BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/ REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 13, 2022 5:00 PM

Mission Statement

"The mission of Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future."

I. Call meeting to Order
II. Public Forum
III. Consent Agenda (Note: Items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items at the meeting unless a Board Member requests an item removed from the agenda for separate action.)
   A. Approval of Agenda
   B. Approval of Minutes of the Monday, May 9, 2022, Regular Meeting
   C. Personnel: Resignation(s) and Hiring of Personnel
   D. Presentation of June Bills for Approval and Payment
IV. Items Removed From the Consent Agenda for Separate Action
V. Reports
   A. Administrative Reports
   B. Committee Report(s)
   C. Construction Report
   D. Coordinator Report
   E. Spotlight Report- Activities
   F. Strategic Planning Update- End of Year Summary
VI. Unfinished Business
   A. Discuss, Consider and Take Action on Construction Change Order(s)
   B. Discuss and Consider Summer Maintenance and Repair Projects
VII. New Business
   A. Discuss, Consider and Take all Necessary Action with Regard to the Findings and Recommendations of the Selection Committee for the Position of Construction Manager at Risk for the Proposed New High School Facility Project
   B. Discuss, Consider and Take all Necessary Action with Regard to Approving the Construction Manager at Risk Agreement for the Proposed New High School Facility *
   C. Discuss, Consider and Take to Authorize the Superintendent to Negotiate an Agreement with DLR Group to Proceed with the Schematic Design and Design Development Phases of the High School #2 project *
   D. Discuss, Consider and Take Action on Elementary, Middle School and High School Handbook Revisions

E. Approval of Curriculum and Personnel Proposals
F. Discuss and Consider Growth: Finances- Piper Sandler
G. Discuss and Consider Growth: HS Site Development Planning- DLR Group
H. Discuss and Consider Growth: Facility Needs for a Bond Issue- DLR Group & Administration
I. Discuss and Consider Programming: Bullying and Student Citizenship- Administration
J. Executive Session for Discussion of Possible School Site Acquisition

VIII. Time and Date of Next Regular Meeting will be July 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bennington District Board Room. The Annual Bennington City Council and Bennington Public Schools Board joint meeting date and time is to be determined. (Committee Meetings to be determined)

IX. Adjournment

NOTICE: COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT: The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the wall of the Board room.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM: Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the table situated immediately in front of the Board, sign your name and address on the sign-in sheet and state your name to the Board of Education.Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less. Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at the Board meeting. General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

BY: BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 6:00 PM
BENNINGTON DISTRICT BOARD ROOM

Posting Information: Notice published in the Douglas County Post-Gazette on 05/04/2022. Notice of meeting posted on the District website. Agendas posted at all Bennington Public School buildings three days prior to the meeting date.

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM. Mark Byars: Present, Valerie Calderon: Present, Tim Dreessen: Present, Heather Goertz: Present, Kara Neuverth: Present, Allyson Slobotski: Present.

I. Call meeting to Order- Board President Mark Byars called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M., noting the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which was located on the south wall of the Board Room, governed the meeting.

II. Public Forum- No members of the public were present to speak.

III. Consent Agenda (Note: Items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items at the meeting unless a Board Member requests an item removed from the agenda for separate action.)
MOTION PASSED: Motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items (or as presented): - Approval of Agenda - Approval of Minutes of the Monday, April 11, 2022, Regular Meeting, and April 25, 2022, Special Meeting - Approve May Claims for Payment - Personnel: Resignation(s) and Hiring of Personnel - Consider Temporary Non-Resident Request(s), passed with a motion by Tim Dreessen and a second by Valerie Calderon. Heather Goertz: Abstain (With Conflict), Mark Byars: Yea, Valerie Calderon: Yea, Tim Dreessen: Yea, Kara Neuverth: Yea, Allyson Slobotski: Yea
May 2022 Hiring/Resignations: **Certificated Staff Hire:** Autumn Muller - Elementary School Teacher (5th Grade, Elizabeth Herzberg - Elementary School Teacher (Kindergarten), Catheryne Kuhl - Elementary School Teacher (K-8 HAL), Mike Davis - Middle School Teacher (Academic and Behavioral Interventionist), Denise Caniglia - Elementary Counselor, Nicole Meyer - Elementary School Teacher (Special Education), Kathy Albin- Elementary School Teacher (Spanish), Mickayla Hegy - Elementary School Teacher (3rd Grade), Haley Kucera - Elementary School Teacher (5th Grade), Amy Ackerman - Elementary School Teacher (Media Specialist), April DeHaan - Elementary School Teacher (K-5 Music), Daniel Gray - High School Teacher (Science), Garet Wright - Elementary School Teacher (Elementary Special Education), William Longo - Elementary School Teacher (3rd Grade). **Support Staff Hire:** Emma Boardman - Summer School Paraprofessional, Trevor Heese - Summer School Paraprofessional, Katelyn Heese - Summer School Paraprofessional, Reece Lampe - Summer School Paraprofessional, Abigail LaSure - Summer School Paraprofessional, Hannah Thacker - Summer School Paraprofessional, Tammi Nordmeyer - Summer School Paraprofessional, Bryn Stansberry - Summer School Paraprofessional, Kulwinder Kaur – Paraprofessional, Marc Austin - District Transportation. **Administrative Staff Hire:** Cody Bobolz - Assistant High School Principal for the 2022/23 school term.

Renee Rucker - Change of assignment: Middle School Principal for the 2022/23 school term.
Danielle Robb - Change of assignment: Elementary Principal for the 2022/23 school term.
Certificated Staff Resignations: Emily Weitzenkamp, Patricia Hawkins, Justine Kreifels, Cheri Anderson, Ryan Battani, Mitchell Hofer, Jessica Leever, Kimberly Mitchell, Brittnie Abler. **Classified Staff Resignations:** Gay Copeland, Fred McMillan, Tyler Morrison.

IV. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda for Separate Action- No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

V. Reports- V. Reports- Elementary updated the Board on Kindergarten registration for the 22-23 school year. Jennifer Parker, Bennington Elementary and Rebecca Mergens, Heritage Elementary were awarded the Cox Communications Education Hero Award. **Middle School** had their Hexter 5 achievement celebration in April. Incoming 6th grade parent night is May 10th. **High School** presented a schedule for Senior activities and finals. **Student Services** highlighted 18–21-year-old program and high school Life Skills events. **Curriculum and Assessment** reviewed the report from the External Review Team of Cognia. Bennington earned a score of 321.13 of a possible 400, the highest the District has received. **Superintendent** reported 61 staff members were recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years of service and thanked those who are retiring. There were 700 applicants for 78 open positions for 2022-2023 school year. **Construction-** Mike Berg from DLR Group updated the Board on construction progress with drone footage over the new middle and elementary schools. **Coordinator Report-** Regina Meradith presented the Board with history and progress of the Bennington Public Schools Foundation. **Lobbyist-** Julia Plucker was present to discuss bills of interest and legislative updates. **Spotlight Report-** Dr. Hoge presented the Board with information on 2022-2023 curriculum adoptions. **Strategic Planning-** Goal #4 was discussed focusing SEL (Social Emotional Behavioral Learning).

VI. Unfinished Business
VI.A. Discuss, Consider and Take Action on Construction Change Order(s)- DLR Group representative, Mike Berg, was present to discuss the construction projects. No new change orders were presented to the Board.

VII. New Business
VII.A. Discuss and Consider Summer Maintenance Repair Projects- Mr. Edens, Coordinator of District Facilities, shared the main focus for projects for this summer will be repair of existing facilities and the oversight of several major construction projects and the opening of two schools.
VII.B. Discuss and Consider Elementary, Middle School, and High School Handbook Revisions- Each building principal was given a copy of the revised Board Policy Manual to review for modifications and/or changes to their student handbooks. They were asked to incorporate any new policies necessary due to Federal or State legislative changes. The change is necessary for the handbooks to be loaded for online registration.
VII.C. Discuss and Consider June Board/Administrator Workshop- The June regular Board meeting has been altered in the past to conduct a Board/Administrator Workshop. Topics for the agenda typically include items such as facility and strategic planning.
VII.D. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Superintendent Contract- The Board has met in executive session without administration present and has communicated to the superintendent

an agreement to increase his salary for the 22/23 contract year from $206,200 to $214,500 for a 4.0% salary increase.
MOTION PASSED: Motion to amend the Superintendent's 22/23 contract (salary and benefits) as presented, which is set to end June 30, 2024, passed with a motion by Mark Byars and a second by Allyson Slobotski. Tim Dreessen: Nay, Mark Byars: Yea, Valerie Calderon: Yea, Heather Goertz: Yea, Kara Neuverth: Yea, Allyson Slobotski: Yea
VII.E. Executive Session for Discussion of Possible Site Acquisition
MOTION PASSED: Motion to have the Board go into executive (closed) session at 7:45 PM for the purpose of a strategy session with respect to potential land acquisition as an executive session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest, passed with a motion by Mark Byars and a second by Valerie Calderon. Mark Byars: Yea, Valerie Calderon: Yea, Tim Dreessen: Yea, Heather Goertz: Yea, Kara Neuverth: Yea, Allyson Slobotski: Yea
The Board President called the Board back into open session at 8:33 p.m. No action was taken.

VIII. Time and Date of Next Regular Meeting- June 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. with workshop) at the Bennington District Board Room

IX. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. made by Valerie Calderon, seconded by Heather Goertz. All in favor.

Jodi McCoy- Board of Education Secretary

June 2022 Personnel Notes

Certificated Staff Hire: David Ehrke - High School Teacher (Social Studies), Nicklaus Ludwig - High School Teacher (English), Megan O'Dell - High School Teacher (Science), Emmily Hawk - Elementary Counselor for the 2022/23 school term (Anchor Pointe Elementary),
Support Staff Hire: Stacy Hawn - Communications Coordinator, Alexander Reinwald - Building Maintenance at Bennington Middle School, Stephanie Pulverenti - Paraprofessional 0.5 at Anchor Pointe Elementary, Gay Copeland - Paraprofessional 0.5 at Anchor Pointe Elementary, Katie Hughes - Food Service four-hour (BSMS), Amanda Hladik - Food Service four-hour (Stratford Elementary), Sarah Moudry - Food Service four-hour (Pine Creek), Tanya Petry - Summer School Paraprofessional at Pine Creek Elementary, Carden Hurt - Summer Maintenance for the District, Aidan Hogan - Summer Maintenance for the District, Jose Goertz - Summer Maintenance for the District, Cole Blevins- IT Associate for the District, Jeffrey Dion- Night Custodian at Bennington Middle School, Anne Marie Vanecek - Health Paraprofessional at Anchor Pointe Elementary, Mogan Selchert - Preschool Paraprofessional at Anchor Pointe Elementary, Jill Konajeski - Resource Paraprofessional at Anchor Pointe Elementary, Danielle Buchholz - Health Paraprofessional at Bennington Elementary,
Administrative Staff Hire: None
Certificated Staff Resignations: None
Classified Staff Resignations: Julie McClure - Attendance Secretary at Bennington Middle School, Dacia Quandt - paraprofessional at Bennington Middle School, Odell Ford – Transportation.

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
BOND FUND		
BOK FINANCIAL		$1,207,500.00
Fund Number 25		$1,207,500.00
Checking Account ID BONDFUND		$1,207,500.00
GENERAL FUND CHECKING		
2 MEN AND A SHOP		$1,042.69
A & D TECHNICAL SUPPLY CO INC		$30.00
AATF		$975.00
ABE'S TRASH SERVICE, INC		$2,631.00
ACCELERATED DIAGNOSTIC & AUTOMOTIVE		$2,202.43
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING		$14,121.11
ACCESS SYSTEMS		$359.68
AHMADZAI, WANA		$90.00
ALL APPLIANCE SERVICE		$203.95
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		$26,059.32
Anderson, Lindsey		$500.00
Apfelbeck, Lucas		$500.00
APPLE INC		$25,330.00
ARBOR DAY FARM		$651.50
ARBOR FAMILY COUNSELING		$18,681.50
AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA, INC		$5,727.50
AWARDS UNLIMITED, INC.		$2,020.32
B&D TURF CARS LLC		$377.00
Bieber, Natalie		$635.84
BLICK ART MATERIALS		$21.08
Blomenkamp, Matthew		$90.09
BOUND TO STAY BOUND BOOKS		$518.14
Boyes, Chad		$165.38
BOYS TOWN		$2,145.39
BPS ACTIVITY ACCOUNT		$10,639.20
BPS NUTRITION SERVICES		$154.64
CDW GOVERNMENT		$20,470.80
CHILDREN'S HOME HEALTHCARE		$3,920.00
CI SHIRTS		$102.00
CONTROLLED RAIN		$2,206.50
COX BUSINESS		$1,181.55
CUBBY'S, INC		$11,469.33
CULLIGAN OF OMAHA		$37.50
DECKER INC		$777.16
DeHart, Melissa		$10.00
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE, INC		$5,572.50
Ehlers, Jessica		$14.33
ESU 3		$23,631.30
EYMAN PLUMBING		$703.50
Falcone, Austina		$500.00
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC		$1,714.97
Filipowicz, Alexandria		$500.00
FIREFLY HORIZONS, INC		$1,750.00
FIRST CHOICE GUTTERS & SIDING, INC		$6,960.00
FIRST STUDENT, INC		$40,405.08
FLINN SCIENTIFIC CO.		$754.60
Flynn, Jennifer		$81.32
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS, LLC		$2,058.51

