

# BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Student – Parent Handbook

*published in the interest of Students, Faculty and Parents*

# 2022 – 2023

## BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

685 Red Dale Road; PO Box 279  
Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961  
Telephone 570-366-0546 / Fax 570-366-2513

### Mission Statement

The Blue Mountain School District will provide a comprehensive educational program to prepare all students to become successful citizens.

### Vision Statement

The Blue Mountain School District envisions an educational system that:

- Provides a diverse rigorous curriculum for all students that effectively incorporates technology.
- Promotes a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration, perseverance, and the Eagle Way (Honesty, Respect, Responsibility)
- Ensure facilities that are well-maintained and welcoming.

## **MY CREED FOR GOOD MANNERS**

I will be friendly and polite to all persons I meet, regardless of their race or religion.

I will have deep respect for the feelings and opinions of others, supporting those ideas I agree with and politely tolerating those with which I disagree.

When in the presence of older people, I will show due respect for them and help them if they need assistance.

I will always ask permission before using another person's belongings, return them promptly, and express my appreciation for having used them.

When spoken to, I will give my full attention to the speaker, and when he has finished, I will answer him to the best of my ability.

When in public, I will conduct myself in the manner of a lady or gentleman.

I will not tease others or laugh at their disabilities or mistakes.

Should I offend someone, I will apologize for the offense.

I will respect and protect the property of the school and aid in preserving its beauty, its equipment and its fine facilities.

Although my associates shall always be persons of good reputation, I will be friendly and kind to everyone.

## **WELCOME**

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Blue Mountain Middle School. Our school's curriculum, instruction, activities, and social events are all designed for the middle level student.

Our school is designed to offer the kind of program, which will benefit the greatest number of students. It is through your interest and help that we are able to move forward in this goal. We would encourage you to support us in our continued efforts to build a better school.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information to students and parents to better know Blue Mountain Middle School. It is also hoped that it will be of some assistance in answering questions you, as a parent, may have about your child's school.

If any member of our staff may render assistance concerning the program, we will be happy to be of service to you. The school encourages all parents to participate in all phases of school activities; for it is through these that you are better able to know more about your school and its programs.

We encourage all parents and students to join the Blue Mountain Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). This is an excellent way to get involved with your school.

## **NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (“FERPA”)**

Blue Mountain School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information gathered about its students in accordance with federal and state law. FERPA affords parents and students eighteen years of age and older certain rights with respect to the student’s educational records. These rights are summarized as follows:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within 45 days of the date that the District receives a request for access. Parents should submit a written request to the school principal identifying the record(s) that they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Parents have the right to request copies of the records and the District may charge a reasonable copying fee as long as it does not prevent the parents from exercising their right to inspect and review their child’s records.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s educational records that the parents believe are inaccurate, misleading or violate the privacy or other rights of the child. Parents may request that the District amend a record by writing to the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they would like to change, and specifying why the change is warranted. The District will notify the parents in writing of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding their request for the amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents upon notification 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 to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent. The district must release directory information, student names, addresses, and telephone listings when requested. Additionally, under federal laws, the district must release directory information student names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters for recruiting purposes upon request. If you do not wish this directory information to be released, you must notify in writing no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Blue Mountain School District Office listed below.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Complaints may be made by contacting the Family Policy Compliance Office at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

A copy of the Confidentiality Procedural Guidelines is available for inspection at the Administrative Office of Blue Mountain School District. Additional information regarding student records, including access request information, is available by calling the Blue Mountain School District at 570-366-0515 located at 685 Red Dale Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961.

**A detailed *Notice of Special Education Services* pertaining to special education, Section 504, gifted education services, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) is available on the Blue Mountain School District website at [bmsd.org](http://bmsd.org).**

# ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## **I. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT**

The Blue Mountain School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) to provide a free, appropriate, public education (“FAPE”) to “children with disabilities.” Pursuant to the IDEA, students are considered to be children with disabilities if they need special education and related services and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment including Deafness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment including Blindness

The IDEA further requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between the age of three and the school district’s age of beginners known as “eligible young children.” The Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the Blue Mountain School District. Eligible young children are afforded the same rights as school age children including screening, evaluation and an appropriate program and services.

## **II. SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS**

The Blue Mountain District must provide services to and may not discriminate against “protected handicapped students” in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. Protected handicapped students may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

## **III. GIFTED EDUCATION**

In Pennsylvania, school age students qualify to receive specially designed instruction when they have been identified as “mentally gifted.” A student is mentally gifted when he or she has outstanding intellectual and creative ability that requires specially designed programs or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The Blue Mountain School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including IQ score, which indicate gifted ability. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

## **IV. SCREENING AND EVALUATION**

The Blue Mountain School District uses procedures to help identify children who may qualify for services, including parent/teacher referrals, review of student records and screening for hearing, vision and speech and language problems. If you believe that your child may be eligible for special education and related services or gifted education, screening and evaluation services designed to assess the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district’s public school program.

Information regarding potential signs of developmental delays and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities please contact the Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Services, 17 Maple Avenue, Mar Lin, Pennsylvania 17951. The telephone number for the Early Intervention Program is (570) 544-9131. For school-age students please contact the Blue Mountain School District, Department of Special Education, 685 Red Dale Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961. The telephone number for the Blue Mountain School District Department of Special Education is (570)-366-0515 Ext. 1035.

Requests for screening and evaluation may be made in writing to the District address listed below or to your child’s building principal and will be kept confidential. If you believe that your child may qualify for services as an eligible young child, you may contact the Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit directly at (570) 544-9131.

**A detailed *Notice of Special Education Services* pertaining to special education, Section 504, gifted education services, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) is available on the Blue Mountain School District website at [bmsd.org](http://bmsd.org).**

BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Department of Special  
Education 685 Red Dale Road  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

# STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

*2022-2023 School Year*

President: Owen Crossen  
Vice-President: Evan Burcik  
Secretary: Hailey Scheuer  
Treasurer: Beck Henninger

## **To the Classes of 2027, 2028 and 2029:**

We would like to welcome all of our classmates to a new and challenging school year. We strongly encourage everyone to participate in the many activities we have planned for this year.

We welcome the class of 2029 and wish you luck in the middle school experience; also, we wish the best for the classes of 2027 and 2028 as you return to the Blue Mountain Middle School.

Have a great school year!

## ***“A Message for Mom and Dad”***

We invite and encourage parents to read this entire handbook in which we describe the atmosphere, traditions, and opportunities afforded your son or daughter. Parents are requested to assist and cooperate with the school by becoming actively involved with your child’s educational process.

### **Back to School Night**

One evening each year is set aside by the school as a back-to-school night, when parents come and meet the teachers. It is not a teaching night, nor are the students present to give demonstrations. However, during this evening you will receive a brief survey of all courses your child is taking. The date set aside for this school year will be announced via Eagle Express and other district communication. If possible, please do not bring siblings.

### **Parent Conferences with Teachers**

The school invites parents to arrange conferences with their child’s teacher(s) by telephoning the guidance office. Sometimes a telephone conference will suffice. If the concern suggests an interview, the guidance secretary can arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

Parents may also discuss general progress with a guidance counselor or a member of the administrative team. On a date to be determined you will have the opportunity to participate in scheduled parent conferences. The official date will be announced via Eagle Express and other district communication. The guidance staff will survey your needs for these conference dates.



## BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Plans for the Blue Mountain Middle School building were started in 1967. The School Board and School Authority spent many hours planning, revising and reviewing the plans for the new building. The decisions of the Board and the Authority were carried out by the Superintendent, Mr. Ray A. Kurtz. With the election of Mr. Theodore Catranis as middle school principal, the Blue Mountain Middle School opened its doors for the education of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in September of 1970.

The middle school structure may be thought of as being divided into two areas: the academic area and the shared facilities area. The academic area is divided into three grade level wings. Each wing consists of classrooms, boys and girls restrooms, gender-neutral and faculty restrooms. The central area of the building consists of the library, the instructional materials center, and two rooms which are used as computer labs.

Included in the shared facilities area located at the back of the building are the family and consumer science area, three technical education rooms, an art room, band room with practice rooms, and a choral room. Also located in the shared facilities area are the cafetorium, gymnasium, Olympic size swimming pool, and locker room facilities.

The Blue Mountain School District has made many additions and renovations to the school building facilities over the past several years. The Board of Education, residents of our communities, administration, faculty, and staff are to be commended on this and other fine facilities.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL

### Board of Education

Mrs. Michelle Z. Vesay	President
Dr. Timothy G. Grube	Vice-President
Mrs. Krista L. Strause	Secretary
Mr. David W. Lafko	Treasurer
Mrs. Anne Usuka	Member
Mr. Roy A. Heim	Member
Mrs. Marie J. Riegel	Member
Mr. Scott W. Reichert	Member
Mrs. Rosanne Zelusky	Member

### Non-Voting Members

Eric M. Prock, Esquire	Solicitor
Mrs. Gail Hershberger	Recording Secretary

### District Administrative Personnel

Dr. David H. Helsel	Superintendent
Mrs. Amy L. Tomalavage	Business Administrator
Mrs. Gwen J. Witmer-Belding	Director of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Frank Musitano	Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Jeffrey A. Faust	Director of Facilities
TBD	Director of Technology
Mr. John H. Rohrer	Coordinator of Virtual Academy/ Student Information System

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. James S. McGonigle  
Principal

Mr. Timothy R. Gombar  
Assistant Principal

Faculty	Support Personnel
Mrs. Elizabeth Abel.....Nurse	Mrs. Erin Downey.....Secretary to the Principal
Mrs. Kristie Antalosky ..... Reading	Mrs. Mel Kabana..... Guidance Secretary
Mr. Caleb Calarco ..... Social Studies	Mrs. Wendy Schuld.....Secretary
Mrs. Jillian Calarco..... Reading	
Mr. Thomas Daugherty..... Instrumental Music/Band	Mrs. Jennie Adams.....Head Custodian
Mrs. Jennifer DiSante..... Family and Consumer Science	Mr. David Rothermel ..... Custodian
Mrs. Angeline Dewald..... Reading/English	Mr. James Thomas ..... Custodian
Mrs. Erica Fickes..... Science	TBD.....Custodian
Mrs. Rebecca Evans..... Special Education	
Mr. Jeremy Ferguson..... Social Studies	Mrs. Sandra Heim... Aide
Mrs. Bonnie Foster..... Reading/Mathematics	Mrs. Ashley McJunkin... Aide
Mrs. Debra Frain ..... Guidance	Mrs. Rene Shade... Aide
Mr. Justin Frantz ..... Social Studies	Mrs. Bernie Umbenhaur... Aide
Mrs. Holly Groce..... English/Reading	
Dr. Michelle Guers..... Guidance	Mrs. Tanya Bowman..... Mgr.
Mrs. Jill Hall..... Special Education	Ms. Gloria Bambrick..... Cafeteria Worker
Mrs. Janelle Hooper... Special Education	Mrs. Patty Gerber... Cafeteria Worker
Mrs. Denise Hummel..... Science	Mrs. Marcia Guldin..... Cafeteria Worker
Mrs. Jill Kerstetter..... English/Gifted Education	Ms. Heather Schafer..... Cafeteria Worker
Mrs. Kim Kimber..... Occupational Therapist	Mrs. Jeannette Welsh... Cafeteria Worker
Mrs. Jennifer Lavine ..... Art	
Mr. Matthew Laubenstine... Technology	<b>Activity Advisors</b>
Dr. Steve Lindenmuth ..... Science/Reading	Mrs. Abby Witmier..... Student Council, Co-Advisor
Mrs. Samantha Markowski..... Spanish	Mrs. Jill Kerstetter..... Student Council, Co-Advisor
Mrs. Elizabeth Marquardt..... Special Education	Mrs. Steph Gaddy... Spelling Bee
Mrs. Katelyn Miller..... Special Education	Mrs. Jill Kerstetter..... Newspaper Advisor
Ms. Jennifer Moran... Special Education	Mrs. Erica Fickes... Envirothon
Mrs. Samantha Morris..... Math Skills	Mrs. Bonnie Foster... Yearbook Advisor
Mr. Joshua Hunter Moyer..... Health and Physical Education	Mrs. Angeline Dewald..... Yearbook Advisor
Mrs. Tracy Nahas ..... Social Worker	Mr. Randy Nunemacher ..... Mathcounts
Mr. Randy Nunemacher ..... Mathematics	Mrs. Erica Fickes... Science Fair Co-Advisor
Mrs. Chris O'Boyle..... Social Worker	Dr. Steve Lindenmuth... Science Fair Co-Advisor
Mr. Brian Pearson..... Science	Mr. Thomas Daugherty ..... Band Director
Mr. David Ruhf ..... Mathematics	Mrs. Amy Sterner..... Choral Director
Mr. Corey Smith..... Technology Education	Mrs. Amy Sterner..... Drama Club Advisor
Mrs. Kayla Spencer..... English	Mrs. Jennifer Lavine ..... Drama Club Advisor
Mrs. Angela Spieles..... Guidance/Skills for Adolescence/ELA	Mr. James Trusky..... JH Football
Mr. Michael Stankiewitch... Social Studies	Mr. Mike Mansell..... JH Football
Mrs. Amy Sterner..... Vocal Music/Chorus	Mr. James Trusky... JH Wrestling Coach
Mrs. Rachael Tran... Mathematics	Mr. Jamie Campbell... JH Girls' Basketball Coach
Mrs. Angela Urban..... Special Education	Mr. Robert Bohorad..... JH Girls' Basketball Coach
Mrs. Ruth Weidman... Heath and Physical Education	Mr. Keith Mentzer..... JH Boys' Basketball Coach
Mr. Dustin Werdt..... Mathematics	Mr. Mark Fox..... JH Boys' Basketball Coach
Mrs. Kelli Weston..... School Psychologist	Ms. Rhoda Corbacio..... JH Girls' Soccer Coach
Mrs. Abby Witmier..... English	Mr. Clay Leibold..... JH Boys' Soccer Coach
Mrs. Ashley Zelinsky... Speech/Language	Mr. Justin Berger..... JH Boys' Soccer Coach
	Mrs. Carrie Scheetz..... JH Cross Country Coach
	Mr. John Carestia... JH Track Coach
	Mr. Justin O'Brien..... JH Track Coach
	Mrs. Steph Gaddy..... JH Softball Coach
	Mr. Mark Fox..... JH Softball Coach

# BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

## 2022-2023 School Year

August 23, 2022	Tuesday, In-Service Day–Teachers Only
August 24, 2022	Wednesday, In-Service Day–Teachers Only
August 25, 2022	Thursday, In-Service Day–Teachers Only
August 29, 2022	Monday, In-Service Day–Teachers Only
August 30, 2022	Tuesday, In-Service Day–Teachers Only
August 31, 2022	Wednesday, First Day of School
September 5, 2022	Monday, Labor Day, Schools Closed
October 10, 2022	Monday, In-Service Day– Teachers Only
November 23, 2022	Wednesday, Early Dismissal, Thanksgiving Break
November 24 thru November 28, 2022	Thursday, Friday, Monday– Schools
Closed/Thanksgiving December 23, 2022	Friday, Early Dismissal, Holiday Recess
December 24, 2022 thru January 2, 2023	Winter Holidays– Schools Closed
January 16, 2023	Mon., In-Service-Teachers Only/Possible Snow Make-up Day
February 20, 2023*	Mon., Presidents’ Day-Schools Closed/Possible Snow Make-up Day
March 17, 2023	Friday, School Closed/Possible Snow Make-up Day
March 20, 2023*	Monday, School Closed/Possible Snow Make-up Day
April 6, 2023*	Thurs., Spring Recess/Possible Snow Make-up Day
April 7, 2023	Friday, Spring Recess- Schools Closed
April 10, 2023	Monday, Spring Recess- Schools Closed
April 11, 2023*	Tuesday, Spring Recess/Possible Snow Make-up Day
May 29, 2023	Monday, Memorial Day – Schools Closed
June 2, 2023	Friday, Early Dismissal, Last Day for Students

\*Possible Snow makeup days: February 20, March 20, April 6, and April 11  
 Snow make-up days will be scheduled according to the information on the reverse side of the calendar. In the event that January 16<sup>th</sup> is a make-up day, the In-Service Day would move to the end of the year.

### Blue Mountain Middle School Program 2022-2023

#### GRADE 6

9 period day – 43 minute periods

- (1) Mathematics
- (2) General Science
- (3) Social Studies
- (4) Reading
- (5) English
- (6) **Nine Week Rotation**
  - Technology Education
  - Art
  - Music
  - Family and Consumer Science
- (7) **Four Day Rotation**
  - (2 days) Physical Education
  - Guidance
  - Library Skills
- (8) **Lunch**
- (9) **Homeroom/Activity Period**

#### GRADE 7

9 period day – 43 minute periods

- (1) **Mathematics or Pre-Algebra**
- (2) Physical Science
- (3) Social Studies
- (4) Reading
- (5) English
- (6) **Nine Week Rotation**
  - Music
  - Art
  - Technology Education
  - Family and Consumer Science
- (7) **Four Day Rotation**
  - Physical Education
  - Health
  - English/Language Arts (ELA) Skills
  - Library Skills
- (8) **Lunch**
- (9) **Homeroom/Activity Period**

#### GRADE 8

9 period day – 43 minute periods

- (1) **Pre-Algebra or Algebra I**
- (2) Science
- (3) Social Studies
- (4) Reading/Language I
- (5) English
- (6) **Nine Week Rotation**
  - Art
  - Music
  - Technology Education
  - Family and Consumer Science
- (7) **Four Day Rotation**
  - Physical Education
  - Health
  - Library Skills
  - Skills for Adolescence
- (8) **Lunch**
- (9) **Homeroom/Activity Period**

## STANDARDIZED TEST SCHEDULE

### **Pennsylvania State Assessment System (PSSA)**

A measure of school and grade level performance in ELA and math in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students in grade 8 will also take a science test.

### **Keystone Algebra**

Given to students taking the Honors Algebra 1 course

### **Iowa Algebra Readiness Test**

Given in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to determine student readiness for Algebra in Grade 8.

## COMPETITIONS

### **Science Fair**

Grade 8 – Project presentations for awards in categories.

### **Blue Mountain Recreation sponsored Track & Field Meet**

Grades 6 – Athletic competition.

### **“Design An Ad” Contest for NIE Week**

Sponsored by Pottsville Republican – Grades 6-8. To create artistic ads for merchants.

### **Earth Day Poster Contest**

Sponsored by the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

### **Schuylkill County Envirothon**

Grade 6-8 – County-wide competition with other school districts.

### **Pottsville Republican Spelling Bee**

Grades 6-8 – Oral competitions for excellence in spelling.

### **Newspaper in Education (NIE) Week Essay Contest**

Grades 6-8 – Awards for best writing samples on assigned topics.

### **Highest Academic Average**

Grades 6-8.

### **Artist of the Month**

Grades 6-8 – To promote excellence in art.

### **Yearbook Cover Contest**

Grades 6-8 – Free yearbook for designed cover.

### **Presidential Academic Fitness**

Grade 8 – Must qualify by a prescribed grade average and rank in advanced category in Reading or Math on PSSA's.

### **MATHCOUNTS**

Grades 7-8 – Regional and statewide competition for superior math ability students.

### **Scholastic Awards**

Highest average, most improved.

### **“What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” Competition**

Grades 6-8- Competition between local schools in Berks and Schuylkill Counties to promote industries.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with state and federal law, the Blue Mountain School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost of the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

The Blue Mountain School District is committed to providing equal opportunities for all persons without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, ethnic background or handicap in its educational programs, policies and employment practices. Inquiries or for further information on the evaluation procedures and provisions of services to protected handicapped students should be directed to the Director of Curriculum, Equal Rights and Opportunities Compliance Officer (Title IX) of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Coordinator of Section 504 (Handicapped) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Red Dale Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961 (570-366-0515).

### Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Every child deserves school stability, and the McKinney Vento Act provides this right to children and youth experiencing homelessness. Students are eligible for service under the McKinney-Vento Act if they have been displaced from their homes and are living in a place that is not fixed, regular, or adequate, such as:

- Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardships, or similar reason
- In a place not designed for regular sleeping accommodations
- In a homeless or domestic violence shelter
- Outside of his/her home as an unaccompanied youth
- In any of the above situations as the child of a migrant family

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to:

- Continue their education in their current school and receive transportation OR enroll immediately in the school where they are temporarily housed, even if lacking the paperwork normally required
- Participate in all applicable school programs
- Receive free lunch (and breakfast)
- Receive assistance with school related expenses, such as supplies or dress code appropriate clothing.

For assistance or more information, contact your school building office or the Blue Mountain School District's Homeless Liaison, Gwen Witmer-Belding at (570) 366-0515 ext. 1028, [gjbelding@bmsd.org](mailto:gjbelding@bmsd.org), or you may contact the Regional ECYEH Office at (800) 510-2741. Additional information on available homeless resources can be viewed at [www.bmsd.org](http://www.bmsd.org).

## *Instructional Program Outline*

### MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program for all grades is divided into ability-grouped levels. The students are placed in these levels on the recommendation of their teachers, guidance counselors, grade level assessments and grades. At all grade levels and in every course, curriculum is designed around the Pennsylvania Academic Standards (Chapter 4). The Mathematics Standards describe what students should know and be able to do. They reflect the increasing complexity and sophistication that students are expected to achieve as they progress through school.

#### **Sixth Grade Math**

This course is designed to provide students with the background necessary for courses in higher mathematics and for mathematics used in day-to-day living. A general overview of all five core Pennsylvania academic standards will be completed. Topics will include but are not limited to positive rational number operations, integers, algebraic and numeric expressions, solving basic equations, ratios and rates, real world percent problems, geometric figures and data displays, as well as problem solving skills

### **Seventh Grade Math**

This course is designed to provide students with the necessary mathematical foundation for their future. Practical content through the use of the Pennsylvania Core Academic Standards is emphasized throughout the course. Concepts introduced in sixth grade math are reinforced and further developed to increase the students' depth of knowledge. The material in this course includes working with variables, simplifying and writing expressions, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, graphing, using formulas and operations on positive and negative rational numbers, as well as, problem solving skills.

### **Principles of Algebra**

This course is a study of the relationship of symbols to numbers which begins with a review of rational numbers and builds a solid foundation for higher mathematics, through a use of the Pennsylvania Core Academic standards. This course will focus on building a higher depth of knowledge for the eighth-grade standards. Topics include but are not limited to the study of irrational numbers, a more extensive dive into solving multi-step equations, graphing, functions, congruent and similar figures, systems of equations, geometric concepts of volume and Pythagorean Theorem, inequalities, and problem-solving skills.

### **Eighth Grade Math**

The course is designed to build a solid understanding of basic algebraic fundamental topics to build a foundation for future higher-level courses. Students will spend more time building problem-solving skills using the PA Core Academic standards. Topics include but are not limited to the study of irrational numbers, a more extensive dive into solving multi-step equations, graphing, functions, congruent and similar figures, systems of equations, geometric concepts of volume and Pythagorean Theorem, inequalities and problem-solving skills.

### **Eighth Grade Honors Algebra I**

This course is designed to build and expand the topics covered in Principle of Algebra. It prepares students for more advanced work in both mathematics and science courses. Students will be required to take the Keystone Algebra 1 exam at the completion of this course. Following a thorough review of skills gained in previous courses which translate to Algebra 1 students will cover topics such as graphing and writing equations of lines, Solving systems of Equations and Inequalities, data interpretation, probability, radical numbers, operations on polynomials as well as reinforcing problem solving skills. All will be achieved while using the PA Core Academic standards as a guideline for the course.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Sixth Grade Science**

The sixth-grade science program is designed to be an in-depth study of the principles in science that pertain to Earth and Space. All students will gain knowledge about scientific inquiry through the use of three separate textbooks. The first of these textbooks, Earth Structure, will focus on Earth's composition. Students will also learn about rock formation, tectonic plate movement, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The second textbook, Astronomy and Space, exposes students to planets, stars, comets, and other objects found in the night sky. All students will learn about space technology such as rockets, satellites, and space stations. Lastly, students will learn how sound and light travel in the Sound and Light textbook. These areas are in coordination with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. This will be achieved through the use of the 5 E model- Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

### **Seventh Grade Science**

The seventh-grade science program is designed to be an in-depth study of the principles in science that pertain to Earth, Space, and Chemistry. All students will gain knowledge of these topics through the use of three separate textbooks. The first of these textbooks, Earth Structure, will focus on Earth's composition. Students will also learn about rock formation, tectonic plate movement, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The second textbook, Astronomy and Space, exposes students to planets, stars, comets, and other objects found in the night sky. All students will learn about space technology such as rockets, satellites, and space stations. Lastly, students will be introduced to Chemistry where they will develop an understanding of the Periodic Table of Elements, physical and chemical changes, and atomic theory. These areas are in coordination with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. This will be achieved through the use of the 5 E model- Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

## **Eighth Grade Science**

The eighth-grade science program is designed to be an in-depth study of the principles in science that pertain to Life Science. All students will gain knowledge of these topics through the use of three separate textbooks. The first of these textbooks, “Ecology and the Environment”, will focus on ecosystems and the effects humans have on our environment. Students will learn about biomes, changes in communities over time, and ecological organization. The second textbook, “Cells and Heredity”, exposes students to cell structure and function. Students will learn how genes are inherited and how they can use genetics to predict traits of future generations. Advancement in genetics, such as genetic engineering and cloning, will also be discussed. Lastly, students will be introduced to Diversity of Life where they will develop an understanding of Domains and Kingdoms and identify ways that living things can be classified. Viruses, bacteria, fungi, and protists are additional topics of discussion. These areas are in coordination with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. This will be achieved through the use of the 5 E model- Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Sixth Grade Social Studies**

This Ancient Civilizations course represents the growth and development of ancient cultures from the earliest peoples to settle in Mesopotamia to the Greek and Roman civilizations, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Social Studies. Major attention is given to the earliest cultures in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley, Huang Ho Valley, Assyrians, and Persians. The Greek and Roman civilization are also extensively studied. The goal of this course is to teach students about the founding of the earliest civilizations, how they developed, and how they impact our civilization in the present day. Extensive focus will be on the family, economics, language, government, education, religion, and communication.

### **Seventh Grade Social Studies**

In seventh grade social studies is broken into two courses, Civics (three marking periods) and Pennsylvania History (one marking period). The Civics course focuses on analyzing the United States Constitution in terms of the three branches of government, and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States. The Pennsylvania History course provides an overview of life in Pennsylvania from the earliest inhabitants through the Industrial Revolution and Pennsylvania’s contributions to the Civil War.

### **Eighth Grade Social Studies**

This American History I course represents the growth and development of our nation from the earliest peoples to migrate to the Americas through the year 1800, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Social Studies. Major attention is given to the period of colonization, the War for Independence, the United States Constitution, and the establishment of our federal government. Pennsylvania’s history, from the Native Americans to the Constitution, is emphasized. This is the first in a series of three American History courses that will continue through ninth and tenth grades. A goal of this course is to have students learn about their heritage and to grow as citizens.

## **READING**

### **Sixth Grade Reading**

This sixth grade course is required for all sixth grade students. The course uses a literature-based approach to help students reach proficiency in reading as mandated by the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for English Language Arts. Areas of instruction include vocabulary development, comprehension skills, and critical reading skills. Students also learn to respond to literature both orally and in writing. Emphasis is placed on using real literature to develop strategies that can be used by students across the curricula. A major goal of the course is to help students become independent and confident readers. Through direct instruction and modeling, students will learn how to effectively annotate texts for deeper understanding.

