIDE drawing winners earn food treats, teacher incentives, student assembly participation opportunities, and other various prizes. There are also surprise drawings throughout the year. BMS also sponsors quarterly incentives. Students are able to participate in these events by meeting specific predetermined criteria throughout the given quarter.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

A major consideration of the Student Code of Conduct is to identify appropriate disciplinary actions that will bring about positive student behavior. Restorative Practices focuses on the harms, needs, and causes of student behavior, not just the breaking of rules and dispensing of punishment. Restorative Practices attempts to provide students with an opportunity to be accountable for the harm caused as well as the opportunity to make amends for it. Students are empowered to help resolve conflict and maintain an environment where the work of the school can happen. The goal of restorative practice is to provide students an opportunity to learn to think differently about harm, to deal with conflict in peaceful and creative ways, to address accountability and responsibility, to focus on one another's humanity and to problem-solve in terms of community and collaboration.

Restorative practices require an individual to acknowledge that misconduct and conflict can result in harm not only to those directly involved, but also the entire educational community. It focuses on the concepts of healing, respect, accountability, and engagement. Individuals who cause injury are encouraged to make things right with those whom they have harmed, thus impacting the entire educational community in a positive way.

By statute, factors considered in applying restorative practices include:

- The student's age
- The student's disciplinary history
- Whether the student has a disability
- The seriousness of the violation or behavior committed by the student
- Whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of any student or staff member
- Whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior committed by the student
- Whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior committed by the student

CODE OF CONDUCT

One of education's most important lessons is discipline. While it does not appear as a subject, it is under the entire educational environment. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people. All students at Blissfield Community Schools are expected to consider the rights, safety, property, and feelings of others. If a student has a behavior problem, it will be dealt with directly and in a timely manner. Each situation will be assessed individually.

It is expected that students will obey these primary rules. Students will:

1. Abide by national, state, and local laws as well as the rules of the school;
2. Respect the civil rights of others;
3. Act courteously to adults and fellow students;
4. Be prompt to school and attentive in class;
5. Work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background;
6. Complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
7. Help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
8. Act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.

When a student is sent to the principal for disciplinary action, the following has occurred:

1. The teacher has dealt with the problem for a period of time and is not getting the desired result, or the trip to the principal's office is the next step in a prearranged corrective discipline plan which has been approved by the principal, or the infraction is serious enough to warrant immediate and serious disciplinary action.
2. The student knows why s/he is being sent to the office.
3. Background information will be sent to the office with the student. This information, a description of the infraction, is necessary for the principal to deal effectively and intelligently with the problem.

The following consequences for student behavior are not designed as punishment, but as a method to encourage students to see that their choice of behaviors have consequences. Positive behaviors have positive consequences and negative behaviors have negative consequences. The primary objective of student discipline is to promote a learning environment in which complete attention may be directed to the teaching/learning activities. Therefore, the Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education adopted the Blissfield Community Schools Code of Conduct. The following guidelines will be followed:

- The listed consequences are a possible range of choices. The administration has the autonomy to invoke any disciplinary measure necessary to insure the positive operation of the school. Referrals to police and juvenile authorities will be made, when appropriate.

- Regulations covered in this handbook are in effect at school and at any school approved activity, whether on or off the school premises. All penalties must be served prior to the student being readmitted to school.
- Students serving in-school restriction shall practice but not compete or perform. Students serving out of school suspension shall not attend, practice, or compete in any extracurricular activities on or off student grounds.
- The building Principal may recommend expulsion proceedings against a student whenever, in his/her judgment, the documented behavior pattern of the individual or the seriousness of the offense is opposed to the process of formal education within the Blissfield Community Schools.

Students are expected to comply with the behavior standards of the detention room. Failure to comply with these standards will result in additional detention(s) being assigned, along with the possibility of in-school suspension.

- Students are not allowed to talk or interact unless they are given permission by the supervisor.
- Students may not eat, drink, or use electronic devices.
- The dress code, as defined in the student/parent handbook, shall be followed while serving time.
- Writing on the walls or the desk will result in an additional detention.
- Students are allowed to accumulate three (3) negative behavior points per day. A behavior point is given for each incident of talking, sound, noise, head on desk, sleeping, action or behavior the supervisor deems inappropriate including leaving their seat without permission. When students receive four (4) behavior points, they will be assigned one additional detention.

DETENTION

Students may be required to attend detention(s) as a result of misbehavior. Detentions will take precedence over all other school activities. Detentions must be served for the days assigned. Failure to attend will result in additional consequences.