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
FONTENELLE FOREST		$604.50
GIFF PROPERTY SERVICES, INC		$4,500.00
GOALS		$600.00
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, INC		$688.00
GRAINGER		$663.94
GREGG YOUNG CHEVROLET		$2,330.80
GUMDROP BOOKS		$403.09
HAMMER, JENNIFER		$422.37
HAUSMANN CONSTRUCTION, INC		$488,274.00
HEARTLAND FOUNDATION		$3,700.00
Hoge, Denise		$100.04
HOME DEPOT PRO, THE		$4,832.98
HY-VEE INC		$1,123.24
I3 BANK		$2,462,711.32
IDEAL PURE WATER		$20.20
INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEMS OF OMAHA		$673.90
INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS, INC		$3,103.49
Jepperson, Ellie		$500.00
Johanek, Jay		$116.42
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL		$277.20
JOHNSON DRYWALL COMPANY, INC		$1,245.00
Jones, Kary		$12.17
JOSTENS INC		$1,037.06
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		$20,504.00
Kessell, Christopher		$391.95
King, Jessica		$500.00
Knight, Kathy		$10.30
KNUDSEN OIL & FEED		$1,074.28
KORMAN CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS		$3,000.00
Kralicek, Curtis		$75.17
LAKESHORE LEARNING		$290.79
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC		$251.75
Loptin, Robbie		$11.70
LUTHERN FAMILY SERVICES OF NE, INC		$65.16
MADONNA SCHOOL		$11,760.00
Matland, Charles		$50.31
Mattson, Tara		$23.99
MAVERICK INDUSTRIES, INC.		$1,417.50
MENSAH, SOWAH		$220.00
METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT		$37,766.84
MIDWEST PROTECTION SERVICES, INC		$719.20
MMC MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC		$62,853.00
MOORE, DEREK		$262.31
Morrison, Tyler		$26.27
NEBRASKA ASSOC. OF SCHOOL BOARDS		$170.00
NEBRASKA BILNDS & SHUTTERS		$1,038.00
NEBRASKA CENTRAL EQUIPMENT INC		$533.58
NEBRASKA DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION		$370.00
NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER		$100.00
NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL AGENCY		$63.00
Nelson, Therese		$500.00
Nobles, Kimberly		$44.55
Oborny, Bailey		$35.15
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CENTERS OF NE, P.C.		$460.00
ODEYS INC		$845.60
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD, THE		$1,042.50

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
ONE SOURCE		$877.50
OPPD		$49,732.00
OUTDOOR RECREATION PRODUCTS		$116,781.00
PACIFIC FENCE		$19,725.00
Panning, Emily		$191.30
PERRY LAW FIRM		$18,748.70
PITNEY BOWES		$648.00
PORT-A-JOHNS INC		$531.25
Porter, David		$121.68
Powell, Emilie		$311.85
PRAIRIE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY		$339,691.08
PRESTO-X		$536.00
PRIME SECURED, INC		$13,725.26
PROGRESSIVE UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY		$4,513.86
REALITYWORKS		$482.25
REALLY GOOD STUFF LLC		$726.47
RITE OF PASSAGE, INC		$3,676.20
ROCKLER WOODWORKING		$5,623.98
ROSE THEATER		$774.00
RTG BUILDING SERVICES, INC		$50,305.00
SCHAEFER ELECTRIC, INC		$7,010.45
Schaffart, Elizabeth		$81.43
SCHMITT MUSIC		$1,839.00
Sempek, Adam		$31.59
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO		$457.70
SOLIANT HEALTH, LLC		$7,238.25
Stara, Scott		$500.00
STERICYCLE, INC		$387.81
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND & AEROSPACE MUSEUM		$855.00
Stryker, Trent		$500.00
SUKRAW, MIRIAM		$175.00
TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION		$1,308.16
TONI, FOUNTOA GERVAIS		$94.77
TONY VINCENT INC		$2,850.00
TRANE US INC		$2,917.84
ULINE		$291.65
Underwood, Sheryl		$166.49
UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC		$899.08
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM		$325.00
US BANK		$7,539.67
US POSTMASTER		$70.00
USIC LOCATING SERVICES, LLC		$164.82
VERIZON		$578.80
VISITING NURSE HEALTH SERVICES		$4,355.88
VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC		$10,129.28
Vogt, Tabetha		$68.45
VOSS, DOUGLAS		$716.04
WEST MUSIC		$6,559.55
WHITE CASTLE ROOFING		$1,368.00
WHITE WOLF WEB OFFSET PRINTERS		$717.91
White, McKenzie		$228.36
Wilson, Matthew		$78.39
ZTRIP NE		$1,834.76
Fund Number 01		$4,055,171.84

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID GENERAL		$4,055,171.84
QSC BONDS - NLAF		
COMPUTERSHARE TRUST COMPANY, NA		$105,588.23
Fund Number 15		$105,588.23
Checking Account ID QSC		$105,588.23
QSC BONDS - MM		
COMPUTERSHARE TRUST COMPANY, NA		$15,161.77
Fund Number 16		$15,161.77
Checking Account ID QSCMM		$15,161.77
SPECIAL BUILDING FUND - CHECKING		
DLR GROUP		$73,453.47
EHRHART GRIFFIN & ASSOC		$6,590.00
HAUSMANN CONSTRUCTION, INC		$317,577.42
K2 CONSTRUCTION		$192,198.25
OLSSON ASSOCIATES		$9,480.25
PRAIRIE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY		$98,034.02
Fund Number 13		$697,333.41
Checking Account ID SPECBLDG		$697,333.41
STUDENT FEE FUND		
AGPARTS WORLDWIDE, INC		$998.70
Fund Number 22		$998.70
Checking Account ID STUDENTFEE		$998.70

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
NUTRITION SERVICES		
ARAMARK		$839.84
ECOLAB INC		$35.14
HILAND DAIRY, INC.		$18,107.94
HOBART SERVICE		$333.75
PEPSICO		$1,522.66
PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE		$94,248.06
Richardson, Tonya		$53.85
ROTELLA'S ITALIAN BAKERY		$4,472.90
US BANK		$449.67
Watsabaugh, Tracy		$87.17
Fund Number 02		$120,150.98
Checking Account ID HOTLUNCH		$120,150.98

Fund Number		Beginning Cash	Revenues	Expenses	Payables Change	Ending Cash
01	GENERAL FUND CHECKING	216,486.00	3,725,780.23	(2,929,539.65)	0.00	2,007,726.58
02	NUTRITION SERVICES	1,019,184.56	294,412.71	(191,550.96)	0.00	1,122,046.31
03	DEPRECIATION - MM	512.35	0.02	0.00	0.00	512.37
04	SPECIAL BUILDING FUND - MM	134,737.46	1,897.55	0.00	0.00	136,635.01
05	UNEMPLOYMENT - MM	12,273.19	1.08	0.00	0.00	12,274.27
06	GENERAL - MM	138,709.05	2,251,390.29	0.00	0.00	1,395,099.34
08	BUSINESS ACCT	15,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,500.00
13	SPECIAL BUILDING FUND - CHECKING	274,788.42	59.55	(2,612,101.22)	0.00	274,847.97
14	BUILDING FUND - NLAF	21,536,552.11	6,601.47	0.00	0.00	18,931,052.36
15	QSC BONDS - NLAF	2,710,057.93	914.88	0.00	0.00	2,710,972.81
16	QSC BONDS - MM	309,671.16	68,936.19	0.00	0.00	378,607.35
18	GENERAL FUND CDARS	12,481,830.94	3,180.29	0.00	0.00	12,485,011.23
19	BUILDING FUND CDARS	1,631,821.66	415.77	0.00	0.00	1,632,237.43
20	DEPRECIATION CDARS	2,691,772.03	685.84	0.00	0.00	2,692,457.87
21	ACTIVITY FUND	501,724.57	90,582.27	(48,534.71)	0.00	543,772.13
22	STUDENT FEE FUND	13,902.02	1,336.15	0.00	0.00	15,238.17
24	QSC BONDS CDARS	227,401.88	57.94	0.00	0.00	227,459.82
25	BOND FUND	5,584,641.97	607,063.72	0.00	0.00	6,191,705.69
27	UNEMPLOYMENT CDARS	276,376.49	70.40	0.00	0.00	276,446.89
Grand Total:		49,777,943.79	7,053,386.35	(5,781,726.54)	0.00	51,049,603.60

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
ACTIVITY FUND		
AL LYNX BASKETBALL		$275.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		$179.99
ANDERSEN, ELLA		$30.00
ANIBAL, HAYDEN		$30.00
ARENA, THE		$125.00
BAAS, AVERI		$15.00
BAKER, GARY		$320.00
BALDWIN, LILLY		$30.00
BARTELS, THOMAS		$70.00
BELLEVUE WEST		$75.00
BENNINGTON BOOSTERS CLUB		$45.00
BERNDT, DAKOTA		$30.00
BLACK SQUIRREL ENTERPRISES, LLC		$1,412.00
BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS		$320.00
BLICK ART MATERIALS		$139.81
BOHN, ALLISON		$15.00
BORER, STEVEN		$250.00
BOYER, CADEN		$60.00
BPS NUTRITION SERVICES		$2,070.00
BREAKFIELD, VERNON		$120.00
CREIGHTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL		$150.00
DOANE UNIVERSITY		$250.00
DUST, IAN		$70.00
EIKMEIER, GARY		$137.00
FREMONT FAMILY YMCA		$240.00
FRUGE, JOSHUA		$60.00
HALEY, AMELIA		$30.00
HAMMOND, NEIL		$192.00
HARTLEY, ADDISON		$45.00
HAYNES, AUSTAN		$130.00
HEYWOOD, VANCHESSA		$30.00
HOOD, TOM		$250.00
HY-VEE INC		$1,020.83
INTER-STATE STUDIO & PUBLISHING CO		$696.25
JOHNSON, KADEYN		$137.00
JONES, NATHAN		$75.00
LARSON, WREN		$30.00
LEWIS, RYAN		$130.00
LINCOLN CHRISTIAN		$100.00
LINE UP, THE		$5,056.50
LOU'S SPORTING GOODS		$1,120.64
MARK, THE		$3,996.00
MARSH, SCOT		$70.00
MAXWELL, JON		$137.00
MCFALLS, SAVANNAH		$15.00
MCGUIRE, ROWAN		$90.00
MCVAY, JAMES		$70.00
MERGENS, JUSTIN		$145.00
NEBRASKA UMPIRES ASSOC		$161.00
NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY		$250.00
NEFF		$155.95
NORTH BEND CENTRAL		$110.00
NSAA		$1,739.64
NYMAN, GABRIEL		$30.00
OBERMEYER, AUSTIN		$130.00

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
OLDS, DUSTEN		$145.00
PKP SCREEN PRINTING		$2,826.00
PLATTEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL		$150.00
POWER MUSIC, INC		$525.00
PRICE, JOSHUA		$130.00
RALSTON HIGH SCHOOL		$375.00
RIDER, JOSEPH		$192.00
ROBERTS, ADAM		$145.00
SANCHEZ, LORENZO		$60.00
SANTONI, MARTY		$130.00
SCHENEMAN, ANDREW		$75.00
SCHUPPAN, NIKKI		$75.00
SEDLACEK, GAVIN		$60.00
SIDELINE POWER		$1,029.00
SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL		$125.00
ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY		$1,720.00
STAGECRAFT THEATRICAL, LLC		$4,325.00
SUKRAW, MIRIAM		$400.00
ULDAL, OWEN		$60.00
UNIVERSAL CHEERLEADERS ASSOC		$10,018.00
US BANK		$2,583.10
WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL		$155.00
WILDCAT HOOPS		$335.00
WRIGHT, LAUREN		$30.00
YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS		$205.00
Fund Number 21		$48,534.71
Checking Account ID ACTIVITY		$48,534.71

Regular; Beginning Month 05/2022; Processing Month 05/2022; Fund Number 21

Fund: 21 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
21 765 0100	HS Athletics	36,910.83	45.00	(2,388.95)	0.00	34,476.88
21 765 0101	BMS Athletics	3,753.38	99.96	0.00	0.00	3,653.42
21 765 0102	BSMS Athletics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0105	Football	30,172.58	0.00	680.00	0.00	30,852.58
21 765 0110	BMS Football	659.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	659.76
21 765 0111	Varsity Track	1,340.46	2,896.20	6,835.00	0.00	5,279.26
21 765 0112	BMS Track	2,844.75	548.40	0.00	0.00	2,296.35
21 765 0113	Athletic Training	3,964.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,964.89
21 765 0114	Uniforms	4,171.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,171.49
21 765 0115	Volleyball	5,800.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,800.52
21 765 0116	Lodging/Meals	(734.52)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(734.52)
21 765 0117	Dues/Fees	993.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	993.73
21 765 0118	Cross Country Club	4,368.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,368.66
21 765 0119	Baseball	5,184.19	1,967.23	3,715.00	0.00	6,931.96
21 765 0120	BMS Volleyball	6,215.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,215.52
21 765 0121	BSMS Football	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0122	BSMS Track	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0123	BSMS Volleyball	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0124	BSMS Boys' Basketball	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0125	Boys' Basketball	3,873.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,873.20
21 765 0130	BMS Boys' Basketball	3,764.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,764.04
21 765 0135	Girls' Basketball	4,139.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,139.76
21 765 0140	BMS Girls' Basketball	1,472.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,472.48
21 765 0141	Baseball Club	2,729.46	279.36	0.00	0.00	2,450.10
21 765 0142	Volleyball Club	5,477.33	0.00	5,409.29	0.00	10,886.62
21 765 0143	BSMS Girls' Basketball	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0145	Cross Country	2,830.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,830.32
21 765 0146	BMS Cross Country	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
21 765 0147	BSMS Cross Country	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0150	Boys' Golf	799.74	1,101.71	1,740.00	0.00	1,438.03
21 765 0151	Softball Club	1,347.73	0.00	2,876.49	0.00	4,224.22
21 765 0152	Boys' Soccer	3,370.42	2,878.80	2,311.00	0.00	2,802.62
21 765 0153	Boys' Soccer Fundraising	1,975.14	0.00	1,290.75	0.00	3,265.89
21 765 0155	Girls' Golf	(44.10)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(44.10)
21 765 0156	Girls' Tennis	1,080.44	650.00	0.00	0.00	430.44
21 765 0164	Girls' Soccer	1,347.97	804.33	3,376.00	0.00	3,919.64
21 765 0165	Girls' Soccer Fundraising	6,552.60	680.00	1,839.06	0.00	7,711.66