### **Seventh Grade Reading**

This course is required for all seventh grade students. The main goal of the course is to enhance and build upon the skills learned in the sixth grade curriculum. Greater emphasis is placed on higher level critical reading skills, as well as the integration of speaking, writing and listening skills, as set forth in the state standards. Seventh grade students will become engaged in literary analysis, and strategies will be taught to reinforce and strengthen skills for close reading and in-depth comprehension. Students will learn to analyze and appreciate a writer’s craft as they consider the feelings, thoughts, and perspectives of characters, and make connections between literature and life.

### **Eighth Grade Reading**

This reading course is required for all students not enrolled in the Language I course. A major goal is to help students achieve proficiency in reading in order to meet the state standards for reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course is designed to reinforce and extend the strategies learned in the sixth and seventh grade courses. Emphasis is placed on the student's response to real literature, using both written and oral communication skills. A primary objective of the course is to develop an appreciation for reading as an important life skill.

## **ENGLISH**

### **Sixth Grade English**

The English course in sixth grade is an integrated program of instruction designed to help students achieve proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Emphasis is placed on teaching the students to understand the structure and use of the English language, as well as good communication skills. In order to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, students must first understand the structure, or grammar, of the language. Instruction includes areas of grammar such as parts of speech, sentence structure, and types of paragraphs. Writing instruction on this level is designed to incorporate and enhance the grammar concepts. In addition, students will be introduced to different forms of literature through a variety of media.

### **Seventh Grade English**

English at the seventh grade level is designed to expand the foundation of skills and knowledge needed for proper English usage throughout the students' secondary years. This integrated course reinforces the language skills acquired in the previous six grades, in addition to the acquisition of higher level skills. Emphasis in this course is on informational writing and public speaking. Integration of skills is encouraged, especially in the application of oral communication, written composition, and vocabulary development.

### **Eighth Grade English**

The English course in grade eight is designed to reinforce and enhance skills already attained, as well as the acquisition of higher-level grammar, speaking, and writing skills. A major goal of this integrated course is to help students achieve proficiency in the standards for reading, writing, listening and speaking. Emphasis is placed on writing various genres, as well as effective written and oral communication skills. Instruction includes various forms of writing, with emphasis on research and writing to a central theme.

## **LANGUAGE**

### **Eighth Grade Courses**

Students who qualify for a language course may receive full year instruction in Spanish I. Spanish I is a high school course. This beginning level year-long course introduces students to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The content of this course focuses on basic vocabulary and simple verb conjugations in the present tense. Students earning an 80% year average or above in Spanish I will be required to advance to Spanish II, or switch French I at the high school. An eighth grade student earning less than an 80% in Spanish I has the option to retake Spanish I at the high school, or switch to French I.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

The Middle School's visual arts curriculum is a comprehensive, sequenced exploration of the visual world. Lessons are constructed around the attainment of core knowledge in four areas, leading to a more complete cultural literacy:

**Art Production** – the creation of personal art through the exploration of various media and techniques.

**Art History** – the study of artists and their works in both a historical and cultural context.

**Art Criticism** – the examination of works of art through knowledge of the principles and elements of design, allowing students to analyze, interpret, and evaluate their own work and that of others.

**Aesthetics** – the study of the nature of art and beauty, guiding students in developing their own personal aesthetic philosophy based on knowledge.

## MUSIC

Instrumental music and choral music are optional courses.

### **Sixth Grade General Music**

This 45-day course is taken by all sixth grade students. Students will study Musical Notation (*both note identification & rhythm counting*) – FORM – Composition – and American Music. We will use worksheet practice, singing, listening and instrumental activities to enhance the topics being presented.

### **Seventh Grade General Music**

This 45-day course is taken by all seventh grade students. Students will review Musical Notation through hands-on instrumental activities as well as worksheet practice. They will also study the six periods of Musical History, which culminates with a Composer Project.

### **Eighth Grade General Music**

This 45-day course is taken by all eighth grade students. Students will focus on the music from the mid-1900's to TODAY! Topics covered include: an introduction to Film Music – a brief History of Rock n' Roll – a comparison of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet with Bernstein's West Side Story, and concludes by learning the Blue Mountain Alma Mater. We will use a wide variety of media & technology to enhance the subjects being covered.

### **Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is a select group of musicians chosen by the band director from the membership of the concert band. The group performs jazz and pop music. Selection is based on ability and the need for certain instrumentation. The group performs for school concerts and assemblies as well as civic functions and jazz festivals.

### **Chorus**

This ensemble is open to ALL middle school students who have the desire to sing!!! Members will learn music in both two & three parts and will develop proper singing technique during rehearsal. The group will meet 2 days each week, no after-school rehearsal is required. All students in Chorus are required to participate in both the Holiday & Spring Concerts & Assemblies.

### **Eagle Ringers**

This performing group is open only to seventh & eighth grade students. Interested middle school students will take a brief musical quiz to determine who is selected into this ensemble. No prior hand bell experience is necessary. Only 11 students are selected to be part of this group. Members will be required to attend one 9<sup>th</sup> period rehearsal each week. After-school rehearsals are held on an as needed basis. The Eagle Ringers will perform at both the Holiday & Spring Concerts.

### **Show Choir**

This award-winning ensemble performs music in 3 parts and uses difficult choreography to showcase contemporary music. The group performs throughout the school year at various concerts, assemblies & community events and also sings the National Anthem at several venues. Each year, this group competes at Music in the Parks – an adjudication. Members of the Show Choir will be required to attend one rehearsal 9<sup>th</sup> period each week, and several after-school rehearsals throughout the year. Although this ensemble is open to any middle school student, participants are selected by Mrs. Sterner through an AUDITION process. The audition will consist of learning & performing choreography in a group and singing individually. Typically 24-27 students are selected to be part of this performing group.

### **Drama Club/Set Design**

The Middle School Drama Club (MSDC) is open to any seventh or eighth grade student interested in learning about various aspects of musical theater. All interested students should sign-up during the first week of school. Stage Crew & Set Design members will be selected from this pool of students by Mrs. Sterner & Mrs. Lavine. Students desiring to be part of the Cast are required to AUDITION for a part in the show. Auditions will consist of learning a song from the musical, as well as reading a scene with one or two other students. The best student for each role will be chosen. Not every student who auditions or signs up will be chosen to be part of the MSDC. Set Designers will meet once each week during 9<sup>th</sup> period and will stay after-school as needed in the spring. Cast & Crew will meet once each week during 9<sup>th</sup> period and will have 2 monthly after-school rehearsals beginning in October. As the performances near, more after-school rehearsal time will be required. A schedule of these after-school rehearsals will be provided in October. The MSDC will do 4 performances of the musical in April.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

### **Sixth Grade Technology Education**

This course introduces students to the study of technology. Students will investigate the following questions: what is a technology? Why do we study it? What jobs are available? In addition, students will learn about engineering processes and use the engineering process to complete an Engineering challenge. The focus during this year is problem solving and using technology to solve problems.

### **Seventh Grade Technology Education**

This course focuses on concepts of Aerodynamics, Energy, and Renewable Resources. Throughout this course students will learn about the guiding principles and science behind flight and lift creation. Students will also learn about the types of Energy and the forms that energy comes in. Energy generation both from renewable and non-renewable sources will be examined. Lastly, students will be introduced to Hydroponic and Aquaponic growing, or soil-less agriculture.

### **Eighth Grade Technology Education**

This course will focus on concepts involving design, drafting, and materials processing. Students will experience the materials processing procedures from the design phase to the finished product. An emphasis will be placed on safety and machine tool use during this course. Students will also be introduced to the basics of 3D Modeling and Design as well as Web Page design.

## SKILLS FOR ADOLESCENCE

### **Seventh Grade English/Language Arts (ELA) Skills**

Language Arts Skills will provide students with an opportunity to reinforce and strengthen Reading and English skills as related to the Common Core.

### **Eighth Grade Skills for Adolescence**

Skills for Adolescence enables students to practice skills that are very important for effective living. These are lifelong skills which increase the likelihood of improving interpersonal relationships, strengthening family relationships, increasing an individual's self-concept, and establishing habits of peaceful conflict resolution.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **Sixth Grade Physical Education**

In Physical education class, you will be exposed to lifelong fitness activities that will benefit your health and well-being. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to participate in team sports, recreational activities, cardiovascular endurance training, strength development and flexibility exercises. These skills will carry-over values for valuable use of leisure time in later life.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Physical Education**

This program provides for the increased knowledge and skill in any areas of sport and physical activity. Such activities being taught will include those involving various team sports, individual sports, lifetime sports and such activities necessary for maintaining physical fitness.

## GUIDANCE

### **Sixth Grade Guidance**

Classroom instruction is provided to sixth grade students in the areas of study skills and career awareness on an alternating marking period basis. Guidance counselors are also involved in individual and group counseling.

## HEALTH

### **Seventh Grade Health**

Seventh grade health includes the study of a person's overall health and wellness, study of human body systems, the effects of drugs, personal safety, and first aid. Body systems will include the skeletal system, muscular system, respiratory system, circulatory system, digestive system and nervous system. The unit on drugs will identify categories of all types of drugs and in depth unit on Tobacco and Alcohol.

### **Eighth Grade Health**

Eighth grade health will consist of units on the endocrine system, puberty, developing relationships, reproduction, heredity, birth, and parenthood. The reproductive systems will include anatomy of both the female and male. A unit on sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases. A unit on marijuana and heroin. An additional unit on safety and first aid could supplement the curriculum.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

### **Sixth Grade Family and Consumer Science**

In a hands-on environment, the student will gain a better understanding of nutrition, food preparation, kitchen safety, proper storage and handling of foods.

### **Seventh Grade Family and Consumer Science**

In a hands-on environment, the student will gain a better understanding of the sewing machine, food preparation, child development and child-care, and table settings & manners.

### **Eighth Grade Family and Consumer Science**

In a hands-on environment, the student will gain a better understanding of the sewing machine, eating habits, government agencies responsible for food safety, international foods, nutritional meal planning, and personal finance.

## **MATH SKILLS**

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade math skills is a course designed to support and enhance the topics covered in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math courses including Principles of Algebra and Algebra 1. Students will use online tools to complete a weekly diagnostic, which will give the teacher and students valuable information as to what topics students can use remediation or enrichment on. Students will also be able to receive extra practice on topics covered in their math courses weekly as well as have an extra resource to ask questions and receive help on their daily classwork and homework.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The goal of the special education program is to motivate students to strive to reach their maximum potential, utilizing their own abilities and support services provided by the educational community of the Blue Mountain School District. An individualized educational program is formulated to accommodate the specific needs of each student. The specific program is developed utilizing the regular education and special education planned courses.

Success for individual students is accomplished by providing positive experiences and appropriate reinforcement to encourage excellent self-esteem and confidence. The primary goal is to provide the experiences, knowledge, and concern for other citizens as well as preparing to be a productive member of society. We strive to provide the necessary skills and knowledge to return to regular education or maximize the potential of each individual student for the future.

## **REPORTING PUPIL PROGRESS**

### **Philosophy**

The primary purpose of schools is to provide maximum opportunity through which pupils can achieve their greatest learning potential, each according to his/her own ability. It is therefore necessary that teachers evaluate pupil achievement, report pupil progress to both the pupil and parent, and recognize proficiency levels through the following: (1) a program of pupil and parent conferences, (2) the issuance of report cards, and (3) the honor roll system.

### **Conferences**

Teachers welcome the opportunity to meet with pupils and/or parents to review progress in conferences as described below.

- A. Pupils: Pupil-teacher conferences are arranged during a pupil's directed study time and/or before or after classes, as conducted in conference facilities in the school, guidance suite, or a classroom.
- B. Parents: parent-teacher conferences are held in the school and arranged at a time that is convenient for both the parent and the teacher. If a teacher wishes to request a parent teacher conference, he need only inform the school counselors so that they may arrange the appointments. Parental requests for a parent-teacher conference may be arranged by the guidance counselor(s) or the principal(s). The pupils' guidance counselor or principal could be available to attend parent-teacher conferences.

## Report Cards

Report cards are issued following the end of each nine-week marking period, and are hand carried home by the pupil. An area is provided on the report card for teachers to report the pupil's scholastic grade earned in each course, and to record comments about the pupil's attitude, conduct, and effort.

The school administration continues to print the pupil's school attendance record on report cards.

- A. Scholastic Grades – Report period scholastic grades represent the teacher's assessment of a pupil's level of achievement in completion of course requirements based upon: (1) tested mastery of course content, (2) class participation, and (3) study assignments.

## Scholastic Grade Definitions

Numerical grades are used on all report cards and courses that meet five periods per week.

93-100% - Outstanding achievement in completion of course requirements. (A)

85-92% - High achievement in completion of course requirements. (B)

76-84% - Satisfactory Achievement in completion of course requirements. (C) 70-75% - Minimal achievement in completion of course requirements. (D)

50-69% - Failure to achieve minimal course requirements. No credit earned. (F)

**INC** Incomplete – Course requirements not met because of excused student absence. (The pupil is expected to complete course requirements within the same number of school days as he had been absent.)

**M** – Medical Excuse – Course requirements waived due to medical reasons.

**X** – Not graded this marking period.

The following grades are used to report progress in courses that meet less than three (3) periods per week and/or less than 12 weeks per year.

**P** – Outstanding Progress (93% - 100%)

**U** – Unsatisfactory (69% and below)

**S** – Satisfactory Progress (76% - 92%)

**INC** – Incomplete

**NI** – Needs Improvement (70% -75%)

- A. Comments – Comments describing the pupil's (1) homework, (2) class work, (3) attitude, (4) conduct and (5) effort may also be used by the teacher and recorded on report cards through use of the following comment code, and must be used with a failure grade.