RESTRICTION/SUSPENSION

In-School Restriction (ISR) is held in Room #27 at the high school. If the student is late for ISR, s/he must report to the office and request a Tardy Slip. The atmosphere in the In-School Restriction room is very structured. The student remains in the restriction room the entire day and has an assigned seat. Students are expected to do school and/or related work. *Each student's daily assignments will be delivered to the child's teacher for an opportunity to earn those days' academic credits in all subjects.* Hot lunch can be purchased or the student may carry a sack lunch. All rules as stated in the parent/student handbook will be in effect. In addition, the students will be given a copy of the following ISR rules daily:

- All regular school rules apply.
- No talking without permission.
- Students must sit in assigned seats and may not leave them without permission.
- No sleeping.
- Students are to report on time and be seated.
- Students are allowed one bathroom break in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- Students will be allowed three (3) negative behavior points per day. A behavior point will be given for each incident of talking, noise, sound, action, or behavior the supervisor deems inappropriate including leaving a seat without permission. Two behavior points will be given for an unexcused tardy. Students who receive four (4) behavior points will be assigned to the restriction room for one (1) additional day.
- Absences will not count as restriction room time. If a student is absent anytime during the restriction period, that time will be made up in the restriction room.
- Students are expected to complete all work assigned to them each day.
- Failure to comply with the above rules and/or refusal to attend will result in an Out of School Suspension (OSS) for the length of the original suspension or such other penalty as the administration may deem appropriate.

Out of School Suspension (OSS), is when a student is suspended from school without an opportunity to attend the In-School Restriction (ISR) program. In addition, the student will have the opportunity to complete any work assigned during the OSS period. All school work must be completed and turned in to the teacher on the first day of the student's return to school.

Students serving in-school restriction shall practice but not compete or perform and are not permitted to attend any school events/activities unless it is a club or team in which the student belongs to. Students serving out of school suspension shall not attend, participate or compete in any extracurricular activities on or off school grounds.

Students serving in-school restriction or out of school suspension will be held accountable for the total number of days of consequence assigned even if weather causes a school cancellation.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| Cheating/Plagiarism Copying, using, or representing another individual's work as one's own. Allowing others to copy is also cheating. | Failure on test/assignment and parent/administration notification Failure on test/assignment and suspension Failure on test/assignment and failing quarter grade |
| Use of profane/obscene language in verbal or written form, in pictures, caricatures, and/or gestures. | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |
| Use of obscene/profane language in verbal or written form in pictures, caricatures, gestures <u>directed at school personnel.</u> | Restorative Practices ISR OSS Recommended expulsion |
| Insubordination , refusal to comply with a reasonable request of school authorities, or disrespect. | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |
| Failure to report for classroom detention. | Detention(s) ISR OSS |
| Fighting , physical contact in which two or more students are active participants which does or could cause bodily harm. Hitting, shoving, pushing, tripping, pinching or spitting. | Restorative Practices ISR OSS Recommended expulsion |
| Excessive Tardiness (Per Semester) 1 st Tardy 2 nd Tardy 3 rd Tardy 4 th Tardy 5 th Tardy or more | Verbal warning Verbal warning A.M.Detention A.M.Detention Additional Consequences |
| Failure to serve detention/consequence | Additional detentions ISR OSS |
| Horseplay | Restorative Practices Detention ISR OSS |
| Threatening/Dangerous Behavior: Verbal harassment, incitement to fight, or actions which endanger other students | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS Recommended Expulsion |
| Truancy/Skipping School | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR Truancy officer notified |

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| Physical Assault Different from fighting because it does not involve at least two active participants. Macing a person is viewed as an assault. | Restorative Practices ISR OSS Recommended Expulsion |
| Possession or use of dangerous weapons , look alike weapons or use of any object which may cause bodily harm or which may be used as a weapon which could inflict bodily harm. | ISR/confiscation OSS/confiscation Recommended expulsion |
| Laser Pens | Confiscation and/or ISR OSS |
| Inappropriate behavior in school , behavior and/ or conduct and/or incitement to action which results in disruption of the learning process or endangers the safety of the school, students, and/or personnel, acts of dishonesty | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |
| Possession of property belonging to others , i.e. theft | Restorative Practices ISR/restitution OSS/restitution |
| Willful destruction or defacement of school property , either intentionally or as a result of inappropriate behavior | Restorative Practices ISR/OSS and full payment of labor and replacement cost of items |
| Alcohol/Marijuana, illegal drugs, and other controlled substances A. Possession/Use/Under Influence B. Transfer C. Paraphernalia | Restorative Practices A. Confiscation and OSS/Confiscation and Recommended Expulsion B. Confiscation and Recommended Expulsion C. Confiscation and ISR/OSS |
| Tobacco (including electronic devices): Possession/Use | Restorative Practices Confiscation and ISR / OSS |
| Students are forbidden to possess, use or transfer any over-the-counter medication. This includes but is not limited to diet aids, look-alike drugs, counterfeit drugs, prescription drugs, or inhalants. a. Possession / Use / Under Influence b. Transfer | Restorative Practices A. Confiscation OSS/confiscation Recommended expulsion B. Confiscation OSS/confiscation Recommended expulsion |
| Possession or use of fireworks or other noxious substance | Restorative Practices ISR/confiscation OSS/confiscation Recommended expulsion |
| Arson | Recommended expulsion |
| False fire alarm and/or bomb threat | Recommended expulsion |
| Throwing foreign objects at school employees, students, guests in or at the building. | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |

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| <i>Throwing food in the cafeteria.</i> | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR/OSS |
| <i>The intentional or deliberate act of pushing</i> , shoving or striking a teacher, school employee or other guest lawfully permitted to be in the building. | Restorative Practices Recommended expulsion |
| <i>Threatening school personnel</i> | Restorative Practices OSS Recommended expulsion |
| <i>Forgery of school documents.</i> | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR/OSS |
| <i>Degrading another student</i> This includes but is not limited to disgraced, shamed, dishonored, slandered, disrespect, put down, humiliated and/or ridiculed. | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |
| <i>Sexual Harassment</i> | Restorative Practices ISR OSS Recommended expulsion |
| <i>Persistent Disobedience</i> | Restorative Practices ISR OSS Recommended expulsion |
| <i>Distracting/Confiscatable Items</i> | Restorative Practices Detention(s) ISR OSS |

BUILDING RULES

Students will:

1. Walk in the hallways and classrooms.
2. Use the gym only while under the supervision of a staff member. Bouncing or playing ball shall be limited to the gymnasium.
3. Not loiter in the restrooms.
4. Use a soft voice when talking.
5. Keep their hands to themselves at all times – fighting, pushing, or hitting will not be tolerated.
6. Leave personal property not related to education at home.
7. Leave clothing intended for outside wear in the locker during class time.
8. Follow all individual classroom rules.
9. Use of the pop machines not found in the cafeteria should occur after school only. Pop machines located in the cafeteria are to be used during lunch or mid-morning break.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

A. Preliminary Hearing No student may be suspended without a hearing unless a clear and present danger exists, or it is otherwise impossible or unreasonably difficult to hold such a hearing. In such instances, the necessary notice and hearing shall follow as soon as practicable:

The Principal or designee shall provide the student with an oral or written notice of the charges against her/him and shall provide a hearing for the student before a suspension is ordered so that the student has a full opportunity to state why s/he should not be suspended. This preliminary hearing shall be an informal one in which the student is given a chance to respond to the charges.

The student's parent(s) may be informed of the charges and the preliminary hearing if the Principal so chooses. The hearing shall be held on the day of the alleged infraction or as soon thereafter as possible if any emergency prohibits an immediate hearing.

B. Suspension The Principal may impose a suspension of up to ten days duration, but shall notify the student's parent(s) / guardian(s) of the suspension by telephone or by regular mail and shall include the parental rights to appeal by enclosing this policy with the suspension notice.

1. Sending a student home: Unless the student is an immediate threat to the safety of the school, s/he should remain in school until class is dismissed for the day. If the situation indicates that the student should be removed from the premises, the principal shall attempt to reach the student's parents to request they pick up their child. If they are unable to do so, the student should remain in the office or in In-School-Suspension until school is dismissed. The Principal may forego the previous provision in the event of mass violation of school rules or where it is not possible to keep the students on school grounds and restore order or protect people on school property. In such an emergency situation, the Principal shall contact the Superintendent.
2. Responsibility for schoolwork: No credit will given for work missed as a result of suspension out of school.
3. Student's Records: A record of the student's suspension or expulsion is to be made part of his/her permanent record until s/he leaves the school. Days of absence shall be noted in the student's permanent attendance record.

C. Appeal Suspension of one school day or less will not be subject to appeal. Suspension of more than one school day but not more than ten school days may be appealed in writing to the Principal within two school days of the parent's receipt of the written suspension notice. The written appeal must contain the reasons that the suspension is being appealed.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

For Student Suspension

- Parents may request a conference with the Principal. Such requests shall be made within the period of separation or suspension. The Principal shall affirm or modify the terms of his action within three (3) school days from the date of the conference.
- Within three (3) school days from the Principal's decision concerning suspension, the parent(s), or legal guardian(s) may appeal such decision to the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.
- The Superintendent shall affirm or modify the decision of the appeal. For suspensions of ten (10) or less, the Superintendent's decision is final.
- For suspensions greater than ten (10) days, the Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education within three (3) school days of such decision.
- The Board of Education shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable, but not later than the next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting and shall notify the parents that said hearing be conducted under the following rules and procedures:
 - Written notice shall be given of the time, date and place of the hearing.
 - His parent, guardian, or other adult advisor of their choosing should represent the student.
 - Witnesses may be presented at the hearing and the student or his representative may question witnesses.
 - The hearing is not a court proceeding and court rules of evidence shall not be enforced at such a hearing.
 - There may be present at the hearing the Principal, the Board of Education's attorney, and such resource persons as the President of the Board of Education deems essential to the proper adjudication of the case.
 - The Board of Education shall render a written opinion of its determination within three (3) school days from the date of the hearing. Such written opinion shall be forwarded to all parties concerned.