Fund: 21 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
21 765 0166	Girls' Tennis Club	640.00	0.00	950.36	0.00	1,590.36
21 765 0180	Wrestling	502.73	0.00	280.00	0.00	782.73
21 765 0185	BMS Wrestling	1,828.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,828.85
21 765 0186	BSMS Wrestling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0190	Girls' Softball	3,284.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,284.64
21 765 0191	Unified Bowling	2,819.76	0.00	150.00	0.00	2,969.76
21 765 0195	Track Club	(68.69)	0.00	2,739.00	0.00	2,670.31
21 765 0196	Football Club	20,730.01	1,029.00	5,114.32	0.00	24,815.33
21 765 0200	Band	5,859.26	400.00	0.00	0.00	5,459.26
21 765 0205	Flag Corp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0210	BE Band Resale	573.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	573.48
21 765 0215	PC Band Resale	28.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.80
21 765 0220	HE Band Resale	(793.82)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(793.82)
21 765 0221	AP Band Resale	107.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	107.05
21 765 0250	Band Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0300	Dance Team	(5,821.46)	5,581.50	18,509.00	0.00	7,106.04
21 765 0351	Wrestling Cheerleading	877.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	877.34
21 765 0355	Varsity Cheerleading	4,999.73	10,018.00	4,898.85	0.00	(119.42)
21 765 0410	Class of 2014	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0415	Class of 2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0416	Class of 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0417	Class of 2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0418	Class of 2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0419	Class of 2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0420	Class of 2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0421	Class of 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0422	Class of 2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0423	Class of 2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0425	Prom	(1,127.06)	2,223.49	0.00	0.00	(3,350.55)
21 765 0450	Skills USA/VICA	7,557.94	277.46	2,313.17	0.00	9,593.65
21 765 0501	B-Club	222.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.58
21 765 0505	PC Student Council	82.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.86
21 765 0510	HE Student Council	972.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	972.70
21 765 0511	AP Student Council	897.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	897.48
21 765 0550	BE Miscellaneous	8,170.73	236.88	169.74	0.00	8,103.59
21 765 0555	BE Yearbook	175.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.12
21 765 0556	Elementary Spanish	(446.08)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(446.08)

Fund: 21 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
21 765 0557	PC Miscellaneous	9,186.92	0.00	894.21	0.00	10,081.13
21 765 0558	PC Yearbook	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0559	Washington DC Trip	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0560	HE Miscellaneous	13,507.41	0.00	494.84	0.00	14,002.25
21 765 0561	AP Miscellaneous	12,700.98	3,522.25	1,077.97	0.00	10,256.70
21 765 0565	HE Yearbook	(2,021.90)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,021.90)
21 765 0566	AP Yearbook	1,120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,120.00
21 765 0590	BE Student Council	862.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	862.47
21 765 0600	FBLA	9,398.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,398.47
21 765 0601	BMS FBLA	91.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.00
21 765 0602	BSMS FBLA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0650	Fine Arts	(860.44)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(860.44)
21 765 0651	Play Production	1,981.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,981.78
21 765 0652	Speech	1,426.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,426.78
21 765 0700	Foreign Language Club (Spanish)	844.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	844.08
21 765 0720	French	2,708.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,708.07
21 765 0750	Journalism	235.46	0.00	60.00	0.00	295.46
21 765 0800	High School Misc	10,907.79	201.07	676.97	0.00	11,383.69
21 765 0801	HS Robotics	745.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	745.92
21 765 0802	Quiz Bowl	604.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	604.90
21 765 0803	BMS Robotics	92.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	92.00
21 765 0804	Cultural Diversity Club	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
21 765 0805	Youth Boys' Basketball	5,508.83	1,510.00	6,292.46	0.00	10,291.29
21 765 0806	Outdoor Club	3,041.86	39.98	0.00	0.00	3,001.88
21 765 0807	Key Club	2,368.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,368.98
21 765 0808	BSMS Robotics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0810	BMS PTO	(14.41)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(14.41)
21 765 0815	Landscaping Fund	314.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	314.47
21 765 0820	Environmental Science	103.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.33
21 765 0825	Girls' Youth Basketball	2,603.49	0.00	3,930.09	0.00	6,533.58
21 765 0830	PSAT/AP	(11,051.85)	1,720.00	0.00	0.00	(12,771.85)
21 765 0835	Drivers' Education	4,553.00	0.00	5,250.00	0.00	9,803.00
21 765 0840	Baylor Test Prep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0845	BMS Yearbook	4,346.33	0.00	1,960.00	0.00	6,306.33
21 765 0846	BSMS Yearbook	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0850	Post Prom	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0855	Youth Golf	2,030.57	0.00	2,868.57	0.00	4,899.14

Fund: 21 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
21 765 0860	BMS Engineering	1,343.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,343.45
21 765 0861	BSMS Engineering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0865	HS Engineering	517.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	517.92
21 765 0870	BMS Leadership Group	63.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.86
21 765 0871	BSMS Leadership Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0875	Wellness	1,101.32	375.00	0.00	0.00	726.32
21 765 0880	Facilities Use	155,312.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,312.07
21 765 0890	HS Student Senate	19,433.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,433.97
21 765 0891	BMS Student Senate	2,371.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,371.13
21 765 0892	BMS Cooking Club	2,136.50	340.83	0.00	0.00	1,795.67
21 765 0893	BMS Miscellaneous	6,333.75	3,996.00	3,037.85	0.00	5,375.60
21 765 0894	BSMS Student Senate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0895	BSMS Cooking Club	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0896	BSMS Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0900	Music	25,852.45	538.93	(21,119.06)	0.00	4,194.46
21 765 0905	Music Student Fundraising	(807.46)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(807.46)
21 765 0910	Musical	(5,417.51)	4,433.52	21,389.06	0.00	11,538.03
21 765 0915	Music Resale	(450.90)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(450.90)
21 765 0916	MS Music Resale	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.00
21 765 0917	BSMS Music Resale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 0950	Vocational	183.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	183.96
21 765 0951	Tech & Living	(207.20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(207.20)
21 765 0952	Art Lab	924.88	139.81	0.00	0.00	785.07
21 765 0953	Art International Travel	(283.58)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(283.58)
21 765 0955	Shop	591.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	591.03
21 765 0970	HS Library	450.86	0.00	17.14	0.00	468.00
21 765 0971	PC Library	767.19	0.00	217.03	0.00	984.22
21 765 0975	BE Library	2,931.77	0.00	481.65	0.00	3,413.42
21 765 0976	AP Library	3,602.92	0.00	169.13	0.00	3,772.05
21 765 0995	HE Library	1,691.08	0.00	28.09	0.00	1,719.17
21 765 0996	BMS Library	5,694.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,694.55
21 765 0997	BSMS Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21 765 1410	Interest	1,731.55	0.00	48.19	0.00	1,779.74
	Fund Total: 21	501,724.57	48,534.71	90,582.27	0.00	543,772.13

Bennington Public Schools Elementary Board Report

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

June 13th, 2022

Anchor Pointe - Chad Boyes
Bennington Elementary - Danielle Robb
Heritage Elementary - Therese Nelson
Pine Creek Elementary - Alison Evangelisti
Stratford Elementary - Molly O'Connor

Enrollment Figures for 22-23

	Anchor Pointe Elementary	Bennington Elementary	Heritage Elementary	Pine Creek Elementary	Stratford Elementary
Kindergarten	62	54	59	81	41
First Grade	49	73	72	89	62
Second Grade	63	67	82	93	73
Third Grade	43	65	77	109	50
Fourth Grade	47	57	63	86	52
Fifth Grade	71	73	66	107	49
TOTAL	335	389	419	565	327

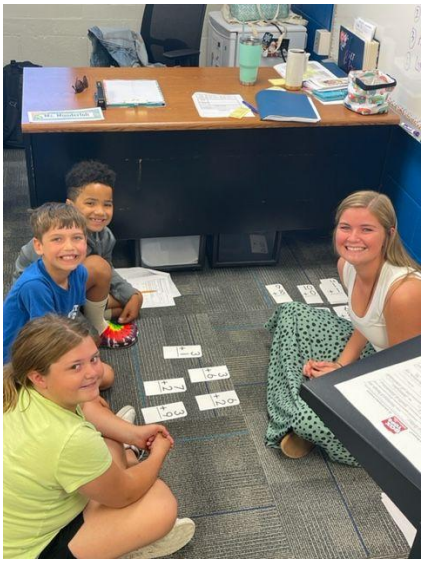
Elementary Summer School

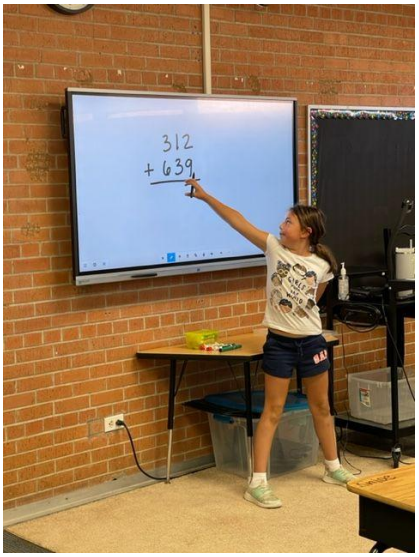
The Bennington Elementary Summer School program is off to an adventurous start! Our theme this year is "Passport to Knowledge" and all are ready to take on the expedition ahead! This year our program is run in two locations, Bennington Elementary and Pine Creek Elementary. As students complete their journey this summer, they are earning 2 free books for each week that they have perfect attendance, sponsored by the Bennington Foundation.

At Bennington Elementary, we have 111 students attending summer school, and they are excited to complete this learning experience. We have 16 teachers (11 classrooms, 5 specialists), 10 paras, and 23 high school volunteers helping us along our journey!

At Pine Creek Elementary, we have 129 students attending summer school this year, and they are ready for the destinations ahead. At Pine Creek we have 18 teachers (13 classrooms, 5 specialists), 10 paras, and 27 high school volunteers helping us along our journey!

Bennington Public Schools
Elementary Board Report





Bennington Middle School

June 13, 2022 Board Report

Final 2021-2022 Enrollment:

6th-306
7th-273
8th-265
Total-844

2022-2023 BMS Enrollment as of 6/8/22:

6th – 140
7th – 135
8th – 133
Total – 408

2022-2023 BSMS Enrollment as of 6/8/22

6th – 185
7th – 179
8th - 145

May 16 we had our 8th grade celebration at The Mark. We were able to work with the PTO to help us make this a fun event for the kids. The PTO support was wonderful this year. The 8th graders did an awesome job at this event, and look forward to seeing them continue to learn and grow at the high school.

May 31 we had our curriculum day for the middle school staff. We were able to look at our 21st Century Skills data, software usage, SEL Curriculum Adoption, and get feedback from staff on professional development for next year. In the afternoon, our staff worked on their curriculum maps for the 2022-2023 school year.

Summer School started June 6 for the middle school. We currently have about 40 students attending.

June is filled with a lot of TIP grant work in our building with staff such as school improvement, student support planning, homeroom planning, 21st Century skills, and mapping out our student

Bennington Middle School

June 13, 2022 Board Report

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achievement/recognition activities for 22-23. We are working collaboratively with BMS and BSMS to provide consistency between buildings in all of these areas for student sand staff.

July 26 we will have Jumpstart sessions for our incoming 6th grade students, and all new students to the building. We will be hosting this at BMS and BSMS. This will run from 10am to 11:30am.

Summer School 2022

8th Grade Celebration

The mission of Bennington Middle School is to promote learning experiences that challenge and empower students and faculty while developing the whole child and preparing them to be engaged citizens in a new and changing world.

BENNINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
16610 Bennington Road
Bennington, NE 68007

Matt Blomenkamp "Home of the Badgers" (402) 238-2447
Principal (FAX)(402) 238-2950

To: Board of Education
From: Matt Blomenkamp, Secondary Principal
Date: June 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Projected enrollment 9-12 grade

Grade	+	-		6/2/2022
Ninth	**6**	**0**	**6**	**272**
Tenth	**3**	**3**	**0**	**247**
Eleventh	**5**	**2**	**3**	**263**
Twelfth	**0**	**1**	**-1**	**231**
Total	**14**	**6**	**8**	**1013**

- Congratulations to our girls' track team for their runner up trophy at the state track meet this past May.
- 210 seniors graduated from Bennington High School. This is the largest graduating class in the history of Bennington Public Schools.
- The athletic department hosted our annual Bennington Daze Golf Tournament at The Knolls, Friday, June 3. A record number of teams (28) participated in the event. Monies earned will go toward our weight room equipment purchases.