## Comment Codes

1 Attentive/follows directions well	14 Lack of interest and/or effort
2 Demonstrates interest/initiative	15 Misses work due to frequent absences
3 Assignments are well prepared	16 Accommodations – checklist enclosed
4 Participates in class discussions	17 Conference suggested – please call
5 Demonstrates improvement	18 Assignments are incomplete
6 Fails to do required homework	19 Study skills need improvement
7 Assignments carelessly prepared	20 Organization skills need improvement
8 Fails to make up missed work	21 Not working up to ability
9 Books/materials not brought to class	22 Reading level is: Wilson Step
10 Poor quiz and/or test marks	23 Grade from previous school
11 Fails to pay attention in class	24 Puts forth best effort
12 Lack of class participation	25 Projects not submitted
13 Undesirable conduct or attitude	

## Honor Roll

The Blue Mountain Middle School program of reporting pupil progress recognizes high scholastic achievement through the honor roll system. Grades earned in all courses during the nine-week marking period are included in determining honor roll status.

The following provisions must be met in order for a pupil to be recognized as attaining regular or distinguished honor roll status:

**REGULAR HONORS** – Students are required to earn an 85% or greater in all major and rotation courses. A student who earns an "INC," "NI," or a "U" is ineligible for regular honors.

**DISTINGUISHED HONORS** – Students are required to earn a 93% or greater in all major and rotation courses. A student who earns an "S", "NI", "INC" or "U" is ineligible for distinguished honors. Attainment of Regular Honors and Distinguished Honors is reported for publication in area newspapers.

### **Promotion**

Students must earn 5 units to be promoted to the next grade. While two units may be earned in rotational courses, 4 of the 5 units must be earned in major subjects. Assignment to grade level is also considered in the grade level promotion process. The principal evaluates such factors as chronological age, and social/physical development in determining what grade level is most appropriate for the student.

### **Class Attendance**

If students are absent for thirty days during the school year, they may be subject to failure for the course(s) in which they are enrolled during that period. For semester courses, fifteen days will apply, and all other courses meeting less than a full year will use the same fractional time (1/4) for this policy. A review committee appointed by the principal will review each case individually and will make recommendations to the principal for the disposition of each case.

### **Summer School**

Failure of three or more major subjects would prevent a student from being promoted. Students failing two subjects may be able to repeat those subjects in summer school and be eligible for promotion.

### **Records Policy – Parental Notification**

The Blue Mountain School District records policy allows a student’s school records to be forwarded to another school, Intermediate Unit, or State educational agency either with parental permission or without such permission if the student is enrolled in another educational setting and is no longer a student in the Blue Mountain Schools.

Parents are hereby notified that necessary student records will be forwarded to the school where the child is enrolled upon request of the receiving school. Parents have the right to examine student records and be given a copy if desired. Written parental permission to forward records will be obtained whenever possible.

## ***Student Behavior***

### **THE BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **“The Eagle Way”**

*Honesty*

*Respect*

*Responsibility*

All Blue Mountain students will strive towards excellence by embodying the school district’s three core values. The Eagle Way promotes honesty, respect, and responsibility for all students in grades K-12.

### **SECTION ONE**

In This Section You Will Find:

- Statement of Purpose
- Statement of Authority
- Student Rights
- Student Responsibilities
- Student Rules
- School District Rules

#### **Statement of Purpose**

Student behavior is not merely convenient conformity by the students to the wishes of adults, but the conscious development of self-discipline and self-direction toward socially desirable ends. Schools, to be effective, must give all students the opportunity to learn; disciplined behavior is an outcome of education. Students must be taught that the advantages of group living demand that individual actions be tempered and limited.

If a pupil elects to evade his/her responsibility for good citizenship, he/she may be referred to the principal. The principal takes into consideration the individual and his/her personal adjustment as well as the impact the pupil’s behavior will have on the school community. The great majority of pupils meet their responsibility and never become involved in any disciplinary action. All things considered, the principal’s action may range from friendly discussion to suspension. In extreme disciplinary cases, a student may be expelled by the Board of School Directors.

In each discipline situation, it is a primary aim of school officials to impress each student, by effective faculty counseling and guidance, of the need, value and advantage of good conduct.

### **Statement of Authority**

All students enrolled in the Blue Mountain School District are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules of the system and individual schools.

Principals and teachers are directed to maintain order in the schools so that learning can occur. Maintenance of order applies during those times when students are under the direct control and supervision of school district officials. This authority is granted in Section 1317 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, It states:

*Every teacher, vice-principal and principal in the public schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct the behavior over the pupils attending his school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them.” (In loco parentis)*

The Board of School Directors has granted authority to its principals and teachers to exercise necessary authority to maintain appropriate decorum within the buildings and classrooms. Building level principals and their designees will act in a loco parentis manner to ensure the safety and welfare of all students. Teachers shall have the authority, and it shall be their duty, to make and enforce by reasonable means rules and regulations to govern the behavior and promote learning in their respective classes. Principals and teachers of the Blue Mountain School District are directed to maintain such order in the schools as will facilitate learning by the pupils.

In the event that any provision of this Behavior Code is found to be in conflict with the Public School Code of 1949, as amended or PA Code Title 22, PDE Regulations, school district policy, administrative procedures, or any other applicable constitutional, statutory or regulatory provision, such statute or provision shall govern, and the conflicting portion of this Behavior Code shall be considered null and void, but the remainder of the Behavior Code shall remain in full force and effect.

School principals are authorized, subject to approval of the Superintendent, to summarize or restate the provisions and/or omit selected provisions of this Behavior Code when publishing school handbooks in an effort to concisely convey to students and parents the Behavior Code. This authority is not, nor should it be, construed as any attempt to withhold information, for the provision of this Behavior Code prevails over statements published in school handbooks.

### **Student Rights**

This section summarizes the basic principles of student rights. With each right comes a responsibility, and that right must be viewed in relationship to the health, safety, and welfare of the majority of students within each school. The principal, under the supervision of the Superintendent and within School Board policies, shall assume administrative responsibility and instructional leadership of the school to which he or she is assigned. The faculty and staff shall assist in the orderly operation of the school and ensure the following rights of students:

- To be informed of School Board policies and individual school rules.
- To appeal a decision in an orderly manner.
- To be treated with respect by other students, school personnel, and visitors.
- To expect that their property will be respected by other students and school personnel.
- To have a safe and orderly school.
- To expect the rules to be enforced without discrimination.
- To receive district curriculum descriptions that will help one make informed choices.
- To have equal opportunity with regard to academic programs and extracurricular activities.
- To have privacy of one’s personal possessions unless appropriate school personnel have reasonable cause to believe a student has any object or material which is prohibited by law or school board.
- To expect that schools will keep student records safe and confidential.
- To wear the school uniform, as long as clothes are appropriate for the school. Clothing should adhere to the school dress code. Clothing should not disrupt the learning environment or pose any threat to the health and safety of students.
- To attend school and learn in an environment free of sexual harassment or malicious harassment.

### **Student Responsibilities**

#### ***Every student shall:***

- Attend school regularly and be on time for class.
- Be diligent in his or her studies.
- Conform to the rules of the school approved by the Board of Education and submit to such discipline as would be exercised by a kind, firm and judicious parent.
- Provide the school with an adequate explanation and appropriate documentation to explain an absence.
- Request makeup assignments from teachers upon return to school and complete them within an appropriate length of time.
- Treat other students, school personnel, and visitors with respect.

- Respect others' property by not damaging or taking it.
- Treat school property with respect and to act in a way that does not interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to health and/or safety of others.
- Seek help first, to avoid a fight.
- Become familiar with the Code of Student Conduct, all school rules, and all classroom rules.
- Ask for assistance from school personnel in selecting courses.
- Request participation in academic programs and extracurricular activities that match with your abilities.
- Cooperate with the teacher and contribute to a free unprejudiced atmosphere.
- Cooperate fully and exert every effort to achieve mastery of the curriculum.
- Come to school and wear clothes which are not dangerous to health or safety, do not disrupt the learning process, and stay within school dress code.
- Not carry or conceal any such material prohibited by law or that would detract from the educational process and to accept the consequences for any contents stored within lockers:
- Treat others equitably and fairly.
- Conduct yourself and your activities so as not to harass others and to report harassment or discrimination situations to school administrators.

## Student Rules

### *Attendance*

The school law of Pennsylvania requires the regular attendance of all pupils between ages eight and seventeen years of age.

Once a student has enrolled, his/her school attendance is governed by the following guidelines:

- The parents of any pupil who is under seventeen years of age and who has been absent illegally for a total of three days, or six half days, are guilty of truancy from school which is a violation of the state attendance law. Any pupil aged seventeen or older who is absent for five days for inexcusable reasons may be suspended up to 10 days. If a student does not return to school, expulsion procedures may be recommended.
- Students are expected to be in school on time every day and to be on time to all classes. All students arriving tardy to school must report to the office immediately and sign in the computer. **Excessive (four or more per year) un-excused tardiness to school is a punishable offense.**
- Students who are truant (e.g., absent from school without permission of parents and school authorities) will be disciplined per Pennsylvania State Attendance Laws. A telephone contact may be made to verify students' absences.
- Students arriving after 9:30 a.m. (high school/middle school) 10:50 a.m. (elementary school) will be considered absent 1/2 day; moreover, students leaving prior to 1:00 p.m. (high school/middle school)/ 1:35 p.m. (elementary school) will be considered absent 1/2 day.
- When students return to school after an absence, they will bring a signed statement from their parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence. If an excuse is not brought in for classification within three days, it will automatically be classified as unexcused. If students have been absent three or more consecutive days or an excessive amount of days, they may be required to bring along a physician's note stating the reason for the absence. If an assessment is to be made up because of absence, the students must make arrangements with the teacher concerned within two days after they return to school.
- After an excessive number of absences (i.e., excused or unexcused), a phone call shall be made or a letter will be sent to the parents to make them aware of the total days absent. If there is no improvement in the attendance, a letter shall be sent to the parent requiring a doctor's excuse for all future absences. Failure to present a doctor's excuse will result in unexcused absence procedures. A student attendance improvement plan may be established by administration to help determine future actions by the school. Following this plan, if unexcused absences continue, they will become unlawful and may result in a referral to Children and Youth and/or a summary conviction for a violation of compulsory school attendance laws.
- The fact that a parent has sent a written explanation to the school does not excuse the absence. An absence becomes excused only when the administration has classified the absence as such.
- A School Messenger automated phone call will be made to every student who is absent as an added safety precaution; please follow the prompts as directed by the recording.
- **Under no circumstances is a student permitted to sign a parent's name.**
- **NOTE: Each excuse must have the student's full legal name or it cannot be credited to the right file. Each excuse must have the CORRECT dates of absence or it cannot be credited to the right dates. Each excuse must show a reason for the absence. Each excuse must be signed by the parent/ guardian. Please put your child's homeroom number and grade on the excuse.**

### ***Excused Absences:***

Reasons for excused absences include:

- Sickness, injury, death in the family, or some other insurmountable condition.
- Documented appointments with health care professionals.
- Documented absence for religious instruction or religious holiday.
- Participation in an academic class or school-sponsored activity approved by BMMS administration.
- Court appearances (copy of subpoena required).
- Prior approved non-school sponsored educational field trips (one per year).
- Unavoidable emergencies (reviewed by BMMS administration).
- Out of School Suspension (OSS).

### ***Unexcused Absences:***

- Oversleeping.
- Missing the bus.
- Routine babysitting.
- Refusing to come to school.
- Hunting.
- Take a trip (vacation) without an approved educational field trip form by administration.
- Failure to turn in an excuse within three (3) school days, when required.
- Failure to provide a doctor's excuse within three (3) school days, when required.
- Any other circumstances deemed unexcused by the principal or designee.

### ***Educational Leave Policies and Procedures:***

Parents/guardians may request an educational field trip for their children during the school year. Parents/guardians should consider a request on the following conditions:

- Trips may not exceed the maximum of five (5), days per school year.
- All days beyond the maximum of five (5) days will be considered unexcused and/or unlawful for students.
- Parents are encouraged not to plan trips the first ten (10) days of school or the last ten (10) days of school.
- The purpose of the trip must be stated and how it supplements district's curriculum.
- The request must be made by the parent/guardian five (5) days prior to the student's requested leave. Forms are available at building offices. Administrative responses to submitted forms by parents/guardians will be made within 48 hours of submission.
- Each request will be reviewed by Administration prior to approval. The following will be taken into consideration by the Administration in granting permission for the trip:
  - Student's academic standing, attendance record, and disciplinary record.
  - If approval is given prior to the trip, the student's absence will be listed as excused. If prior approval is not received, the absence will be classified as unexcused/unlawful. Should the student's absence extend beyond the approved time, those days will be classified as unexcused/unlawful.
  - The student is expected to complete all school work that is assigned during the school absence. Such assignments will be provided to the student by the teacher prior to the trip. It will be the student's responsibility to contact teachers and make up, any missed assignments.
  - Permission may not be granted for trips/tours during the district's standardized testing periods, the state's testing periods and the secondary school examination periods at the end of the first and second semester.

### ***School Bus Rules:***

It is a privilege to ride a school bus. Students must:

- Obey the driver.
- Stand off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Be at the bus stop on time.
- Sit according to the seating chart assigned by the bus driver.
- Remain seated when bus is in motion.
- Keep arms, legs, and head inside the windows.
- Remain quiet. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is dangerous. Observe classroom conduct at all times while aboard the bus.
- Not **eat** or **drink** while on the bus.
- Whenever boarding or departing, cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus when the driver signals that it is clear to cross. Always check traffic when getting on or off the bus.

- Pay for damage to school buses or property.
  - Follow discipline code.
- \*Discretion is given to the bus driver to add to these rules with approval from administration\*

***Students and Parents please note:***

- From time to time, the Blue Mountain School District may place a video camera on selected school buses. The placement of the camera(s) will be determined by administration as needed.
- The camera may record video and audio of activity on the bus, which may be used for investigative and/or disciplinary purposes.
- Students will ride only their assigned bus to and from school. Written parental permission, with principal approval, is required to get off at a different stop.
- **Except in an emergency situation, students are not permitted to ride a different bus. All such requests must be approved by a building administrator.**

**Computer and Technology/Acceptable Use Policy (Aup)**

A complete copy of the Policy can be found at [http://www.bmsd.org/?page\\_id=1399](http://www.bmsd.org/?page_id=1399). Each student and parent will be required to sign a CIS Acknowledgement and consent form prior to internet usage.