Summer Activities

-Summer School (Credit Recovery) began last week. This summer, 46 (June) 22 (July) students will take credit recovery with four teachers and a paraprofessional working with them. Dates are June 6-24 and July 6-20. Algebra first semester and algebra second semester will be taught in-person this summer. All other classes are taken via Odysseyware.
- Mr. Coatney has begun his band camps and students will work through June, July and early August. Mr. Hanke will start vocal lessons in July.
-Summer weight workouts have begun. Three areas in the school; weight room, stadium, and fitness area are being used. 340 athletes are utilizing six sessions each day. Areas such as weight training, speed and agility, mobility and recovery, and team building are being emphasized. A total of 25 coaches in addition to Dr. Mimick are consistently working with our high school athletes.
-Sport specific camps have begun at the high school and middle school. Elementary and middle school athletes have been in attendance. High school athletes are assisting coaches with fundamentals and activities.
-All grades were finalized after graduation. Honor Roll members were sent to the Douglas County Post-Gazette.

Annual English Learner Update

For the Month of June, the Student Service Department is providing its annual detailed breakdown of our English Learner Program growth, demographics and ability levels. Over the past four years, we have been able to have a Certified Teacher that is solely dedicated to this program at a .6 FTE, and two paraprofessionals. Having a dedicated EL Staff has shown great success for these learners. We are excited for the 2022-2023 school year to grow from .6 FTE to 1.6 FTE certified staff in this program

ELPA 21 Progressive Results

*2017-2018 ELL Population, **19 Students,** 21% Emerging, 68% Progressing, 11% Proficient*
*2018-2019 ELL Population, **26 Students,** 4% Emerging, 88% Progressing, 8% Proficient*
*2019-2020 ELL Population, **42 Students,** 0% Emerging, 64% Progressing, 36% Proficient*
*2020-2021 ELL Population, **38 Students,** 0% Emerging, 76% Progressing, 24% Proficient*
*2021-2022 ELL Population, **56 Students,** 7% Emerging, 70% Progressing, 23% Proficient*

Current Languages within the EL Population (21 Languages): Arabic, Chinese, Dinka, Fanti, French, German, Hindi, Kachin, Nepali, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Telugu, Thai, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese

ELPA 21 Test Results for **2021-2022** ELL Students

Building	(# of) Students being served	Emerging	Progressing	Proficient
Anchor Pointe	16 Students	0	10	6
BES	4 Students	0	3	1
Heritage	13 Students	0	8	5
Pine Creek	12 Students	2	9	1
BMS	4 Students	0	4	0
BHS	7 Students	2	5	0
Total Served	**56 Students**	**4**	**39**	**13**

Emerging Students: New student from Afghanistan and Ukraine at the high school level, one kinder at Pine Creek is a potential retention candidate and the other is a sped student.

Reading MAP Growth (K-2)

Average Increase in Reading RITs Fall-Spring	+16		+14	+
	AP	PC	HES	BES

280/18=13.3, Average Gain of 13 RITs

Reading and Language Arts NSCAS (3-12)

CCR	0	0	0	0	0
On Track	0	0	0	0	0
Developing	4	2	3	1	4
	AP	**PC**	**HES**	**BES**	**BMS**

Areas to target next year: Develop Secondary Program, especially secondary newcomers

- *Context Clues*
- *Inference*
- *Semantic Relationships*
- *Point of View*
- *Figurative Language*
- *Text Features: Reading graphs and diagrams to infer meaning*

ELPA 21 Test Results for **2020-2021** ELL Students

Building	(# of) Students being served	Emerging	Progressing	Proficient
Anchor Pointe	12 Students	0	10	2
BES	4 Students	0	2	2
Heritage	4 Students	0	3	1
Pine Creek	8 Students	0	5	3
BMS	2 Students	0	2	0
BHS	4 Students	0	4	0
Total Served	**34 Students**	**0**	**26**	**8**

MAP Growth

Average Increase in Reading RITs Fall-Spring	+12	+19	+22	+27
Average Increase in Language RITs Fall-Spring	+16	+14	+12	+26
	AP	PC	HES	BES

ELPA 21 Test Results for **2019-2020** ELL Students

Building	(# of) Students being served	Emerging	Progressing	Proficient
Anchor Pointe Elementary	9 Students	0	8	1
Bennington Elementary	2 Students	0	2	0
Heritage Elementary	10 Students	0	5	5
Pine Creek Elementary	11 Students	0	5	6
Bennington Middle School	3 Students	0	3	0
Bennington High School	4 Students	0	2	2
Total Served in District	**39 Students**	**0**	**25**	**14**

ELPA 21 Test Results for **2018-2019** ELL Students

Building	(# of) Students being served	Emerging	Progressing	Proficient
Bennington Elementary	3 Students	0	3	0
Heritage Elementary	8 Students	0	7	1
Pine Creek Elementary	8 Students	0	8	0
Bennington Middle School	3 Students	1	2	0
Bennington High School	4 Students	0	3	1
Total Served in District	**26 Students**	**1**	**23**	**2**

ELPA 21 Test Results for **2017-2018** ELL Students

Building	(# of) Students being served	Emerging	Progressing	Proficient
Bennington Elementary	4 Students	1	2	1
Heritage Elementary	3 Students *	1	2	0
Pine Creek Elementary	8 Students ***	1	6	1
Bennington Middle School	2 Students **	0	2	0
Bennington High School	2 Students	1	1	0
Total Served in District	**19 Students**	**4**	**13**	**2**

Community Outreach

Lutheran Family Services Global Language Support Zen San Kim *Supervisor* (402) 536-3519	Bennington Public Schools Foundation Student Needs Fund Executive Director, Regina Meradith **(402) 490-5269 rmeradith@bennps.org**
Bennington Food Pantry St. John's Church (West side) 322 N Molly St 402-628-3401	Nebraska Rental Assistance COPE Nancy Lary (402) 616-2330
English as a Second Language Providers Directory https://d1h8i40bcgby0l.cloudfront.net/opl-website-pdf-storage/ESL-Resource-Directory.pdf	Bennington Public Library • Mango Languages • Story Time for Kids • Partnership Passes • Other Community Resources https://benningtonlibrary.org/libraryresources/
Interpreters and Translations: • **Onsite Request for Interpreter** • https://hopeinterpreters.com/ • https://icrius.org/ • https://www.languagelinc.com/languagelinc/welcome.html • https://www.languageline.com/	**Metropolitan Community College** https://www.mccneb.edu/Academics/Academic-Affairs/Dean-and-Support-Areas/Academic-Success/ESL adultedu@mccneb.edu

Bennington Public Schools
Curriculum & Assessments Report
June 13, 2022

ATTACHMENT V-A.5

Curriculum

- Elementary Summer School starts its second week today. There are 129 students attending at Pine Creek and 120 students attending at Bennington Elementary in grades K-5. The Summer School services have expanded with the Reading Improvement Act's requirement to offer summer reading programs. We now include students who are English Language Learners and students on an IEP. 46% of enrolled students have an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP), 30% of enrolled students have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 6% of enrolled students are English Language Learners. Students were excited and smiling through Week 1 as they learn about different countries and earn their "Passport to Learning this Summer".
- Middle School Summer School started its second week today. There are 34 students attending with 41% of these students have an IEP and 3% who are English Language Learners. The class structure includes reading, writing, and math. Classes will run for three weeks, Monday through Friday, 8:30-11:30 AM. The theme is "Wild About Learning" with an emphasis on animals. The students enjoyed a program from Wildlife Adventures during the first week.
- High School Summer Credit Recovery will offer 30 seats per session for students this summer with both AM and PM sessions through June and AM sessions in July. Students needing to earn Algebra 1 credit have a typical class setting rather than the online coursework. We are offering 3 sessions for a semester of Algebra 1 and 90 seats scheduled for online courses for credit recovery. The goal of the high school summer program is to have as many students on track to graduate on time as possible.
- The District hosted a New Curriculum Open House on Wednesday, May 11th from 5-7 PM. There were approximately 20 patrons who dropped by to look at the curriculum materials and ask questions. Four left written comments about communication to parents about topics that would be covered in class on sex education, Critical Race Theory, diversity, equity, or inclusion with information on how to opt out students from content.

Professional Development

- Curriculum & Assessment review meetings have been completed for each grade-level and curriculum area this summer. Teachers reviewed assessments, alignment to standards, and how the grading framework has been implemented and presented in curriculum materials. A special focus included mapping out what grades to include and during which grading period to continue to build consistency.
- Teachers are participating in many learning opportunities throughout the summer. Many teachers are taking graduate courses. Others are completing TIP Grant work to improve curriculum for their students. Teachers are planning to attend:
    - Great Plains Google Summit
    - AP Summer Institutes
    - Online Certification Courses in Google, Hapara, Clever, Screencastify, EdPuzzle & Boxlight
    - Local Technology & Curriculum Training Days

Superintendent Notes
June 2022

1. The administration would like to say thank you to all educators who helped children through this school year. Once again, we asked staff to endure several changes for many reasons throughout the year. The administration would like to thank all staff for going above the call of duty. Thank you for sticking by your students throughout this tumultuous year and greeting each one with a smile every morning. Thank you for creating an environment of safety and regularity in their days. Thank you for communicating with families beyond your normal working hours. Thank you for your empathy, patience, and perseverance. Families and students have had their share of challenges in this new normal, some of whom also struggled to adapt to new learning environments.
2. We have some preliminary enrollment numbers for the 2022/23 school year. We are seeing less than estimated in enrollment growth across the board. At this time, we are seeing 156 less in K-5 enrollment. The report shows that we have a range of 12 to 18 students less than estimated in grades 1st through 5th. We have 55 less than estimated in kindergarten. The middle schools are approximately 50 students lower than estimated and the high school is slightly over the estimate. In total we have 3,934 K-12 students enrolled at this time. We estimated an enrollment of 4,090. We saw the same slowdown or decline in enrollment at this time last summer only to be within 15 to 20 students from our estimate by the time school started in August.

School	Actual 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23	June, 13th 2022/23
Anchor Pointe Elementary	579	308	319
Bennington Elementary	397	415	389
Heritage Elementary	433	451	420
Pine Creek Elementary	590	604	565
Pine Creek Elementary	000	347	328
Middle School	849	439	399
Middle School South	000	510	496
High School	957	1,016	1,018
Total	3,805	4,090	3,934

3. We have brought on two new staff members to the District Office this past month. Dr. Matt Blomenkamp is transitioning from the principalship to assistant superintendent responsible for human resources and construction. He is attending workshops and meetings to learn about his new role this summer. We also welcomed Miss Stacy Hawn as the new Coordinator of Communication this past week. Miss Hawn is meeting with all administrators to gather input on her new role and develop a communications plan for the District. You will start to see information coming from this new position in the coming weeks.
4. As you know, I am serving on a Commissioner of Education advisory group for NDE. Commissioner Blomstedt selected a special advisory group comprised of three superintendents from each of the eight State Board districts (24 total) to help the Nebraska Department of Education. This group has accomplished very little in the past few years that I have served on this advisory committee. I was in belief this will change with the events of the past year, but little has happened. The Commissioner has scheduled meetings with this group once a month during the past school year. Discussions have centered around a Return to Learn, student achievement gaps and safety protocols. Many are less passive and more vocal asking for leadership from our Commissioner.
5. The City of Bennington's hydrant parties are back! We will host three hydrant parties for the City of Bennington in the south parking lot of Bennington Elementary on Fridays from 2-3pm June 17th, July 15th and Aug 5th.
6. Administrative Reports have a listing for summer hours for all six buildings and the district office. As you should note, all six buildings will have someone in the office during the month of July checking voice mails and distributing mail. Hours for each building went out in building newsletters and are listed on the district website. Generally, we will have someone in each office on Tuesday's from 10:00 AM to noon each week for district consistency. We are making some adjustments in the district office for summer hours. We are allowing district personnel to add time to their day from Monday through Thursday. This additional time will be used to allow district personnel to leave early on Friday. All district personnel will work a minimum of ½ a day on Fridays.

7. I will take the month of June to prepare the 2022-23 general fund budget. We will have approximately $5.7 million in additional revenue for the upcoming budget. We can build a budget that allows for one-time expenses in 2021-22 that we cut for additional personnel in 2022-23. Much of this increase has been earmarked for new personnel and increased salary and benefit expenses for existing personnel. The district has used this budgeting practice in the past to compensate for small projected increases in revenue following a large increase. The Building and Finance Committee will review the budget sometime in July before the full board will review in August.
8. New teachers to our district will have three days of professional development before all staff report for work on Friday, August 12th. New teachers will come in to receive their laptop computer, training on email and other technology issues one day during the week of July 11th. All new certificated staff will report on Wednesday and Thursday, August 10th and 11th, for training, HR paperwork, and a variety of meetings.

Curriculum & Americanism Committee Notes
June 10, 2022
Email Discussion

The Curriculum & Americanism Committee of the Bennington Board of Education reviewed potential proposals on June 10, 2022, through email discussion. Board members included were Kara Neuverth, Valerie Calderon, and Heather Goertz. Administrators included were Dr. Haack and Dr. Hoge. The Curriculum Committee (the Committee) reviewed curriculum and personnel proposals for the 2022-2023 school year for the fourth time this school term.

Dr. Haack provided an updated budget available for proposals. Budget numbers are a very close estimate since the District has received confirmation of most numbers. Estimates of Douglas County property taxes were received with a growth of 13.43% for an increase of $2,618,321. State aid was certified on February 23rd and there is an increase of $2,642,741. Also included in this preliminary budget is the five-year average for OAR funds, for a total estimated revenue increase of $5,701,945. Part of the annual budget increase must include the negotiated agreement and other salary increases at approximately $1,462,762, increase in the instructional budget and operating expenses for growth at $250,000, plus the estimated increase in operating costs to open two new schools at $450,000, and additional salary costs in Salary Scale Movement at $109,000, for a total of $2,297,000. Dr. Haack pointed out an additional amount of approximately $1,675,000 would be available through non-reoccurring items from the 2021-2022 budget. The Board of Education approved $2,337,207 in the first round of proposals at the December Board meeting, $1,549,835 in the second round of proposals at the January Board meeting, and $611,675 in the third round of proposals at the April Board Meeting. This would leave about $526,188 available in the budget to spend on proposals at this time.

Dr. Hoge presented Proposal #30 for Middle School Exploratory Teachers for consideration. The original proposal was for 8.0 FTE Teachers and 6.0 FTE have been approved at this time. Due to growth in numbers across both the elementary schools and the middle schools, Dr. Hoge explained that sharing teachers is not feasible for Physical Education. She would recommend the addition of 1.0 FTE for a Middle School Exploratory Teacher in Physical Education. The Committee was disappointed in the late determination of this need.

The Committee next reviewed the addition of another 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher due to student growth in Grade 1 at Anchor Pointe Elementary. This is Proposal #43 which was not approved while the District monitored enrollment. The administration would recommend adding this 1.0 FTE for elementary growth.

Next, Dr. Hoge presented Proposal #51 for a Birth-5 Lead Early Childhood/SPED Teacher. The case load at the current time has increased to more than sixty (60) students assigned to a single teacher. These are services provided to families to support children with identified needs before they reach school age. As our community has grown so has the need for families in this area. This teacher is assigned an extended contract of fifteen (15) additional days to provide services through the summer months. The administration recommends the addition of this position.

The Committee considered Proposal #88 for Hapara Software. The teachers and the District Technology Committee have recommended this software to help teachers to share documents, specific websites, and monitor students while they work individually on their Chromebooks. After consideration and discussion with the Technology Coordinator, the administration would recommend expanding the use of this software from grades 4-12 to include grades 2 and 3.

The final proposal the Committee was asked to review was a new proposal #95. The elementary music teachers have sponsored a Drumming Club for the past four years, with skipping the 2020-2021 year due to COVID. This club met weekly and included 20-30 students. They have met the required processes to establish the new club and be placed on the Extra Duty Schedule. The administration would support the inclusion of this club on the Extra Duty Schedule in Section VII – Tier 2. The Committee shared concerns over the process to establish a new club which includes three years of volunteering before the club will be added to the Extra Duty Schedule.

The Committee will recommend moving forward with these proposals. The table below shows those proposals recommended for approval at this time.

Name	Description	Personnel Costs	Curriculum Costs
1.0 FTE MS#2 Exploratory Teacher (Proposal 30)	Add 1.0 FTE Physical Education Exploratory Teacher for BMS for Growth	$85,100	$3,000
1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher AP (Proposal 43)	Add 1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher at AP for Growth	$85,100	$3,000
B-5 Lead EC/SPED Teacher (Proposal 51)	Add 1.0 FTE Birth-5 Early Childhood SPED Teacher + 15 Days	$91,900	$2,000
2-3 Hapara Highlights (Proposal 88)	Add the Highlights portion of Hapara to Grades 2-3. This expands program to cover grades 2-12.	$0	$3,650
Elementary Drumming Club Sponsor (Proposal 95)	Add Elementary Drumming Club Sponsors to Extra Duty Schedule (5 Schools)	$3,705	$0
Total Costs - General Budget		$ 265,805	$ 11,650

The Committee would like these recommended proposals be approved at the June 13, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

BENNINGTON PROJECTS (Status Update)

The following is the status update (as of Thursday, June 9, 2022) of the Bennington projects as provided by Michael Berg from DLR:

The new middle school contractor continues to complete interior finishes with closeout and punch list items starting. Landscaping, seeding and sod has started onsite and on the new roads. The elementary school is working on carpet and athletic equipment installation. The 171st street and Woodney road project has completed concrete paving and continues to backfill for sidewalk installation. The HS stadium project is proceeding with parent drop off concrete and closeout of concessions building

Middle School #2

1. Interior finishes continue in the academic wing with carpet and final coats of paint
2. The administration area is being finished with entry glass and security in process
3. Kitchen equipment is onsite and is scheduled for installation in the next two weeks as flooring in completed
4. Parking lot paving and drives are complete
5. New football field sod has been installed and practice field modifications are nearly complete for sprinkler and sod to be installed in the coming weeks
6. Terrazzo installation in the commons has been installed and buffing will begin this week
7. Lighting / generator work continues with state inspection occurring as areas are complete

Elementary #5

1. Academic wing carpet was recently completed with vinyl flooring to start in the coming weeks as floors are prepped
2. Interior painting is complete with touchups to be done during punch list stages
3. Front entry glass doors and walls are scheduled to be delivered in two weeks after a recent delay with materials shipping
4. Casework has been installed throughout the building
5. Kitchen wall tile has been installed with epoxy flooring being prepped for installation early next week to start
6. Playground basketball court was recently poured and remaining drive paving scheduled as weather allows
7. Interior doors are onsite and continue to be installed as areas are enclosed and HVAC units condition the space
8. Ceiling grid is installed in the classroom wing with pads scheduled in the coming weeks

High School Stadium Improvements

1. Punchlist of buildings complete. Contractor addressing items.
2. Plaza and Softball concessions are waiting on delivery of tile
3. Cracked sidewalk panels removed and will be replaced
4. Final grading is ongoing
5. Bus/Parent drop off loops demo is complete

171st / Woodney Road work

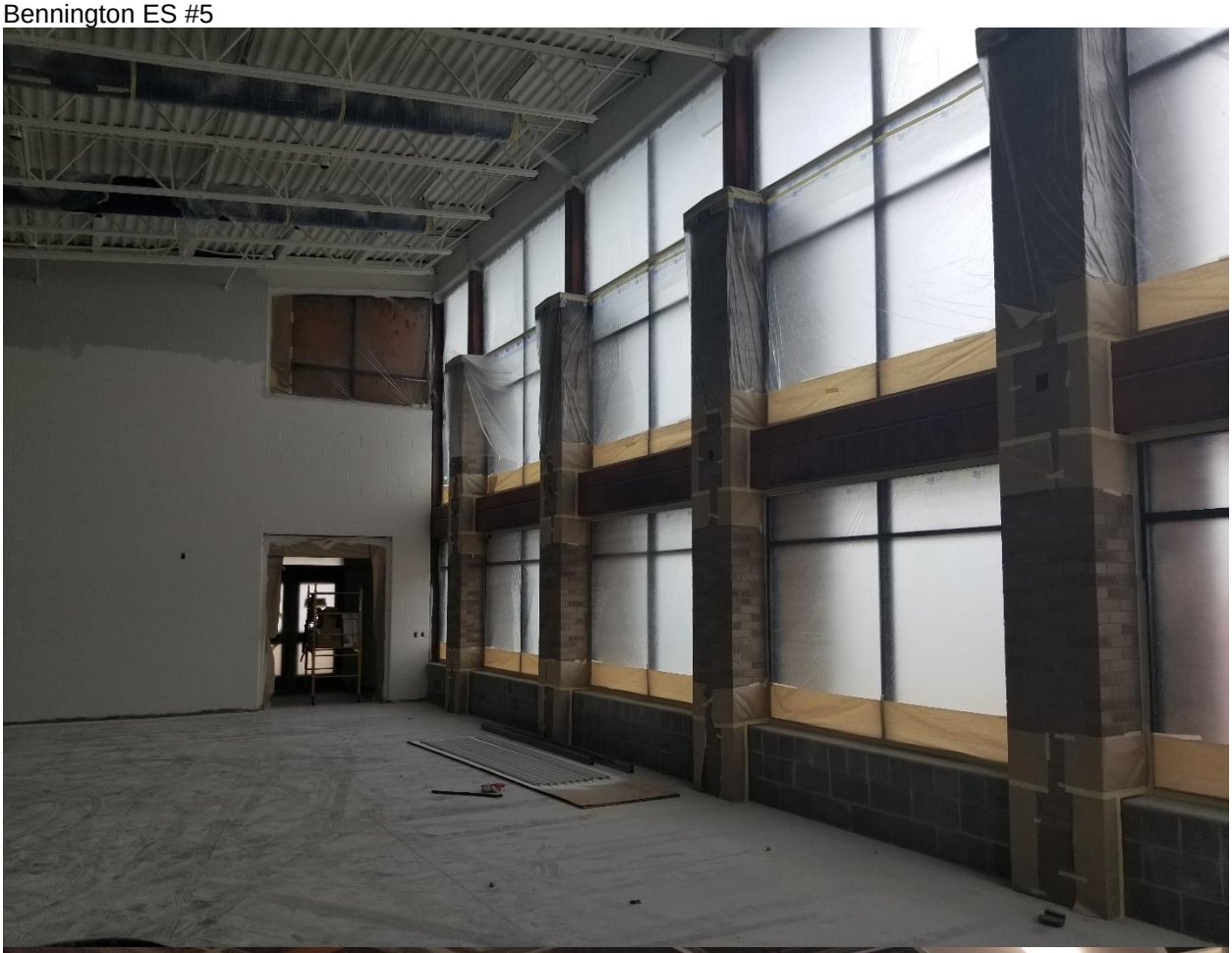
1. Mainline paving is complete
2. MUD is installing gas/water main
3. Snowden @ 168th widening continues
4. Sidewalks and fine grading to begin this week