**Blue Mountain School District  
Dress Code Grades 6-12**

**Dress Policy**

***Purpose:***

The Board recognizes its paramount obligation to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the students who enter the schools. The Board further recognizes its responsibility to maintain a positive learning environment in the schools under its jurisdiction and to minimize the opportunity for distraction and/or disruption. The Board believes that a dress policy will address the issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of the students attending its schools and will further aid in the maintenance of a positive learning environment.

***Authority:***

Although the School Code does not require that the reasons or justification be stated by any local Board of School Directors, the reasons for adoption of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Increase school safety
- Promotion of a positive work ethic
- Promotion of civility and respect
- Decrease the distractions of teasing, bullying, hazing, and/or other harassment

***Delegation of Responsibility:***

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy, which designates the building administrators to monitor student dress and grooming in the building and enforce school rules concerning dress and grooming in accordance with the district's discipline policy. School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement. School administrators may use their discretion to designate specific days that permit students to wear other types of clothing.

***Applicability:***

All students will be subject to this dress policy. All students must report to school on a daily basis attired in compliance with the provisions of this dress policy. There is to be no changing of clothes in school or on any school property prior to the beginning of the school day, or at the end of the school day, unless it is for physical education, sports teams, extracurricular activities, or as authorized by the building administration. The dress policy shall be in effect during the regular school year, during regular school hours and at any school-sponsored event during regular school hours.

**The following dress and grooming guidelines apply to all students in grades 6-12:**

**1. Bottoms- Unacceptable/Not permitted:**

- a. Cargo/Carpenter-style pants or shorts with pockets below the hips.
- b. Extra-wide, extra-long, baggy, or sagging pants and shorts.
- c. Excessive rips or holes in pants.
- d. Shorts and skorts must be worn at finger-tip length.
- e. Pants, shorts, or skirts worn so as to expose undergarments.
- f. Skirts may not be shorter finger-tip length.
- g. Leggings or spandex may not be worn separately as dress policy bottoms, but may be worn under dress code appropriate skirts, dresses, and/or shorts.

**2. Tops- Unacceptable/Not Permitted:**

- a. Hooded sweatshirts and other hooded layers may be worn as outerwear, but must be removed upon entry into the building. These hooded sweatshirts should remain in the students' lockers during the course of the school day and will remain there until dismissal time.
- b. Shirts may not be see-through.
- c. Undergarments must not be visible.
- d. Tops may not be worn inappropriately (not tied around the waist or shoulders)
- e. Examples of tops that are not permitted: tank tops, sleeveless tops, mesh tops, scoop neck shirts, v-neck shirts, sheer tops, bare midriff or any other garments with a plunging neck line that expose the upper torso.
- f. Jackets, coats, and/or other outerwear (examples being hats, gloves, mittens, etc.) are not permitted to be worn during the school day.
- g. Tops with imprinted messages pertaining to drugs or alcohol, gun or weapon-related apparel, gang related, vulgar, obscene or profane pictures, words, or phrases, and slogans with double meanings

**3. Footwear- Unacceptable/Not Permitted:**

- a. Flip-flops, beachwear, sandals, slippers, and footwear with wheels.
- b. Open toes or open heels on shoes
- c. Footwear with heels greater than two (2) inches in height.

**4. Accessories- Unacceptable/Not Permitted:**

- a. Wallets with chains of any length.
- b. Jewelry and belts that could be dangerous, such as dog collars, spiked necklaces, spiked belts, safety pins, or jewelry that contain studs or rivets
- c. Headwear that include the following: hats, bandanas, hoods, kerchiefs, and do-rags. This does not include headwear for religious purposes
- d. Sunglasses are not permitted to be worn inside the school building unless required by an attending physician.
- e. Suspenders
- f. Accessories deemed to be distracting, disruptive, or offensive in nature.

**5. Specialized Education Settings/Physical Education Classes**

- a. Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technology education classes, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.

**6. Additional guidelines**

- a. Outerwear, including hats, may be worn for outdoor physical education and/or class activities.

**7. Opt-Out Procedure**

- a. New enrollment- Upon enrollment in the Blue Mountain School District, new students will be granted a grace period of one (1) week before being required to conform to the dress policy.
- b. Medical or Religious Exemption- Parents or legal guardians who object to the policy based on religious or medical grounds must present to the building administration a signed letter detailing the reason for the objection. The parent or legal guardian and the building administration will meet to discuss the exemption. Requests for this exemption must be submitted annually.
- c. Military- Students participating in the United States Military may request to wear their dress uniform in school. Written requests should be made to the Superintendent.

## **Discipline Infractions of the Dress Code**

**1<sup>st</sup> offense-** Phone home for replacement garment and may remain in the office until appropriate garment is secured.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense-** Phone home for replacement garment and remain in the office until appropriate garment is secured and a detention.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense-** Phone home for replacement garment and remain in the office until appropriate garment is secured and either a Saturday detention or two days of detention.

**4<sup>th</sup> offense-** Phone home for replacement garment and remain in the office until appropriate garment is secured and one day of in-school suspension.

**5<sup>th</sup> offense-** Phone home for replacement garment and remain in the office until appropriate garment is secured and three days of in-school suspension.

**\*\*\*Administrators on a building level have the authority to judge the appropriateness and safety of apparel and/or appearance\*\*\***

## **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices including, but not limited to, cellular phones, iPods, MP-3s, radios, personal stereos, tape/CD players, beepers, pagers, scanners, two-way radios, portable telephones, electronic games, and video cameras, etc. are not permitted during school hours.

Cell Phones – Students may possess cell phones on the campus or while participating in school events, and are subject to the following restrictions:

1. The power to the cell phone must be turned off during the school day and while the student is a participant in a school event.
2. The cell phone may not be visible at any time.

The school day is considered to begin when the student arrives on the campus and extends until dismissal at the end of the day. Students may not initiate or receive cell phone calls during the school day or while participating in school events without the expressed permission of school officials. Repeated violations will be treated as defiance.

These items will be confiscated from students.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** School keeps device – student retrieves at end of school day

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** School keeps device – parent/guardian must retrieve

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** School keeps device – parent/guardian must retrieve; Detention Assigned.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense:** School keeps device – parent/guardian must retrieve; Saturday Detention Assigned.

**5<sup>th</sup> Offense:** School keeps device – parent/guardian must retrieve; In-School Suspension Assigned.

**\*NOTE: Offense doubles if device is not turned over to teacher/administrator. Students are not permitted to remove any part of the electronic device. If so, an additional consequence is assigned.**

**\*\*Any student found using their electronic device to bypass the nurse and/or the main office to leave school early is subject to disciplinary action.**

## **Infractions Involving Cheating/Plagiarism**

Grade reduction will be determined by the classroom teacher. In addition, disciplinary action will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## **Aerosol Sprays Ban**

Aerosol sprays (i.e. Axe, hairspray, body spray) are not permitted to be used during school hours. Violations will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Blue Mountain Middle School Dances**

1. Students will be allowed to enter the building at 6:30 p.m. Students must be picked up by 8:30 p.m. No one is to be on school grounds outside the dance area, or at the dance without permission of the administration. Violators will be considered to be trespassing and local police officials will be informed for appropriate action.
2. Students must follow the below listed rules regarding proper dress attire for the dance in addition to the school dress code:

**Boys:**

- A. T-shirts, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts are acceptable as long as they are appropriate for an educational setting.
- B. May wear any type of dress pants or jeans that are appropriate – not sloppy, dirty, no chains, any holes in the jeans may not expose skin.
- C. Shorts may be worn. No spandex pants. No undergarments may be showing. No sweatpants or wind pants.
- D. May wear suitable clean sneakers or shoes – no inappropriate footwear, must have closed toe and closed heel.
- E. All clothes must fit appropriately – no oversized clothes or tank tops.
- F. No inappropriate logos or wording

**Girls:**

- A. May wear a blouse, sweater, t-shirt or sweatshirt as long as it is appropriate for an educational setting. No inappropriate logos or wording.
- B. Jeans, any type of dress pants, dresses or skirts are acceptable as long as they are free from chains and properly fitting, any holes may not expose skin.
- C. May not wear spandex pants, sweatpants or wind pants. Shorts and skirts must not be more than three inches above the knee. Tank tops may be worn if straps are three inches wide and scoop neck is not too low.
- D. All clothes must fit appropriately – no oversized clothes.
- E. May wear suitable clean shoes or sneakers – no inappropriate footwear; shoes must be closed toe and closed heel.
- F. Dresses or skirts must be no more than three inches above the knee.
- G. Any clothing which is tight, low cut, backless, strapless, see-through or has spaghetti straps will not be permitted.

**Students who do not follow the dress code will not be admitted into the dance.**

- 3. Students should not leave the building for any reason during the dance. If a student does walk out of a dance, there will be no re-admittance to the dance and attendance at future dances will not be allowed. Dances are for Blue Mountain Middle School students.
- 4. There will be no running, horseplay or inappropriate behavior.
- 5. Students with school rules and regulations infraction(s) may be excluded from dances at the discretion of the administration. Attendance at dances is a privilege.
- 6. Students, who have received in-school or out-of-school suspension, are not permitted at school dances for the remainder of the school year.

**IN ADDITION, THE BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE CODE AS PUBLISHED IN THE PARENT/ STUDENT HANDBOOK IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL STUDENTS AT DANCES. DANCES ARE HELD FOR BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY.**

**ALSO: STUDENTS MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM ALL SCHOOL DANCES. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WALK TO THE DANCE OR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DANCE, WALK HOME OR INTO TOWN. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS, ANYONE VIOLATING THIS RULE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND ANY FURTHER DANCES AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance- Age-appropriate formal attire is acceptable in addition to the aforementioned dance dress policy.**

**School District Rules*****Search and Seizure***

- Lockers and desks are school property and are provided for the convenience of the student. Students may use the lockers and/or desks to store their school supplies and personal belongings.
- School authorities may search a student's belongings, including lockers, desks, electronic devices, purses, backpacks, clothing, and other possessions, without warrant and seize any illegal/prohibited materials. Such material may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings. Prior to the search students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker or desk contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students and/or other school personnel, student lockers or desks, may be searched without prior warning.

***Search of Individual***

A search must be justified at its inception on the basis of reasonable suspicion, and it must be reasonable in scope. If a principal or designee has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is in possession of illegal/prohibited materials, he or she may conduct a search. **Complete Search Policy 226 can be located at [http://www.bmsd.org/?page\\_id=1399](http://www.bmsd.org/?page_id=1399)**

### ***Harassment***

Any alleged claims of harassment and/or discrimination must be immediately reported to the building administrator and/or guidance counselor.

### ***Corporal Punishment***

Corporal punishment as a response to a rule infraction is not used in the Blue Mountain School District; however, reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under the following circumstances:

- To quell a disturbance.
- To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.
- For the purpose of self-defense.
- For the protection of persons or property.

### ***School Property***

Students who willfully cause damage to school property shall be subject to disciplinary action. Students who damage or deface school property may be prosecuted and punished under law. Parents/Guardians shall be held accountable for the actions of their child as per district policy 224.

### ***Academic Restriction***

- If students receive two failing grades (high school/middle school) in a marking period, in major subjects, they will be placed on Academic Restriction.
- Students whose names appear on the restriction list are restricted from all ninth period non-graded activities. They will report to homeroom to work on their academic deficiencies. Students may report to a teacher for work or help with a pass issued by that teacher.
- Progress will be re-evaluated every 20 instructional days. Students, who have improved to the administrator's satisfaction, will be released from restriction and have full privileges restored.

### ***Middle School/High School Detention***

- Daily detention, if needed, may be held at the high school or the middle school. It shall begin at 2:35 p.m. (or earlier), when needed, and end at 4:00 p.m. (or earlier). One (1) calendar day notice may be given to the student prior to beginning of serving detention.
- Saturday detention, if needed, may be held at the high school or middle school from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. A two (2) days notice may be given to the student prior to serving Saturday detention.
- Students assigned will bring work to do; if not, they will be given work. Free reading is not acceptable work. No talking and sleeping. Detention may be rescheduled only for cases of extreme emergency or previously scheduled doctor's appointments. Work, athletic practices and games, band practices, etc., are not considered emergencies.
- If a student is absent the day of his/her detention, he must serve the next scheduled detention after his/her return to school.

### ***Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance***

- It is the responsibility of every student to show proper respect for his/her country and its flag. Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious convictions.
- Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interest of classmates who do wish to participate.

### ***Book bags or backpacks***

Book bags or backpacks will not be permitted to be carried between classes. However, they will be permitted to be brought to school and taken home. Students will be given additional time to go to their lockers during the school day. Gym bags may be used for physical education classes.

### ***School Visitors***

The administration and faculty cordially invite parents and individuals interested in education to visit the school. Appropriate guidelines and procedures enable us to greet and welcome visitors, to foster an understanding of education in our schools and to exercise reasonable control over the frequency and number of visitations so that the educational program is not diminished. It is recommended that parents wait to visit the classroom until the first marking period is completed and refrain from bringing their younger children with them. Parents wishing to visit the classroom should contact the building principal at least two days prior to the visit.

**Anyone who enters the building is required to report to the school office, provide appropriate identification, register via Identakid and secure a permit which signifies that the wearer is an approved visitor. All visitors should sign out via Identakid at the conclusion of their visit.**

The administration reserves the right to refuse school visitors, to limit their visit, and/or to have visitors removed from the school. School Visitors Policy 907 details are available at [http://www.bmsd.org/?page\\_id=1399](http://www.bmsd.org/?page_id=1399).