Bennington MS #2

HUSKY

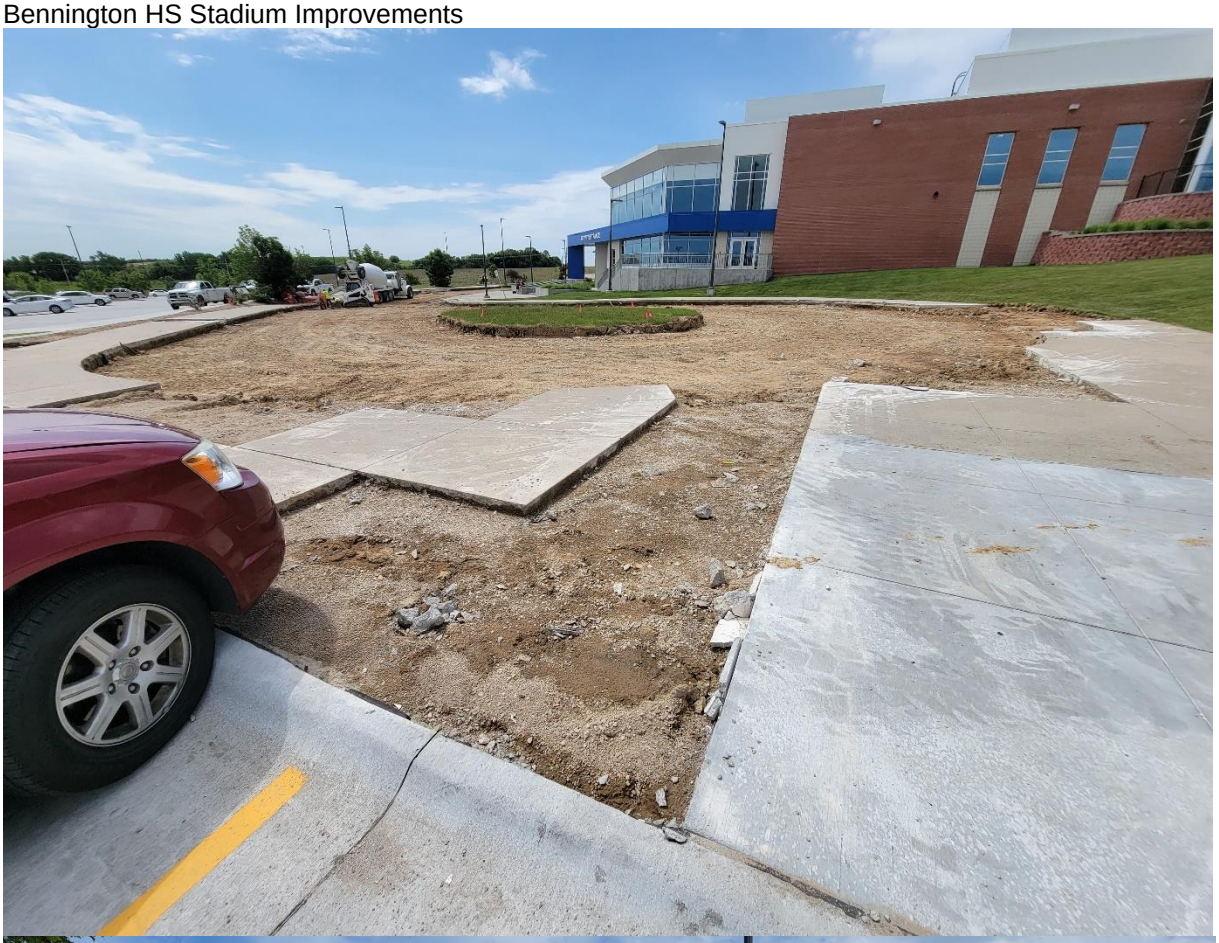
CONVEYOR

Bennington ES #5

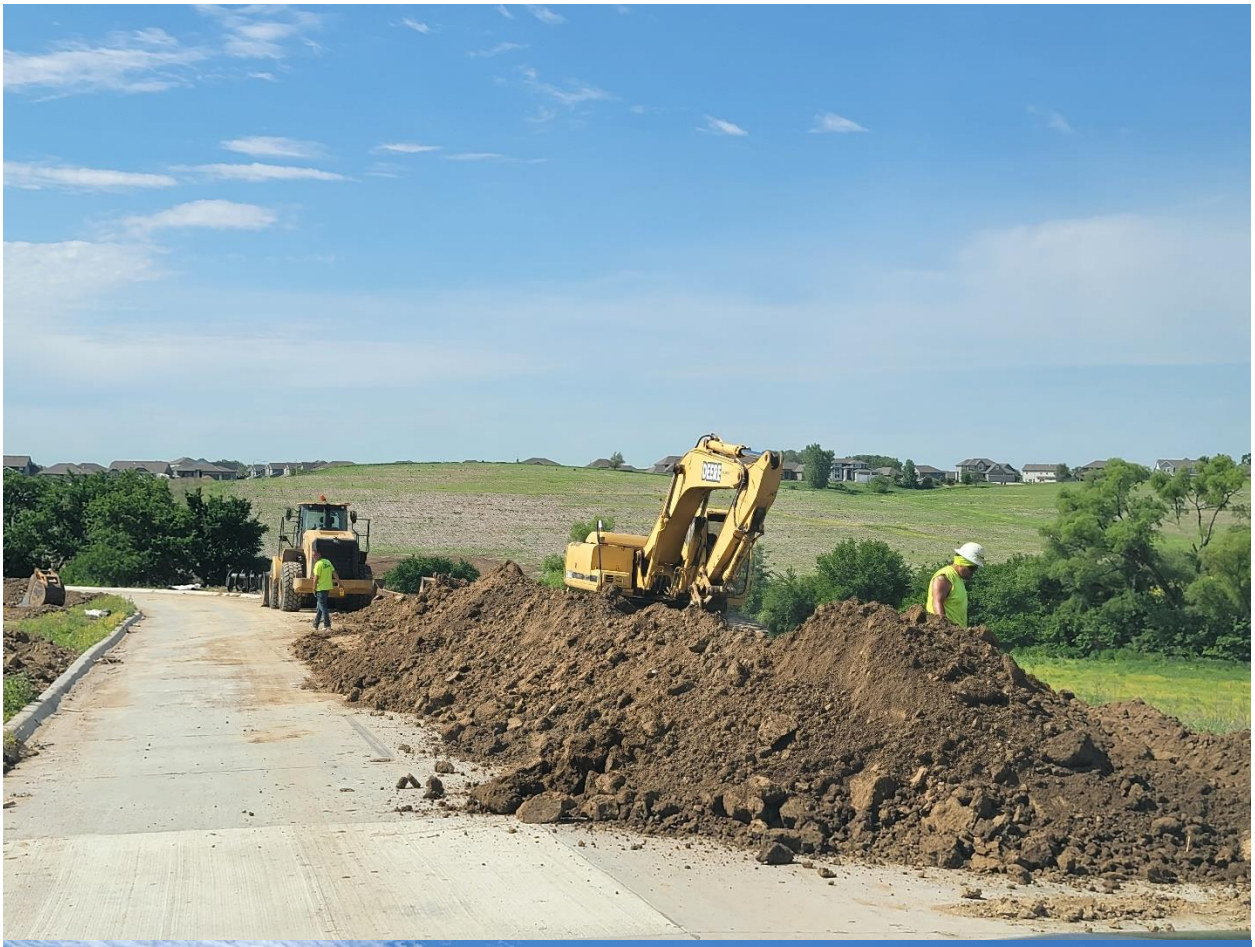


SSL II
ATMOSPHERE DUCT
ENGINEERED
PRODUCTS CO.

Bennington HS Stadium Improvements



171st/Woodney Road Work



STOP

Decree #	Items to Address	Anticipated Date of Completion	Bond Money	General Fund	Remaining
3.a	Ticket Booth #1 (2021)	Completed		$ 2,000.00	
4.b	Solid Wall Dugouts with two tier benches (2022)	Completed		$ 175,769.00	
4.b	Bat/Helmet Racks #3 (2022)	August 2022			$ 1,750.00
4.b	Dugout Screen #4 (2022)	Completed		N/A	
3.b; 10	Field Lighting Calibration #5 (2021)	Completed		N/A	
4.c, 4.i; 4.e	Home bullpen with lighting, and visitors bullpen, both next to the dugouts and enclosed with black vinyl-coated fencing, and screens and bull pen tarps (2021)	August 2022		$ 36,595.00	
4.h; 12	Spectator Seating #7 (2022); Tables equivalent to Baseball	August 2022			$ 160,000.00
3.f	Field Tarps #7	Completed		$ 1,140.00	
3.c	Hitting Nets #8	Completed		$ 2,167.00	
4.g	Visitor Hitting Facility	Completed		$ 13,082.00	
4.k; 14	Lighting on home hitting facility to the extent of the baseball field	Completed		N/A	
3.d	Mobile Batting Cage Practice #9	August, 2021		N/A	
3.e; 7; 8	Field Condition (safe and playble condition with quality field material and appropriate drainage) #10	August 2021		$ 65,623.00	
3.g	On-Deck Circle #12	August 2021		$ 469.00	
4.d	Backstop padding #13	August 2021		$ 2,646.00	
4.d	Backstop netting #13	Completed		$ 9,300.00	
3.h; 15	Press Box as proposed by the School District in the 2020 bond issue, including finished interior with storage, shelves, counters, chairs, and sound/PA system capability	Completed	$ 190,000.00		
4.a	Permanent Restrooms and Concession Stand as proposed by the School District in the 2020 bond issue, #15 and #16	August 2022	$ 761,300.00		
11	Temporary Restrooms @ Stadium #15	August, 9th 2021		$ 24,652.00	
	Running Water to the existing concession stand	August 2022	N/A		
3.h	Sound System #18	August 2021		$ 3,698.00	
4.j; 13	Security System #19	August 2022			$ 250.00
9	School colors #20	Completed		N/A	
3.i	Secured Storage with shelves, racks and/or cabinets, below press box	August 2022			$ 5,000.00
4.L	Scoreboard of equivalent size and features	Completed		$ 37,966.00	
4.e; 4.f	Outfield Fence #23	August 2021		$ 32,140.00	
4.f	Sideline Fencing (permanent black coated) and windscreens on sideline fence	August 2021		$ 27,188.00	
4.f	Warning Track #25	August 2021		$ 50,945.00	
3.j	Fence Windscreens and distance signs on outfield fence	August 2021		$ 3,823.00	
3.k	Flag Pole #28	Completed		$ 4,000.00	
23	Signs #31	August 2022			$ 2,000.00
27	Funding #32	Complete at Settlement		N/A	
28	Fundraising Access	Complete at Settlement		N/A	
23	Exclusive use #33	Complete at Settlement		N/A	
16	Uniforms/Equipment #34	August 2021		$ 2,595.00	
21	Game Schedules #35	21 - 22 school year		N/A	
17	Off-Season Training #36	21 - 22 school year		N/A	
20	Transportation #37	21 - 22 school year		N/A	
18	Weight Training #39	Started June of 2021		N/A	
18	Awards Wall	Funding is Available for any / all athletic awards			$ 2,000.00
19	Quality Coaches	June 2021		N/A	
22	Stadium Access for all SB Games	October 2021		N/A	
24	Trainer Access #40	Completed		N/A	
25	Publicity #41	Complete at Settlement		N/A	
	Attorney Fees #42	Complete at Settlement			$ 125,000.00
			$ 951,300.00	$ 495,798.00	$ 296,000.00
			$ 1,743,098.00		

Bennington Public Schools Operations Summer work **6.13.2022**

Summer Bond Projects.

- Bennington High School Site improvements:
    - Monitor construction progress
    - Assist contractors with projects
- Stratford Elementary:
    - Movement of teacher supplies
    - Installation of furniture
    - Monitor construction
- Middle School #2:
    - Movement of teacher supplies
    - Installation of furniture
    - Monitor construction
- Snowden 171st St
    - Monitor construction progress.

Summer work projects

- Heritage Elementary:
    - Refresh landscape / mulch beds
    - List by Principal
- Pine Creek Elementary
    - Ordering and installation of cabinets coordinated with the building principal to make the best use of some spaces.
    - There is a need to convert the stage to a permanent music room. Anchor Pointe stage has two sections of airwalls that allow for this stage to become a room. Heritage and Pine creek were only built with one section of airwall. We have a bid to add another section of airwall that will allow the stage to be fully enclosed. Pictures of Anchor Pointe stage are below for reference.

        Bid: $27,560

- Anchor Pointe
    - Sod / Seed desperately needed around the playground. Will need a snow fence to keep the public off until established.
- Bennington Middle School
    - The retaining wall on the east side of the building is failing in a few spots. There is also concrete heaving just next to the retaining wall. It is our belief that the drainage to the wall was never connected to the storm drain. Have a bid from the original installer to repair the wall and replace the concrete sidewalk that is heaving. Will make sure it is connected to the storm drain.

        Bid: $8,575

- Refinish gym floor. Coordinated by the athletic director.
- Bennington Elementary
    - Refresh sod and improve drainage around the Basketball court.

Bennington Public Schools Operations Summer work **6.13.2022**

- Bennington High School
    - Chiller replacement now moved to fall
- Warehouse Equipment
    - None needed at this time.
- All buildings
    - Mulch beds
        - Replace mulch
        - Weed
        - Replace plants as needed.
    - Paint touch up
    - Striping of parking lots
    - Aerate and overseed of practice fields and school grounds damaged from recess
    - Work orders from staff
- Summer work order recap
    - 135 total work orders from staff.
    - 35 work orders are complete as of 6.10.2021
- Summer cleaning
    - Full carpet extraction at all locations and the District Office.
    - Interior and Exterior Glass Cleaning
    - Every table, chair, table and furniture will be dusted, wiped down and disinfected.
    - High Dusting in all schools with use of your lift for access
    - Deep cleaning and disinfection of locker rooms including lockers and showers.
    - Cleaning of Gymnasiums including floors and bleachers.
    - Stripping and waxing of any VCT Tile.
    - Buffing Terrazzo floor in High School commons and hallway.
    - Deep clean restrooms including power scrubbing tile floors.
    - Office cleaning in school locations and the district office.
    - Dusting of any window coverings
    - Deep clean kitchen floors with wet scrubbing at each location.

ELTON JOHN
FAREWELL
MARCH 27, 2022
ELTON JOHN
FAREWELL
BHS
STATE

3
11

2021 – 2022 Activities Report

Bennington Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting

June 13, 2022

Participation Rates

2020 – 2021

- 9th – 74% (B – 93 / G – 107)
- 10th – 75% (B – 81 / G – 93)
- 11th – 69% (B – 86 / G – 67)
- 12th – 61% (B- 56 / G – 48)
- 890 Total Students – 71% Participation Rate. 631 Students involved in Athletics or Activities.

2021-2022

- 9th – 72% (B – 94 / G – 82)
- 10th – 64% (B – 73 / G – 94)
- 11th – 65% (B – 66 / G – 84)
- 12th – 57% (B – 66 / G – 54)
- 947 Total Students – 65% participation rate. 613 Students involved in Athletics or Activities

Participation Numbers

Athletics

Fall

- Volleyball: 32 (37)
- X-Country: 70 (54)
- Softball: 36 (33)
- Football: 123 (108)
- Girls Golf: 20 (12)

Winter

- Wrestling: 35 (39)
- Boys Bball: 41 (40)
- Girls BBall: 29 (27)
- Uni Bowling: 51 (30)

Spring

- Baseball: 47 (42)
- Boys Soccer: 47 (35)
- Boys Golf: 13 (14)
- Girls Soccer: 51 (44)
- Girls Tennis: 27 (38)
- Track & Field: 126 (83)

Activities

- Band: 72 (70)
- Choir: 140 (150)
- One Act: 57 (45)
- Speech: 24 (31)
- FBLA: 26 (26)
- Skills USA: 44 (36)
- Musical: 105 (111)
- Dance: 18 (20)
- Cheer: 25 (18)

Accomplishments

In the Classroom:

- 243 (168) Academic All-EMC Performers (11^{th}/12^{th} Graders eligible)
- 42 (41) Academic All-State Performers in NSAA Events in our 23 NSAA Sports / Activities

In Competition:

- 5 State Championships (Football, Wrestling x 2; Dance x 2);
- 2 State Runner-Up's – Girls Cross Country; Girls Track & Field
- 9 Teams Qualified for State Championship Competition
- Finished 3^{rd} in Class B NSAA All-Activities Cup Standings
- 6 District Championships (Softball, Football, Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer).

Accomplishments Continued

- 4 12 Sport Athletes
- 10 State Speech Qualifiers in 5 Events
- 9 All-State Choir and Band Members
- 13 All-State First Team Sports Honorees / 7 Individual State Champions
- First Ever NSAA Girls State Wrestling Champion – Maycee Peacher
- Among Largest Unified Bowling and Unified Track Teams in State

Current and Future Topics

- Budgets and Funding
    - District Allocation to each program increased this year.
    - All programs were funded at equitable and appropriate levels to support a great experience for all students in 2021-2022.
  - Booster Club Funding
    - Since 1/1/2021 – Boys Programs: $22,322; Girls Programs: $27,208
    - Purchase Examples: Girls and Boys Basketball – Travel Gear; Girls Soccer – Winter Jackets; Track & Field – Timing System, Discus and Shot put Carts
- Staffing
  - Department Recommends hiring a 2nd Full-Time Trainer – Could work some middle school events and on-board prior to opening of new high school
  - Current Trainer can work 3 nights in a week; Coach Saunders Covered 62 events last year
- Growth – The coming split of middle and high schools.
  - Policies and Boundaries
- Move to Class A – Projected for 2024 – 2025 school year
  - 850 3 Year Enrollment for Class A

Current and Future Topics

- Girls Wrestling – Continued Growth
- Track Resurfacing Delay – Project Supposed to begin on 5/23/22; Contract Secured in early October 2021.
- Gymnasium Video Board Installation / Implementation
  - Shipping Delayed until 8/10/22
  - Curriculum Implications (Video Journalism?)
  - Student workers of Board?
  - Who films clips and segments for board?
  - Training for long-time workers
- Officials and Coaches Retention
- Potential addition of more sports and activities
  - Implications: Supervision / Funding / Facility

Current and Future Topics

- Tennis – Koch Tennis Center will likely not be available to our Girls Tennis Program for much longer –
  - This could impact us in Spring 2023
- Pole Vault and High Jump Pits – Replacement within 5 years
- Possibility of playing makeup varsity contests on Wednesdays
  - Early starts (400-430pm; game conclusion by 630pm)
- Increasing Supervision at all contests
  - Current Practice is 1 administrator at most events
  - Better Fan Behavior and Sportsmanship occurs with more supervision
    - Berating officials from the stands; negative interactions between different schools' fans, etc…
- Tues 4/18/23 – Possible Early out (Instead of Wednesday)
  - Bennington Track Invite – Event is too large to adequately conduct with school in session

120
121
122
119
123
148
145
147
143

WRESTLING
STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
1
2
3
4
5
6
2022
NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
CLASS B
CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEBRASKA STATE
DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
CHAMPION
HIP HOP CLASS B 2022
NEBRASKA STATE
DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
CHAMPION
POM CLASS B 2022

Middle School Athletic Participation Numbers

Volleyball	38
Intramural Volleyball	44
Football	84
X-Country	60
Boys' Basketball	41
Intramural Boys' Basketball	24
Girls' Basketball	34
Intramural Girls' Basketball	9
Wrestling	36
Track & Field	173

Middle School Activities: 2021-2022

Cooking	105
Reading	10
Service	15
Jazz Band	22
Science	20
Art	26
Math	8
Fitness	38
Student Senate	13
Yearbook	11
Game Club	23

Middle School Updates for 2022-2023

- Splitting into Two Schools
- New Stadium at Bennington South
- Ordering Jerseys and Equipment
- Competitions Against Each Other
- Promoting Getting Involved
- Keeping Clubs Similar in Both Buildings
- Keeping High School Involved

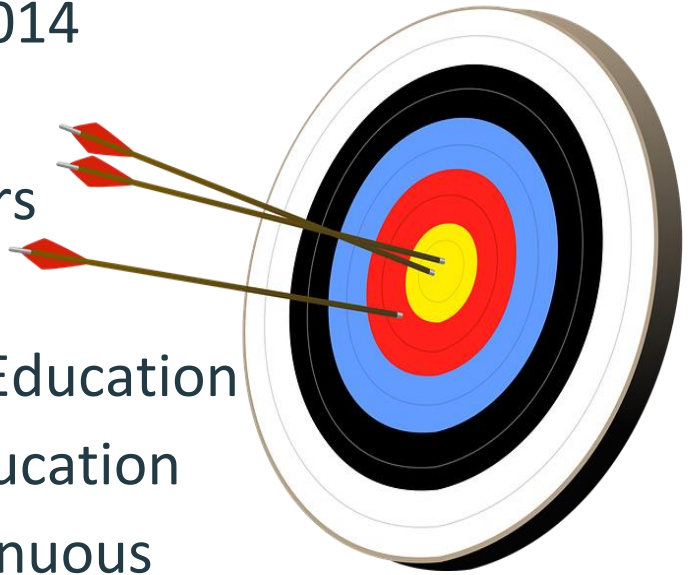
Bennington Public Schools Strategic Plan Annual Recap

June 13, 2022

General Overview

GOAL SETTING

- ★ Current Goals Established 2013-2014
- ★ Community Members, Teachers, Students, Parents & Administrators
- ★ Four Goals Developed
- ★ Reaffirmed Annually by Board of Education
- ★ Progress Reported to Board of Education
- ★ Strategic Plan Used to Drive Continuous Improvement



Goal #1 - 21st Century Teaching & Learning

The academic program offered by the Bennington Public Schools will prepare students to learn and work in the 21st Century.

Objectives

- ★ **Objective 1.1:** *By January 2014, the Bennington Public Schools will develop a working definition of 21st Century Skills.*
- ★ **Objective 1.2:** *By November 2014, the Bennington Public Schools will complete a curriculum audit and analyze the results to propose what improvements could be made.*
- ★ **Objective 1.3:** *By March 2015, communicate findings and recommendations to the community for feedback and support for proposed academic programs.*
- ★ **Objective 1.4:** *By August 2016, launch an updated, evolving curriculum addressing 21st Century Skills.*

2021-2022 Work Completed

- ★ Student skill development reported to parents
- ★ Professional development on teaching and assessing of 21st Century Skills
- ★ LiveBinder of teacher resources and back to school workshop 2021 by consultant Sue Beers
- ★ Focused emphasis on limited skills
- ★ Skills intentionally taught in SST & Homeroom
- ★ Expanded CTE Courses in High School
- ★ Expanded field trips to see skills in work place

Future Work

- ★ The 21st Century Skills will be focused
- ★ Professional Development focus on teaching, demonstrating, & assessing 21st Century Skills.
- ★ Administration build greater capacity to provide appraisal feedback in the area of 21st Century Skills.
- ★ Middle and high school teachers develop reporting system to combine student self-assessment and teacher input.
- ★ Use key measures to evaluate impact of critical initiatives in meeting identified objectives.

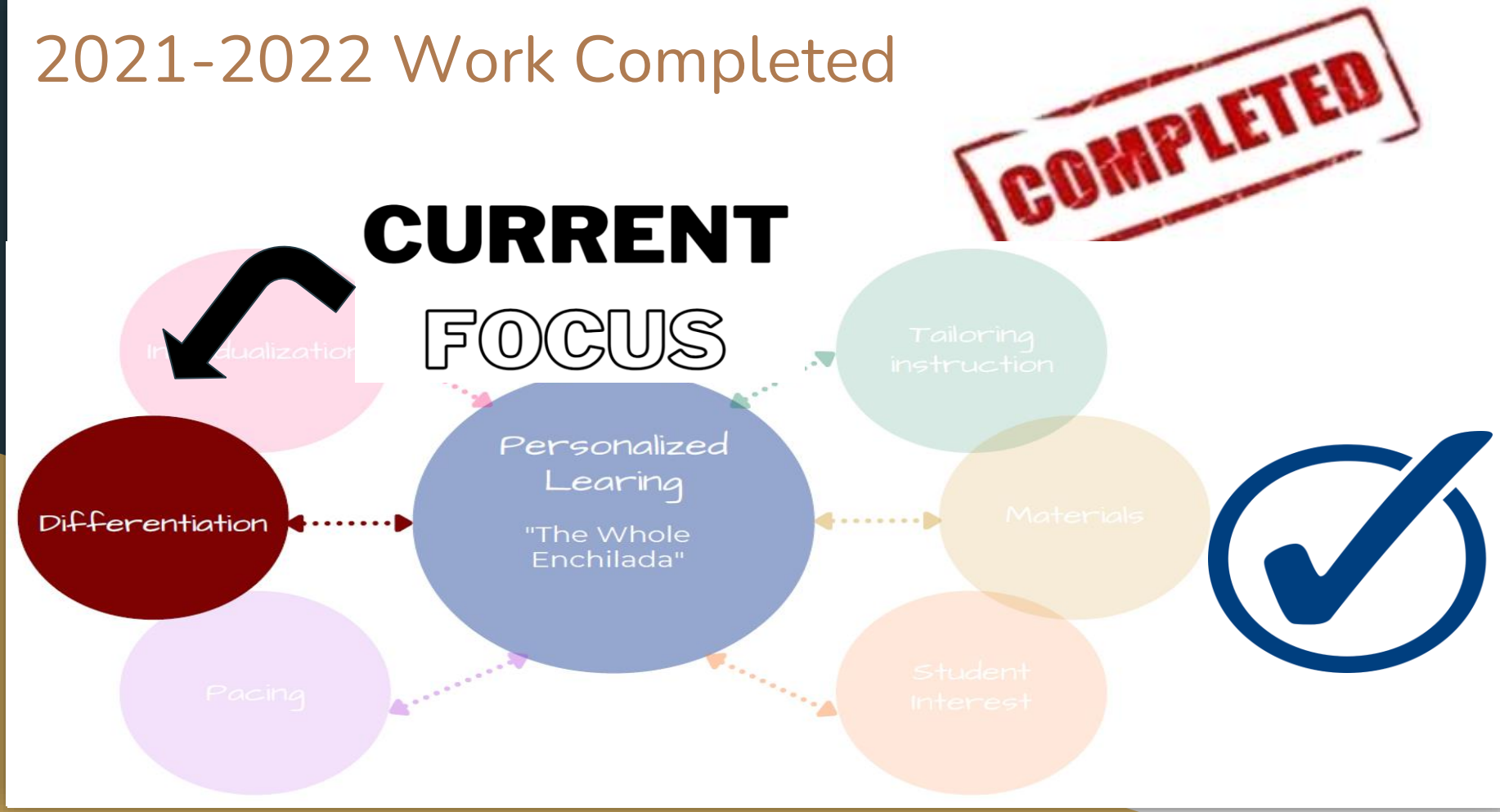
Goal #2 - Personalized Learning

Bennington Public Schools will meet the educational needs of all students by personalizing the students' learning environment.

Objectives

- ★ **Objective 2.1:** *By April 2014, define personalizing student's learning environment.*
- ★ **Objective 2.2:** *Determine the educational needs of students: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.*
- ★ **Objective 2.3:** *Expand the methodologies of personalizing student learning.*
- ★ **Objective 2.4:** *Establish a process for students to personalize education to interest and objectives.*

2021-2022 Work Completed



Future Work

- ★ Develop a better understanding of individualization vs differentiation vs personalization.
- ★ Embed practices in instruction & Impact all students.
- ★ Gather Teacher input to focus work.
- ★ Lay groundwork for how we move forward with differentiation as a piece of personalized learning
- ★ Use key measures to evaluate impact of critical initiatives in meeting identified objectives.

Goal #3 - Community Collaboration & Communication

Bennington Public Schools will increase collaboration between the school district and community to create a safe, caring, and positive learning environment.

Objectives

- ★ **Objective 3.1:** *Utilize social media to promote and educate the community on opportunities in the district.*
- ★ **Objective 3.2:** *Build upon the community service offered to OUR community by increasing the visibility of our student body (K-12). This is written with service in mind, not fundraising.*
- ★ **Objective 3.3:** *Education of Taxpayers on all topics School District.*

2021-2022 Work Completed

www.benningtonschools.org

Future Work

- ★ Work with Communications Coordinator
- ★ Develop Communications Plan
- ★ Use key measures to evaluate impact of critical initiatives in meeting identified objectives.

Goal #4 - Social Emotional Learning & Needs

Bennington Public Schools will implement programs and provide resources to meet the emotional, social, and cultural needs of all of its students.

Objectives

- ★ **Objective 4.1:** *Identify the emotional, social, and cultural needs of all the students.*
- ★ **Objective 4.2:** *Identify the resources and programs needed to effectively satisfy the needs of all the students.*
- ★ **Objective 4.3:** *Implementation of an on-going district-wide process which will continuously address the social and emotional needs of all students.*

2021-2022 Work Completed

- ★ SEL Curriculum Materials Adopted
- ★ Multicultural Plan Updated
- ★ Student & Community Participation in Multicultural Plan Review
- ★ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for Staff

Future Work

- ★ Work with committee in implementation of school-wide SEL curriculum
- ★ Building teams will participate in SEBL Nebraska to develop tiered interventions and levels of supports for students, teachers, and families
- ★ Continued professional learning opportunities for staff in SEL, diversity, equity, and inclusion
- ★ Create greater transparency and reporting of multicultural education within BPS
- ★ Use key measures to evaluate impact of critical initiatives in meeting identified objectives.

Questions?

Bennington Public Schools Operations Summer work **6.13.2022**

Summer Bond Projects.

- Bennington High School Site improvements:
    - Monitor construction progress
    - Assist contractors with projects
- Stratford Elementary:
    - Movement of teacher supplies
    - Installation of furniture
    - Monitor construction
- Middle School #2:
    - Movement of teacher supplies
    - Installation of furniture
    - Monitor construction
- Snowden 171st St
    - Monitor construction progress.

Summer work projects

- Heritage Elementary:
    - Refresh landscape / mulch beds
    - List by Principal
- Pine Creek Elementary
    - Ordering and installation of cabinets coordinated with the building principal to make the best use of some spaces.
    - There is a need to convert the stage to a permanent music room. Anchor Pointe stage has two sections of airwalls that allow for this stage to become a room. Heritage and Pine creek were only built with one section of airwall. We have a bid to add another section of airwall that will allow the stage to be fully enclosed. Pictures of Anchor Pointe stage are below for reference.

        Bid: $27,560

- Anchor Pointe
    - Sod / Seed desperately needed around the playground. Will need a snow fence to keep the public off until established.
- Bennington Middle School
    - The retaining wall on the east side of the building is failing in a few spots. There is also concrete heaving just next to the retaining wall. It is our belief that the drainage to the wall was never connected to the storm drain. Have a bid from the original installer to repair the wall and replace the concrete sidewalk that is heaving. Will make sure it is connected to the storm drain.

        Bid: $8,575

- Refinish gym floor. Coordinated by the athletic director.
- Bennington Elementary
    - Refresh sod and improve drainage around the Basketball court.

Bennington Public Schools Operations Summer work **6.13.2022**

- Bennington High School
    - Chiller replacement now moved to fall
- Warehouse Equipment
    - None needed at this time.
- All buildings
    - Mulch beds
        - Replace mulch
        - Weed
        - Replace plants as needed.
    - Paint touch up
    - Striping of parking lots
    - Aerate and overseed of practice fields and school grounds damaged from recess
    - Work orders from staff
- Summer work order recap
    - 135 total work orders from staff.
    - 35 work orders are complete as of 6.10.2021
- Summer cleaning
    - Full carpet extraction at all locations and the District Office.
    - Interior and Exterior Glass Cleaning
    - Every table, chair, table and furniture will be dusted, wiped down and disinfected.
    - High Dusting in all schools with use of your lift for access
    - Deep cleaning and disinfection of locker rooms including lockers and showers.
    - Cleaning of Gymnasiums including floors and bleachers.
    - Stripping and waxing of any VCT Tile.
    - Buffing Terrazzo floor in High School commons and hallway.
    - Deep clean restrooms including power scrubbing tile floors.
    - Office cleaning in school locations and the district office.
    - Dusting of any window coverings
    - Deep clean kitchen floors with wet scrubbing at each location.