## SECTION TWO

In this Section You Will Find:

- Discipline Codes by Levels
- Level I, II, III, IV

### Discipline Codes by Levels

To establish reasonable consistency in the schools, a uniform Discipline Code has been developed. Definitions of terms used can be found in the Glossary of Terms. Schools and teachers may develop individual rules and disciplinary practices which supplement the Code but do not conflict with it. The Code applies to all students enrolled in the Blue Mountain Schools in kindergarten through grade 12 and adult education.

Infractions and the responses to them are divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious behavior and consequences. One of any combination of responses may be applied to any infraction. This section of the Code of Student Conduct identifies example infractions for which a student may be disciplined and sets forth example responses. Note, however, that this list is not all-inclusive and a student committing an act of misconduct not listed will be subject to the discretionary authority of the principal. **Consistent with this Code, it is the responsibility of the principal or designee to determine the level of the offense and its appropriate response.** The principal, assistant principal, teachers, bus drivers, and other supervisory personnel are responsible for student discipline. Discipline should be applied after consideration of the eventual effect on the behavior of the student and it should promote improved conduct.

It is the policy of the School Board that there shall be zero tolerance of misbehavior of all kinds.

### Level I - Discipline Code

Level I offenses are acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly classroom procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student's own learning process. Level I offenses will be handled first by the teacher or other staff member involved. When the teacher or other staff member involved determines that additional action is necessary because of continued violation or other concerns, the student will then be referred to the principal or designee for appropriate disciplinary action. The teacher or school administrator/designee, after review of the student's explanation, consultation with school personnel involved, and further investigation (when needed) will determine the appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with this code.

#### Example Infractions

- Hall pass violation.
- Lunch room infractions.
- Classroom/school disruption.
- Dress code violation.
- Harassment/Intimidation
- Late to class / out of assigned area.
- Electronic devices.
- Failure to follow classroom management rules.
- Failure to bring in notes/excuses.
- Public affection.
- Eating, drinking or chewing gum.
- Book bag violation.

#### Example Responses

- Teacher's educational assignments.
- Mandatory tutoring/peer counseling.
- Parental contact by teacher.
- Verbal reprimand.
- Counseling.
- Return of property or restitution.
- Withdrawal of privileges.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Grade point deduction (cheating).
- Classroom management plan.
- School Service Work (SSW).
- Detention.

### Level II - Discipline Code

Level II offenses or intermediate acts of misconduct may include acts of misconduct previously identified which require administrative intervention. It may also include repeated acts of misconduct and acts directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health and safety of others. Level II offenses must be reported to the school administrator/designee (e.g., dean, behavioral resource teacher) because the seriousness or frequency of misconduct requires another level of intervention. School support staff and/or community resource agencies may be involved. The school administrator/designee, after review of the student's explanation, consultation with school personnel involved, and further investigation (when needed), will determine the appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with this Code, and attempt to contact parents.

### **Example Infractions**

- Repeated Level I Offenses.
- Truancy.
- Failure to follow driver/rider procedure.
- Destruction of property.
- Disruptive / inappropriate behavior.
- Cheating/plagiarism (middle school/high school).
- Forgery.
- Gambling.
- Misconduct on school bus or at bus stop.
- Stealing/theft (less than \$20).
- Unauthorized assembly, publication, etc.
- Unsafe acts/actions.
- Cutting classes / detention.
- Tardy to school.
- Computer misuse.
- Merit work pass, work study or work release violation.
- Written derogatory comments about students/teachers/staff.
- Insubordination.
- Deceiving school personnel.

### **Example Responses**

- Level I response.
- Parental contact (by teacher or administrator).
- Verbal reprimand.
- Assigned bus seat.
- Behavioral contract.
- Withdrawal of privileges.
- Confiscation of unauthorized material.
- Return of property or restitution for damages.
- Referral to student services.
- School Service Work.
- Suspension from bus.
- Suspension from extracurricular activities.
- Detention.
- Saturday detention.
- Fines/Citations.
- Suspension of driving privilege.
- Assigned/reassigned bus seats.
- Warning of referral to Level III

### **Level III - Discipline Code**

Level III offenses are serious acts of misconduct. They include but are not limited to: repeated acts of misconduct, those acts with prior warning of referral to Level III action, serious disruptions of the orderly conduct of school, threats to the health, safety, and property of self or others, and other acts of serious misconduct.

Level III offenses must be reported immediately to the school administrator/designee and will follow the established investigative procedure and the assignment of disciplinary action. When an emergency exists, procedures for handling it shall be put into effect immediately to protect the safety of all students. The school district must immediately initiate prosecution for Level III offenses.

### **Example Infractions**

- Repeated Level II Offenses.
- Abusive language or gestures to school personnel or others.
- Assault. / Fighting / Hazing.
- Disorderly conduct / Defiance.
- Destruction of property/vandalism.
- Extortion/threats.
- Harassment/Intimidation of a more serious nature.
- Repeated misconduct of a more serious nature.
- Sexual Harassment.
- Smoking/tobacco, possession or use.
- Theft (more than \$20).
- Trespassing.
- Vaporizer, vaporizer juice, JUUL, JUUL pods, electronic cigarette, possession or use.
- Leaving school without permission.

### **Example Responses**

- Parental contact by administration.
- Behavioral contract (written).
- Referral to Support Services / student assessment.
- Return of property or restitution for damages.
- In-school or Out-of-school suspension.
- Long-term bus suspension.
- Referral to alternative discipline programs.
- Temporary removal from participation extracurricular/co- curricular activities.
- Referral to appropriate prevention or treatment program.
- Referral to law enforcement / fines / citations.
- Saturday detention.
- School Service Work.
- Warning of referral to Level IV.

**NOTICE: Use, possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco products are prohibited on school property and on school buses. School district must initiate prosecution.**

#### **Level IV - Discipline Code**

The most serious acts of misconduct are included in this level. Committing any of these acts may be sufficient grounds for out-of-school suspension and/or consideration for expulsion. Major acts of misconduct must be reported immediately to the school administrator/designee. These violations are so serious that they may require district administrators, outside agencies, and/or fines. **Such acts may also result in criminal penalties.** The principal/designee may recommend the expulsion of any student who has committed a **serious breach of conduct.**

#### **NOTICE: ZERO TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL INCLUDING PROHIBITION OF VIOLENCE**

**AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL** - Violence in schools or on school buses will not be tolerated. Battery against any school personnel by a student is a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately and knowingly commits an act of battery against school personnel will be suspended from school up to ten (10) days. The principal may recommend expulsion and will offer to assist the staff member in pressing such charges as are appropriate. Subject to federal and state mandates, any student charged with a violation such as bomb threat, aggravated assault, battery, or aggravated battery upon a school employee will be removed from the classroom immediately and may be placed in an alternative school setting pending disposition. Any student found to have committed a violation of Act 26 of Pennsylvania (i.e., weapons prohibited policy) may be expelled or may be placed in an alternative school setting.

**NOTICE: PROHIBITION OF WEAPONS** - Violation of weapons is a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Weapons and the use of weapons are prohibited on school property, including buses.

A student who possesses, sells, intends to sell, distributes, intends to distribute, displays, intends to display, transfers, intends to transfer, or uses any firearm/explosive, or weapons of any type, or any article or substance not normally considered to be a weapon, including a look-alike will be suspended up to ten (10) days, and the principal will request a formal hearing by the Board of Education to determine the term of expulsion. In addition, the principal will refer the matter to the local police for criminal prosecution.

"A weapon does not include any device which is authorized by the school for legitimate educational purposes, such as tools, scissors, compasses, pencils, implements for art class, and the like. Any student, however, using any such common item in an aggressive, threatening and/or intimidating manner shall be considered in possession of a weapon, unless the student can demonstrate that the item was/is used in a manner reasonably understood to be its common purpose. The Principal shall be given considerable latitude to determine the intent of the student in such matters."

**NOTICE: PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS** - The use, possession, sale, intending to sell, transferring, intent to transfer, distributing or intending to distribute illicit drugs and alcohol is not permitted and is a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Board Policy prohibits use, possession, sale, intending to sell, transferring, intent to transfer, distribution or intending to distribute alcohol or controlled substances. Drugs which require a physician's prescription or the possession of which is prohibited by law, or those classified as "Designer Drugs" under Pennsylvania statutes. Also prohibited are the use, possession, sale, intending to sell, transferring, intent to transfer, distribution or intending to distribute any substance represented by the student to be alcohol or a controlled substance, the use of a legal substance to attain a mood-altering effect, and the possession of any equipment or device for preparing or taking drugs.

A student using, possessing, selling, intending to sell, transferring, intending to transfer, distributing, or intent to distribute under the influence of any item listed above, will be immediately suspended from school for up to ten (10) days. Following an informal administration hearing, the principal will request a formal hearing by the Board of Education to determine the term of expulsion. In addition, the principal will refer the matter to the local police for criminal prosecution.

**NOTICE: PROHIBITION OF MISCONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUS/AT BUS STOP** - Violation of Board transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a school bus, may be Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

**NOTICE: PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT INDECENT EXPOSURE** - Violation of sexual harassment policy may be a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

### **Example Infractions**

- Repeated Level III Offenses.
- Aggravated battery.
- Alcohol and Drugs.
- Arson and Fire Alarms
- Assault.
- Battery and sexual battery
- Breaking and entering.
- Bomb threat.
- Firearms/explosive.
- Grand larceny.
- Homicide.
- Inciting, leading, or participating in acts that substantially disrupt orderly conduct at a school or school function.
- Kidnapping.
- Making false accusations about school staff member/another student.
- Robbery.
- Serious breach of conduct.
- Serious misconduct on school bus or at bus stop.
- Sex offenses.
- Sexual harassment of a more serious nature.
- Stolen property: possession, use, distribution, or sale.
- Terroristic threats.
- Unsafe act/actions.
- Weapons (other than firearms).

### **Example Responses**

- Parental contact (mandatory).
- Return of property or restitution for damages.
- Referral to student support services.
- In-school or out-of-school suspension.
- Referral to law enforcement.
- Recommendation for expulsion.
- Long-term bus suspension.
- Referral of students to alternative placement.
- Referral for student assessment.
- Fines/Citations.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **In This Section You Will Find:**

- Grievance Procedure for Students and Parents.

### **Grievance Procedures for Students and Parents**

#### ***Student Rights***

Students have a right to present a complaint regarding unfair treatment.

#### ***Student Responsibility***

Students have a responsibility to learn and follow procedures for filing complaints. Grievance procedures are used to handle serious problems when students believe there has been a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, including due process. Except in instances where there is a clearly defined procedure other than the one described here, a student grievance should be pursued sequentially through four levels.

**Level I - Informal Discussion:** The student should discuss the problem with the person who is responsible for what the student believes to be a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

**Level II - School Principal:** If the problem has not been resolved at the informal level, the parent and/or student should discuss it with the principal or the principal's designee within five school days of the Level I discussion.

**Level III - Superintendent's Office:** If the problem has not been resolved at Level II, the parent and/or student may, within ten (2) school days, present the grievance to the superintendent or designee. The student and principal will submit summary positions to the superintendent. The superintendent or designee will respond to both parties within fifteen (15) school days after receiving the written statements.

**Level IV - School Board:** If the problem has not been resolved at Level III, the parent and/or student may request, in writing, a meeting with a committee of the board of school directors. The student, principal, and superintendent will submit summary positions to this school board committee. The committee of the school board will respond to all parties by arranging a meeting within fifteen (15) days of the written request.

## SECTION FOUR

### **In This Section You Will Find:**

- Exclusion from School
- Procedures for Suspensions (Exclusion from school)
- Procedures for Expulsion
- Procedures for Hearings.

### **Exclusions from School**

Suspension, which is a function of the school administrator, and expulsion, which is a function of the board of school directors, are serious disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed against students under procedures conforming with due process of law. Suspensions may be either in school or out-of-school. The administration will determine which is best for not only the student but also the rest of the student body. Students are not permitted to attend school activities (co-curricular or extracurricular) during their term of ISS/OSS. Students serving OSS are not permitted on school district property.

### **Procedures for Suspension (Exclusion from School)**

The principal or teacher in charge of a public school may suspend any pupil for disobedience or misconduct for a period of one (1) to ten (10) consecutive school days and shall report the suspension to the superintendent as soon as possible thereafter.

No student may be suspended without notice of the reasons for which he/she is suspended. The student and parent(s)/guardian will be given the opportunity for an informal hearing with the designated school official. A student may be suspended up to ten (10) school days following a hearing by the principal or designee.

No student may receive an in-school suspension without notice for which she/he is suspended and an opportunity to be heard prior to the time the suspension becomes effective. The parent(s)/guardian shall be informed of the suspension action taken by the school.

Should the in-school suspension exceed ten (10) consecutive school days, the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian shall be offered an informal hearing with the designated school official. Such hearing shall take place prior to the 11th day of the school suspension.

### **Procedures for Expulsion**

The board may either expel for a period exceeding ten (10) school days or may permanently expel from the rolls of this district any student whose misconduct and disobedience is such as to warrant this sanction. No student shall be expelled without an opportunity for a formal hearing before the board of school directors. The student under 17 years of age who is expelled forfeits his/her right to an education in the schools of this district, but has not been excused from compliance with the compulsory attendance statutes.

Parents or guardians who are unable to provide an education for their child shall submit a written statement within thirty (30) days that they are unable to do so. The district shall then make provisions for the student's education. If thirty (30) days pass without satisfactory evidence that the required education is being provided to the student, the district shall recontact the parent and make provisions for the student's education. The board shall continue to be responsible for the education of the student expelled and shall provide an alternate education for any student suspended for more than ten (10) days.

### **Procedure for Hearings**

Education is a statutory right, and students must be afforded all appropriate elements of due process if they are to be excluded from school. In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing, which is a fundamental element of due process.

A formal hearing is required in all expulsion actions. This hearing may be held before the board of school directors or a duly authorized committee of the board, or a qualified hearing examiner appointed by the board. When the hearing is conducted by a committee of the board or a hearing examiner, a majority vote of the entire school board is required to expel a student. The purpose of the informal hearing is to enable the student to meet with the appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being suspended or to show why the student should not be suspended.

## **Bullying/Cyberbullying**

The district prohibits all forms of bullying by district students. Bullying is defined as an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

Reports of bullying should be reported to the building principal or designee as soon as possible. A student who violates the bullying policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.

Possible consequences for violations of this policy:

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
5. Exclusion from school sponsored activities.
6. Detention.
7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Complete policy can be located at: <http://www.bmsd.org/bmsd/District%20Information/Policy%20241.PDF>

## **Suicide Prevention**

The district shall utilize a multifaceted approach which integrates school and community based supports. District employees shall be responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention and response. Warning signs are indication that someone might be in danger of suicide either immediately or in the near future. Warning signs include, but are not limited to:

- Withdrawal from friends, family or society
- Dramatic mood changes
- Recklessness or risky behavior
- Expressions such as anger, agitation, anxiety etc.

Reports shall be made to the building administration and/or SAP team member. This building level suicide prevention coordinator will act as point of contact for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. The 24/7 Crisis Hotline for Schuylkill County is Schuylkill County We Help # which is 1-877-9WE-HELP (877-993-4357).

Complete policy can be located at: [http://www.bmsd.org/?page\\_id=1399](http://www.bmsd.org/?page_id=1399)

## ***"General Information"*** **People and Places**

### **Textbooks**

Whenever a textbook is given to a student, the condition is checked by the teacher issuing it. At the end of the term or upon the pupil's withdrawal from school, the pupil must return the books issued or is called upon to make a reasonable payment. Since a free textbook is not a gift to a pupil but rather a loan, the school must assume custodial responsibility for the book. The student must try to keep the book in usable condition during the period of its expected life, which is about five years. When a book reveals evidence of gross misuse by a pupil, it is the responsibility of the teacher to deal with the pupil not merely for the purpose of protecting public property, but also as much for the purpose of teaching the pupil to respect public property.

### **Lost and Found**

All items found are sent to the office. If a student loses something, he/she should get a pass from his/her teacher and go to the office, during activity period, seeking the item.

## **Locks**

Locks for gym lockers or hall lockers may be purchased by any student in the office for a rental fee of \$5.00. No other locks may be used on school lockers.

## **Early Dismissals**

Requests for early dismissals should be only for the following reasons: doctor appointments, dental appointments, or any other appointment which could not be made at any other time. A regular excuse form should be used to request all early dismissals. They are to be given to your homeroom teacher. The homeroom teacher will note the time of the early dismissal on the Teacher's Report of Absence sent to the office each morning. **WHEN LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY, THE STUDENT MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN OUT; UPON RETURNING TO SCHOOL, THE STUDENT MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN.** An appointment card from the doctor or dentist must be returned to the office at this time. If the student is unable to return to school the same day, he must return the appointment card to the office prior to the beginning of the next day.

## **Tardiness**

All tardy students must come to the office for an excuse to be admitted to class. This excuse must be returned to the homeroom teacher. When a student has **accumulated 4 unexcused tardies** to school per year, he/she will be assigned one detention. Subsequent tardiness equals an additional detention.

## **Transfers and School Withdrawals**

Parents must notify the principal or the counselor before withdrawing a son or daughter from school.

## **Emergency Closing**

Each year there are occasions when it becomes necessary to delay the opening of school, conduct early dismissals or close school due to emergencies or weather. The following stations will announce our district:

WPPA – 1360	WAVT – 101.9 FM
WRFY – 102.5 FM	WHTM-TV & ABC 27
WGAL – TV 8	WNEP – TV 16
WBRE – TV 28	WYOU – TV 22

## **Use of Vehicles**

Middle school students may not ride bicycles or drive to or from school. Additionally, students may not walk to or from school.

## **Video Surveillance/Audio Surveillance**

District property may be under video surveillance. Recordings from video surveillance may be used in disciplinary investigations. School buses may also be under audio/video surveillance which may be used in disciplinary investigations.

## **Passes**

Students must have a pass from a teacher to go anywhere in the building. Students going out of their rooms should have a pass from the teacher they are going to see. The sign out sheet in each classroom must be signed; a written pass or a special lavatory pass must be secured from the teacher in charge before going to the lavatory, unless an extreme emergency exists. Students must report to their assigned areas before going to any other area of the building. Passes for 9th period travel must be pre-signed. Students should secure a pass from the faculty member to be visited prior to the 9th period. If a student does not have a pass, they will be considered out of their assigned area and disciplinary action may be implemented.

## **Telephones**

The use of office phones is restricted to direct school business. Pupils will not be called to the telephone. Only urgent messages will be delivered to the pupil.

## **Assembly**

The purpose of this period is to enable the school students to participate in and to observe programs which are educational, entertaining, and interesting. It is during this time that the real character of the school is shown. Students are expected to behave like ladies and gentlemen. When a person is speaking, a play is being produced, or a musical number is being rendered, courteous attention should be given. Talking or studying is entirely out of place. Applaud by clapping hands - no whistling or stomping! Students will enter the assembly room quickly and quietly as they are directed. Students will be assigned specific areas for all assembly programs. Inappropriate behavior will be referred for disciplinary action.

## **Field Trip Restrictions**

Student attendance on school-sponsored field trips is subject to individual advisors' guidelines.

## **Fire Drill**

The school conducts fire drills in order to teach students how to move out of the building quickly and in an orderly manner. The directions as to route and exit to be used are posted in each room. When the fire bell rings, the teacher should designate several students to close all classroom windows and doors, then lead students from the building using the prescribed route. When leaving the room pupils should proceed at a moderate rate of speed, single file with one arm's length space between each pupil. When the first pupils reach the exit doors, they will hold them open until the building is cleared. No talking is permitted. During a fire drill, students moving from the building should remain on sidewalks or move into parking and play areas. The first groups leaving should move far enough from the buildings to make room for pupils using a given exit without crowding the area nearest the exit.

## **Health Information**

A nurse is on duty for all phases of the school health program. Her primary role is for health appraisals which include eye screening, hearing screening, spinal screening, and dental and medical examinations. First aid will be administered for sudden illnesses and injuries that occur during school hours. The nurse is not responsible for injuries occurring outside of the school. In addition, the nurse is not expected to treat students who come to school sick.

No student will be admitted to the nurse's office without a pass except before school, injuries from gym, shop, or from lunch. Private physician forms for grade 6 medical exams must be returned by **January 3, 2023** and private dental forms for grade 7 must be returned by **February 1, 2023**.

As of the school year 2011-12, the PA School Health Code now requires that all students attending 7<sup>th</sup> grade have the following immunizations: 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap); and 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV). This requirement is mandatory for attendance, unless there is a documented medical or religious exemption. Dates must be submitted in the first five days of school or the student risks exclusion. A physician's note is required for a student to carry a water bottle during the school day.

## **Physical Education**

Physical Education excuses from parents should be given to the school nurse to be recorded. A copy of the excuse will be forwarded to the PE instructor. In cases of temporary disability, the student must bring a note from a parent or guardian asking for an excuse from PE stating the reason. This will be honored for two gym days only. **Only two parent notes per marking period will be allowed.** For longer term disability, the student must bring a note from his/her doctor providing a reason why he/she is to be excused and the duration for which the student is excused. An adaptive PE program will be set up for the duration of the disability.

## **Prescribed Medication**

Before any medication, medicines prescribed by a physician, patent drug and/or aspirin, or home remedy may be administered to any student during school hours, the board shall require written request of the parent which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the board and its employees of liability for administration of medication. Also required is the written order of the prescribing physician which shall include the purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or special circumstances under which the medication shall be administered, length of period for which medication is prescribed, and possible side effects of medication. Medication on doctor's standing orders may be administered by the school nurse without written permission from the physician. Students may not carry any medications, medicines or drugs prescribed by a physician with them during the school day with the exception of prescription inhalers and Epinephrine Auto Injectors as per District Policy 210.1. Page 1 and 2 of the Medication Permit Paper must still be completed. Please see District Policy 210 for information regarding pick-up and delivery of all medication.

## **Insurance**

Group accident insurance is available, but is not compulsory, for all students at a nominal cost. This policy covers various medical costs arising from accidental injury to a student while engaged in a school activity. Information relative to how such coverage may be obtained and annual premium costs is issued in a special bulletin at the beginning of each school year. In the event of an injury, parents of insured students are advised to obtain forms from the office.

## **School Activity Accounts**

The office acts as treasurer for all school activity accounts. The treasurer of each organization will sort and count all money to be deposited. A deposit slip must accompany each deposit. All activity accounts are balanced at the end of each month. Withdrawals may be made by submitting a voucher approved by the student treasurer and the faculty sponsor.

## **Student Photographs**

Student photographs will be taken each year. A packaged assortment in color is offered at a reasonable cost. It is suggested that students dress and groom neatly. Student ID cards are part of the packet. Student photographs will be taken September 16, 2022. Make-up date is October 31, 2022.

## Counseling Services

The guidance counselors are participating members of the teacher-administrative team. The counselors help the student establish his/her own goals, find solutions to his/her problems, and develop his/her power of self-direction and self-management. Counseling services are provided through various techniques: individual counseling, small group counseling, testing and other self-analysis procedures, and parent conferences. Parents, too, are encouraged to meet with the counselor to discuss specific questions concerning their son or daughter. Parent-teacher conferences should be scheduled through the guidance secretary.

## Student Assistance

The Student Assistance program is a program designed to help students cope with problems they might encounter. A core team composed of Dr. Guers, Mrs. Frain, Mr. McGonigle, Mrs. Abel, Mrs. Kerstetter, Ms. Brassington, and Mr. Gombar, work with community service agencies to help students gain coping skills. If you or someone you know is having a problem, see a member of the core team.

## Cafetorium

Lunches are either purchased at school or brought from home. The lunch procedure will be explained the first day. Remember the cafetorium must be neat and clean for all students. Middle School students are encouraged but not required to participate in the Point of Sale system. This system simplifies payment for any food purchased.

## Cafeteria Food Service Payment / Collection

All students who participate in the district meal services are expected to pay the appropriate price for lunch/breakfast meals and items. Payments for meal funds may be paid on a daily basis, or families may establish electronic lunch funds for their children. Information on establishing and maintaining these lunch funds is distributed to all students at the beginning of the school year and additional information is available in the building offices. Free or reduced priced meals are available to eligible families, and information on applying for this service is distributed to all students at the beginning of the school year. Families may apply for free or reduced lunches at any time throughout the year should your financial situation change. Applications are available in each school office.

If your child has a negative balance, you must do one of the following:

1. Send a payment in with your student. Checks should be made out to: **Blue Mountain Lunch Fund** (any costs and fees incurred by BMSD due to insufficient funds shall be paid by the parent or legal guardian). **Cash is accepted but not recommended.**
2. Mail a payment to: Food Service Department, Blue Mountain School District, 685 Red Dale Rd., P.O. Box 188, Orwigsburg, PA17961
3. Create a personalized lunch account at [www.MySchoolAccount.com](http://www.MySchoolAccount.com) and apply sufficient funds to your student's food service lunch account electronically (there is a small fee charged for each time you add funds, but viewing the account is free). You must create a parent's account prior to adding your child. At the home page click on the "create account" hyperlink then follow the directions given. You will need your child's student ID number, which can be obtained from his/her school office. Please be advised that the accounts are electronically updated nightly; therefore payments made in the morning will not be on your students account until the following day.

Families may apply for free or reduced lunches at any time throughout the year should your financial situation change. Applications are available in each school office. Approved applications are not retroactive and free or reduced status begins only upon approval date.

If your child does not have money to pay for his/her lunch or breakfast, and has not paid his/her outstanding balance and/or discussed another option with the Food Service Department, the food service personnel will follow the Administrative Guidelines listed below:

**Middle School and High School Students** - The student will be allowed to charge up to \$5.00 which will be applied to his/her account. The cost will also be charged to the student's account balance due. At breakfast the student will receive cereal, milk and 100% juice. The cost will also be charged to the student's account balance due. **At each grade level, when a student reaches his/her meal charging limit, he/she will be prohibited from purchasing a la carte item.**

The above actions will stay in effect until the student's account is brought current. The sandwich choice will either be peanut butter and jelly or a Deli sandwich to accommodate for those students who have a peanut allergy. If your child has any medical concerns that may require him/her to have food, this must be discussed with the building Principal who will determine the appropriate action.

**A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for any checks returned for non-sufficient funds.**

**Any outstanding student balances of \$25 or more will be forwarded to a collection agency or Magistrate office. All costs associated with this action will be paid for by the parent or legal guardian.**

## **Cafeteria Rules**

- All students must eat lunch in the cafeteria unless otherwise instructed.
- Students will be seated by homeroom.
- Students may not change seats during the lunch period.
- Students should keep their voices at normal conversational level.
- The tables, chairs, and floor should be cleaned before dismissal.
- Students will be told by the teacher on duty when they may leave the cafeteria. Administration maintains authority to have quiet time if noise level is too loud or to assign seats for inappropriate behavior.
- In consideration to those in classes, students need to leave the cafeteria quietly as they are at their lockers.
- Students are not permitted to take food or drink from the cafeteria following their lunch period, unless they packed their lunch and it is concealed in their lunch bag.
- Any student who causes a disruption in the cafeteria may be required to pack lunch and/or eat in an area assigned by the administration. Also, further disciplinary action may be implemented.
- Disciplinary action will be implemented for any type of food/drink throwing. First offense, assigned seat and one detention; second offense, assigned seat and Saturday detention; third offense, assigned seat and in-school suspension.

## **Library**

The library will be open at 7:30 a.m. each school day, and will close at 2:45 p.m.

To go to the library, a student must secure a permission slip from the instructor in charge of the classroom for that period. The student must have the time stamped on the permission slip when entering the library and when leaving. This permission slip does not allow the student to go anywhere other than the library. The number of students who may be sent to the library during activity period will be determined at the beginning of each school year and passes must be secured from the librarian prior to the activity period.

## **MANDATORY ACADEMIC SUPPORT (MAS)**

Mandatory Academic Support (MAS) is a program that provides structured assistance to underachieving students. Students may be assigned MAS for failing to complete an assigned assessment and/or for chronic failure to complete homework. In addition, students or parents can request MAS by contacting the teacher in the subject area where help is needed. Each of the five major subjects will determine the criteria for a student to be assigned to MAS. The MAS program will take place on Monday- Thursday from 2:35 to 3:35 P.M. on an as-needed basis.

Projects, papers, essays, lab reports and other assignments including homework are an integral part of the learning process. A great deal of student learning is lost when these assignment items are not completed by students. In an effort to improve the learning process, Blue Mountain Middle School teachers will assign students to the Mandatory Academic Support (MAS) program.

If a student is assigned to MAS, parental contact shall be made by the assigning teacher. MAS sessions will continue until the work due is completed. Students who fail to report to MAS will be referred to building administration for disciplinary action.

### **Please remember:**

- Students will be assigned to MAS for failing to complete an assignment by the communicated deadline and/or for chronically failing to complete homework. Also, students or parents may request MAS by contacting the teacher.
- Students that have been assigned MAS, but complete the work before the assigned MAS date will not be required to attend MAS. Parents and students will be notified.
- Students will remain in school for the entire MAS time period 2:35-3:35.

# Student Activities

Student activities at Blue Mountain Middle School provide opportunities for students to engage in special interests in addition to curricular experiences.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

BMSD encourages students to pursue clubs and interests that may not be related directly to any of the curriculum programs offered in the district. In pursuit of such goal and in compliance with law, the district maintains a limited open forum in which students may meet for voluntary student-initiated activities unrelated directly to the curriculum, regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech related to such activities. Students should consult BMSD Policy 122 for greater details. Students participating in extracurricular activities are required to adhere to the rules and regulations established for each group or organization. Such rules are in addition to the general school district rules and should be published and reviewed with the students and, when appropriate, their parents. Suspension from an extracurricular activity for violation of rules or regulations established for the organization or activity is the prerogative of the advisor or coach. Expulsion from an activity may occur only after due process procedures have been followed.

## **Middle School Band**

The band is made up of middle school students. The group performs in the Christmas and Spring Concerts and is designed to serve the student as a stepping stone from elementary work to the senior band. Here students of advanced instrumental classes gain valuable ensemble experience.

## **Middle School Jazz Band**

The middle school jazz band is made up of leading woodwind, brass and percussion players from the band. The jazz band performs in the Christmas and Spring Concerts.

## **Student Publications**

Students have the opportunity to participate in producing two student publications. The "Eaglet" is a newspaper published every month. This newspaper contains interviews, student items, and activities about Blue Mountain Middle School. The "Yearbook" is issued at the end of the school year. This book contains the pictures of all the students and action pictures of the middle school activities.

## **Student Council**

A student council is organized to stimulate cooperation between the students and faculty, to promote school spirit by more participation in school activities, and to help to develop better citizens for the future.

## **Election of Officers**

Primary elections for president, vice president and secretary are held in March. A student wishing to run for an office turns in a petition of nomination. All students wishing to run for office must be in the seventh grade. Names are placed on a ballot and every student may vote for one candidate for each office. From the results of the primary election two candidates for each office have been chosen. After a week of campaigning, every student is again asked to vote in a general election for one person to hold each office.

## **Election of Representatives**

Two representatives are elected from each homeroom. To be elected, a candidate must be approved by the homeroom teacher. After a student turns in a signed petition to be placed on the ballot, the homerooms vote. The two students receiving the most votes will be the elected members.

## **Eagle Star Awards**

Bi-monthly, the administration will recognize students for good behavior at the Middle School. Faculty members will nominate students of their choice in the categories of academics, arts and talents, citizenship, spirit and sports. All sixth, seventh or eighth grade students are eligible. Students must be passing all subjects and cannot be a disciplinary problem. Students must display good citizenship and have a good attitude toward school (be punctual, complete homework assignments, participate in class and be courteous). Also, students must make some contribution to the middle school, such as extracurricular activities or scholastic achievements. The Eagle Star winners will be recognized by having their names on the televisions in the cafeteria.

## **Teacher of the Year**

An eligible teacher must be a professional employee of the middle school. Also, the teacher must not have won in the previous five years. The method of selection is as follows: Names of qualifying teachers are placed on a ballot, each student will vote for one male and one female teacher of their choice. In the event of a tie, the Student Council, being a representative sample of the entire student body, will cast the deciding vote. The teacher with the most votes will be "Teacher of the Year." Each teacher will receive a plaque.

### **Blue Mountain's Peer Helpers**

A peer helper program, Peers Encouraging Peers (PEP), has been developed at Blue Mountain Middle School. The goal of PEP is to help students and recommend them to the student assistance program.

### **Student Activities - 9th Period**

Activities are organized under teacher sponsorship as the demand for an activity presents itself. Some of the activities offered are: peer tutoring, swimming, art, computers, guidance, library work, artist-in-residence, poster contests, science fair preparation, chorus, band, newspaper, peer helpers, yearbook and gym.

### **Interscholastic Athletics**

An interscholastic athletics program is offered to students in the following sports, under the auspices of the high school principal, athletic director and interscholastic athletic coaches. All extra-curricular participation is subject to the guidelines set forth by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Blue Mountain School District. BMMS offers the following:

- a. Boys' basketball
- b. Girls' basketball
- c. Wrestling
- d. Soccer (Boys)
- e. Soccer (Girls)
- f. Cross Country (Boys/Girls)
- g. Track & Field (Boys/Girls)
- h. Football
- i. Softball (Girls)

**Eligibility** - In order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be passing four (4) major subjects or the equivalent.

**Extra-Curricular Activity Restrictions** - Students participating in extra-curricular activities are subject to the rules and regulations of that activity's governing body and school rules. In order to be eligible for a student to participate in a practice, competition, or an extra-curricular event, students must report to school by 9:30 a.m. Exceptional reasons for which students may be excused must meet administrative approval.

If a student leaves school during the school day because of illness, the student may not participate that day or evening unless he/she has a physician's approval.

# *Glossary of Terms*

**Abusive Language:**

Swearing, cursing, or using vulgar words.

**Aggravated Battery:**

When a person intentionally or knowingly causes great bodily harm or permanent disfigurement, or uses a deadly weapon.

**Act-Alike Drugs:**

Contain the same ingredients as true look-alike stimulant drugs and have the same effects on their users, but do not physically resemble controlled substances or over-the-counter drugs.

**Alcohol:**

The violation of Board policy prohibiting the possession, sale, transfer, distribution or use of alcoholic beverages, including, but not limited to, beer, wine/wine coolers, and liquor.

**Arson:**

Setting a fire on/in school property.

**Assault:**

A violent physical or verbal attack or an unlawful attempt or threat to injure another physically

**Battery:**

An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual.

**Breaking and Entering/Burglary:**

The unlawful entry into a building or other structure or vehicle with the intent to commit a felony or theft.

**Cheating:**

Willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. Copying: includes copying of papers or computer disks, plagiarizing, counterfeiting, and making/using false identification.

**Clothing:**

(Shorts, skirts, dresses, and other clothing of variable lengths) must extend to the fingertips or below with the arms hanging in a relaxed manner.

**Computer Misuse:**

Inappropriate use, including but not limited to: breaking into restricted accounts or networks, modifying files without permission, illegally copying software, and entering or distributing unauthorized files (e.g. pornographic files).

**Contraband:**

Items which are prohibited at school.

**Defiance:**

Not following directions of staff, failure to observe rules, and openly challenging authority.

**Designer Drugs:**

Synthetic substances manufactured in legal or illegal laboratories to approximate the drug action of naturally found substances.

**Detention:**

Remaining after school or on Saturday as an alternative to suspension for certain misconduct.

**Disorderly Conduct/Classroom Disruption:**

Any act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, behavior substantially disrupting the orderly learning environment or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or staff.

**Drugs (excluding alcohol):**

Violation of the board's prohibition of the possession, sale, transfer, distribution, or use of controlled substances excluding alcohol: drugs which require a physician's prescription or the possession of which is prohibited by law, or those classified as "designer drugs." Also prohibited is the sale of any substance represented by the student to be a controlled substance; the use of any legal substance to attain a mood-altering effect; and the possession of any equipment or device for preparing or taking drugs.

**Expulsion:**

The removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one additional year of attendance.

**Fighting (Mutual altercation):**

Mutual participation in an altercation.

**Firearms/Explosives:**

Violation of the board's prohibition of firearms of any kind (operable, or inoperable, loaded or unloaded).

**Forgery:**

The making of a false or misleading written communication to a school staff member with either the intent to deceive the staff member or under circumstances which would be reasonably calculated to deceive the staff member.

**Gambling:**

Any participation in games (or activities) of chance for money and/or other things of value.

**Harassment/intimidation:**

Using repeated unwelcome remarks to annoy, demean, or ridicule another; or forcing another to do something, or preventing another from doing something, by threatening, bullying, or making her/him afraid.

**In-School Suspension:**

The temporary removal of a student from the student's regular school program and placement in an alternative program, under the supervision of school district certified teacher, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Students will receive classroom assignments. Students are expected to complete all assignments.

**Kidnapping:**

The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will, or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:**

The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds.

**Non-prescription:**

Over-the-counter diet aids, "stay awake" pills, and sleep aids are also related to the look-alike drug problem. Most of these psychoactive substances are legitimately marketed and sold and do not resemble controlled substances. However, these products contain some of the same ingredients (PPA caffeine) in various combinations as do the true look-alikes, and can be subject to the same kind of abuse.

**Out-of-School Suspension:**

The temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal/ designee, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days, beginning at the end of the school day.

**Plagiarize/Plagiarism:**

The act of using the ideas or writings of another person and to use or pass on as one's own work.

**Progressive Discipline:**

Consequences for the same repeated offense become more serious each time.

**Restitution:**

Restoring or paying for damaged or stolen property.

**Robbery/Extortion (Using force):**

The taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force, or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear.

**School Day:**

That portion of the day during which school is actually in session.

**School Service Work:**

Supervised activities related to the upkeep and maintenance of school facilities, as an alternative to other disciplinary responses.

**Serious Breach of Conduct:**

Misconduct including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open defiance of authority of a staff member, violence against persons or property, or any other act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school.

**Sex Offenses:**

Sexual behavior or conduct without force or threat of force and where the victim is capable of giving consent. Included, but is not limited to, indecent exposure, obscenity, and the possession or distribution of pornographic materials.

**Sexual Battery (Includes attempted):**

Any sexual act directed against another person forcibly and/or against the person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

**Sexual Harassment:**

Violation of Board policy prohibiting sexual harassment. Consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written or physical contact of a sexual nature when such conduct substantially interferes with a student's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment. It includes but is not limited to: verbal harassment or abuse, pressure for sexual activity, repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications, unwelcome or inappropriate touching, or suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats.

**Skipping:**

Unexcused absence(s) from class period(s) or unexcused absence(s) from school day(s).

**Smoking/Tobacco:**

Violation of Board prohibition of the use, possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco products on school property, at school functions, on school buses, or at extracurricular/co-curricular activities.

**Stealing Theft/Larceny (Personal or school property):**

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person; including but not limited to pocket-picking, purse or backpack-snatching, and theft of bicycle/vehicle. (Grand Larceny - over \$20; Petty Larceny - under \$20).

**Tardy:**

Late for school.

**Trespassing:**

To enter or remain on public school property without authorization or invitation and without lawful purpose for entry, including students under suspension or expulsion.

**True Look-Alike Drugs:**

Mimic prescription stimulants and depressants such as amphetamine and methaqualone (Quaaludes), in their size, color, shape, or markings. The look-alike drugs which are promoted as uppers because of their amphetamine - like properties generally contain one or more of the following non-prescription stimulants: caffeine, phenylpropanolamine (PPA), or ephedrine. The look-alike drugs which are promoted as "downers" because of their tranquilizing effects usually contain antihistamines.

**Unsafe Act/Action:**

Any behavior which compromises the safety of any individual, including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, or slapping others.

**Vandalism:**

The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it; includes graffiti.

**Weapons (Other than firearms):**

Violation of the board's prohibition of any pointed, sharp, or blunt instrument which has no legitimate educational purpose for the student at school, and items that closely resemble weapons (look-alike) or operate similarly, such as pellet guns, BB guns, and starter pistols. Also prohibited is the use, as a weapon, of any article or substance not normally considered to be a weapon, e.g. rocks, pens, pencils.



# BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are using this Handbook as a means of communicating between the home and school. There are many policies, regulations, and services discussed in these pages. Please read and keep this Handbook readily available throughout the year.

Many of your questions have been anticipated and are discussed in some detail. We are always available to clarify any school matter. The telephone numbers listed for key staff members will prove helpful. Do not hesitate to use them.

Close cooperation between the home and school is essential to promote the best interests of each child. Parents are encouraged to visit school and to attend scheduled meetings of parents and teachers. Mutual benefits occur when there is a meaningful exchange of information between the home and school.

Of special importance are our discipline, attendance/truancy and dress code policies, which are in effect district-wide. Please be sure to read them carefully.

A parent or guardian is asked to rip out this page and complete the bottom of this sheet and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

Thank you,  
Mr. James McGonigle  
Principal

Mr. Timothy Gombar  
Assistant Principal

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK RECEIPT 2022 – 2023

**I have received the handbook and read the discipline, attendance/truancy and dress code policies.**

My child's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My child's homeroom teacher is: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this receipt no later than September 12, 2022**