Bennington Public Schools
Construction Manager at Risk – Selection Committee
CM@R Evaluation – May 25, 2022
FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RANKINGS

1. IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECT. The school construction project that is the subject of this selection process for a Construction Manager at Risk for such project under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act, §§ 13-2901, generally consists of a new high school building, athletic and other campus facilities, on-site infrastructure and possible off-site public infrastructure (the "Project"). Preliminary master planning proposes a building capacity between 1,000 to 1,500 students, grades 9-12, and an approximately 295,000 to 311,000 square foot building size.

2. SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS. The Selection Committee individually examined the proposals and supporting documentation submitted by the Proposers on May 5, 2022, for the position of CM@R, namely (alphabetical order), Boyd Jones Construction Company, Hausmann Construction, Inc., McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., Meyers-Carlisle-Leapley Construction Company, Inc., Sampson Construction Co., Inc., and The Weitz Company, LLC (individually referred to as "Proposer" or collectively referred to as "Proposers").

The Selection Committee then met May 16, 2022, and collectively reviewed and discussed, and ranked all Proposer firms based upon the qualifications criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals. The Selection Committee then determined to seek further information from the three (3) highest ranked Proposer firms to assist in ranking of those firms through interviews; the firms being: Hausmann Construction, McCarthy Building Companies, and Sampson Construction (hereinafter Finalist Proposers). The interviews were held on May 25, 2022, in the main board meeting room of the administrative building located at 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, Nebraska. Each of the Finalist Proposers interviewed firms were provided approximately forty-five (45) minutes to make their presentation and allow for questions from the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee met following the interviews to evaluate the Proposers and rank them in order of preference as required by statute and board policy and procedure. The Selection Committee deliberated regarding the evaluation of the Proposers submitting proposals for the position of CM@R for the Project and ranked the Proposers with regard to each of the criteria in the Request for Proposals. Generally, the Selection Committee finds that all Proposers did an excellent job in the preparation and presentation of the submittal materials, and that the Proposers interviewed provided varied and informative presentations and responded completely to questions presented by the Selection Committee members. It was the general consensus of Selection Committee that each of the Proposers has the ability to provide the construction management at risk services required in the Request for Proposals to provide the services required of the position; however, the Selection Committee is required to rank the Proposers in order of preference based upon the selection criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals. On that basis, the Selection Committee makes the following findings, recommendations and rankings under the specified selection criteria and overall rankings for the position as CM@R for the Project in order of preference based thereon.

3. SELECTION COMMITTEE FINDINGS.

a. Introductory Finding: The Selection Committee has given full and fair consideration to the information presented to the Selection Committee by each of the proposing firms. The following Selection Committee findings are based upon the submittals of the Proposers, and investigation of references and listed prior projects provided by Proposers. The Selection Committee is exercising its good faith judgment, acts from honest convictions, based upon facts, and as it believes for the best interests of the School District and its patrons and without favoritism, ill will, fraud, or collusion but with honest motives and for the purpose of promoting the public good and protecting the public interest. The ratings and rankings set forth below reflect the application of the selection criteria to the Proposers in relation to the proposed Project with the submitting firms compared to one another. The ratings and rankings should not in any manner be construed to place any firm in an unfavorable light, as all Proposers are qualified to perform the services of construction manager at risk for the Project.

All Proposers have experience in capital construction projects with varying levels of prior and current projects involving the construction of school facilities. The Selection Committee noted that the Finalists all have experience with new high school building facilities of the scope and size of this Project. The Selection Committee has considered the selection criteria enumerated in the Request for Proposals with an emphasis on the recent school facility projects completed or in progress by each firm with a budget and complexity similar to the Project with added weight given to those projects involving the project team (Project Executive, Project Manager, and Site Superintendent(s)) proposed for the Project. Considering the volume of information provided, the Selection Committee has focused these findings and recommendations and rankings on the characteristics that distinguish a firm positively under each selection criteria with an emphasis on the firm that provides relevant advantage or special value to the Project and to the School District.

The Selection Committee members individually ranked each firm based upon the total of the eight selection criteria. After discussion with regard to each criterion, each member provided the total points awarded by such member. The points for each firm from each Selection Committee member were then totaled and averaged among the Selection Committee members to give composite point scores. In addition, each firm was given a rank, with the highest point total given the highest rank and the lowest point total given the lowest rank. The rankings for each firm were then totaled and averaged among the Selection Committee members to give a composite rank for each firm. The final ranking of Proposers was made based on the ranking methodology; the point total scores were compared to the rank total scores for statistical comparison purposes only.

b. Ranking Summary: Upon application of the above process, the Selection Committee determined the ranking of the interviewed firms in order of preference are as follows:

Name of Firm	Ranking
Hausmann Construction, Inc.	1
Sampson Construction Co., Inc.	2
McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.	3

4. SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Based on its objective evaluation, the Selection Committee recommends to the Board of Education for Bennington Public Schools the foregoing ranking of the finalist firms submitting proposals for the position of CM@R for the Project and further recommends that the following be the highest ranked submitting firm for negotiations:

Hausmann Construction, Inc.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2022.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK SELECTION COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Name	**Signature**
Mark Byars	
Tim Dreessen	
Allyson Slobotski	
Dr. Terry Haack	
Dr. Matt Blomenkamp	
Todd Kwiecinski (designee for Curtis Johnson)	
Doug Laaker	
Patrice Gardner	

Recording Secretary on behalf of the Selection Committee

STRATFORD ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

2022-2023

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs. Molly O'Connor, Principal
Stratford Elementary School
9303 N. 171st Street
Bennington, NE 68007
(402) 238-#### / Fax # (402) 243-0719
www.benningtonschools.org

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2022 - BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2023

AUGUST 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	**17**	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

NOVEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August 2022
12-16.....Staff Inservice
17.....First Day of School
Early Staggered Dismissal

September 2022
5.....Labor Day/No school
14.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

October 2022
5.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
11 & 12.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem 4:00-8:00/MS 4:30-8:30/HS 5:00-9:00
13.....Inservice/No school
14.....No school
17.....Second Quarter Begins
26.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

November 2022
16.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
23-25.....Thanksgiving Break

December 2022
7.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
21.....End of First Semester- 85 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
22-31.....Winter Break

January 2023
1-3.....Winter Break
4.....Staff Inservice/No school
5.....First Day of Second Semester
16.....Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School
18.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

February 2023
8.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
14-15.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem 4:00-8:00/MS 4:30-8:30/HS 5:00-9:00
16.....Staff Inservice/No School
17.....No School
20.....President's Day/No School

March 2023
1.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
10*.....Inservice/No School/Snow Day Make-up
13.....Fourth Quarter Begins
22.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

April 2023
5.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
6-11.....Spring Break

May 2023
3.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
14.....Graduation
26.....End of Second Semester- 91 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
29.....Memorial Day

Conferences
No School In-Service
No School
Early Staggered Dismissal
Elem: 11:40 Middle: 11:50 High: 12:00

***Snow make up days if needed- March 10, May 25, May 26**

JANUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	**5**	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

FEBRUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10*
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25*	26*
29	30	31		

School year August 17-May 26 - 176 Student Days needed - 9 Teacher Inservice Days - 186 Total Contract Days
1 Contract day for P/T Conferences - Summer School June 1-24 - Approved 02/08/2020

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Valerie Calderon	Mrs. Allyson Slobotski	Mr. Tim Dreesen
Mr. Mark Byars	Mrs. Kara Neuverth	Dr. Heather Goertz

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent	Mr. Lucas Apfelbeck. Middle School South Asst. Principal
Mr. Chad Boyes, Anchor Pointe Elementary Principal	Dr. Dee Hoge, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Danielle Robb, Bennington Elementary Principal	Dr. Matt Blomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Alison Evangelisti, Pine Creek Elementary Principal	Mrs. Lynne Lurvey, District Bookkeeper
Mrs. Katie Lethcoe, Pine Creek Asst. Principal	Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Services Director
Mrs. Therese Nelson, Heritage Elementary Principal	Mrs. Jodi McCoy, Board Secretary
Mrs. Molly O'Connor, Stratford Elementary Principal	Dr. Greg Lamberty, H.S. Principal
Mrs. Renee Rucker, Middle School North Principal	Mr. Cody Bobolz, H.S. Asst. Principal
Mr. Matthew Wilson, Middle School North Asst. Principal	Mr. Christopher Kessel, H. S. Athletic Director
Mr. Shawn Hoppes, Middle School South Principal	

TEACHERS / STAFF

Mrs.	Brittany Kramer	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Megan Schwing	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Chelsy Scholtz	Grade 1
Mrs.	Michelle Shively	Grade 1
Miss	Taryn Wilhelms	Grade 1
Mrs.	Allie Carlson	Grade 2
Mrs.	Alexandra Phillips	Grade 2
Mrs	Kinsey Poulas	Grade 2
Mrs.	Tonya Richardson	Grade 2
Mrs.	Megan Hall	Grade 3
Mr.	William Longo	Grade 3
Mrs.	Kelly Lum	Grade 3
Mrs.	Hayden Loosbrock	Grade 4
Mr.	Andrew Miner	Grade 4
Mrs.	Nicole Steffensmeier	Grade 4
Mrs.	Krista Bendell	Grade 5
Mrs	Kaylee Brenner	Grade 5
Mrs.	Brandi Edens	Grade 5
Miss.	Stephanie Gillespie	Resource
Miss.	Gaby Hoegermeyer	Resource
Mrs.	Taylor Giroux	Speech Pathologist
Mrs.	Jamie Christensen	Psychologist
Miss	Lindsay Fisher	Art
Mrs.	Robyn Romero	Art
Mrs.	Jordyn Stryker	Music

Mrs.	Jennifer Flynn	Reading Interventionist
Ms.	Jennifer Callahan	Math Interventionist
Mrs.	Erika Hanke	Library-Media/Tech
Mrs.	Teresa Rischling	P.E.
Ms.	Abby Fitzgerald	HAL
Miss.	Austina Falcone	Counselor
Ms.	Kathy Albin	K-5 Spanish
Mrs.	Lisa Schoenoff	ELL Teacher
Mr.	Ted Blocher	Maintenance
Mr.	Gary Baker	Resource Officer
Mr.		B/A School Director
Mrs.	Jennifer West	Office/Health Para
		ELL Para-Aide
		Para-Aide
Mrs.	Kimberly Johnson	Para-Aide
		Para-Aide
		Para-Aide
		Para-Aide
		Para-Aide
		Spanish Aide
Mrs.	HeatherCormier	Nurse
Mrs.	Emily Coles	Food Service
		Food Service
		Food Service
		Food Service

You can access any staff member's email address at: www.benningtonschools.org

WELCOME TO STRATFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9303 N. 171st Street
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007
(402) 238-2690 Fax # (402) 238-2185
www.benningtonschools.org

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Elementary School. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer questions regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of our school. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. Parents/guardians and other school friends are encouraged to visit school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we will make this year a successful educational experience for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please contact us. We are here for the children and community.

Teacher Hours	7:50-3:50
Office Hours	7:30-4:00
Elementary Students	8:05-3:07
Students to Classrooms	8:05

Bennington Elementary School	(402) 238-2690
Pine Creek Elementary School	(402) 238-2372
Heritage Elementary School	(402) 238-2095
Anchor Pointe Elementary School	(402) 238-2166
Stratford Elementary School	(402) 238-####
Bennington Middle School North	(402) 238-3082
Bennington Middle School South	(402) 238-####
Bennington Secondary School	(402) 238-2447
Bennington School Fax	(402) 238-2185
Superintendent's Office	(402) 238-3044

MISSION STATEMENT OF BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE MISSION OF THE BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

School Colors: Royal Blue and White
School Mascot: The Badger

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Board of Education - The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Its duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

Superintendent of Schools - The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's final approval.

Principal - The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years of Junior High training (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the North Central Association of Schools and AdvancED.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The front office is located on the south side of the school facility off of Rachel Snowden Road. The address is: 9303 N 171st Street Bennington, NE 68007.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/guardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit school. It is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. However, out of courtesy to the classroom teachers and students, we ask you to please call the office to check their schedules and make arrangements prior to visiting the classrooms. Please follow guidelines indicated below:

1. When visiting the school, please report to the office to register as a guest and receive a visitor's pass before going to the designated classroom or activity. All visitors must enter through the elementary office. During larger functions such as assemblies, room parties, etc., visitor's passes may be waived; however, you will still need to check in at the office on these occasions.

3. Due to classroom space availability and respect for the learning environment, children not enrolled in school are discouraged from visiting during school hours.

4. All visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum.

The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds of activities.

In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he/she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on the premises.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BENNINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Stratford Elementary is a K-5 building with approximately **###** students. Many opportunities are available for student involvement beyond the elementary day in Bennington. Our community and parent involvement puts students first.

1. Our K-2 classrooms are typically self-contained with one teacher for the entire day.

2. The 3rd- 5th grade classrooms may rotate for content areas such as science and social studies, with the possibility of writing/grammar. Reading and math will be taught in their homeroom classroom unless a grade level plans otherwise. This will be communicated with you.

4. All elementary students have specials which include Physical Education, Music, Art, and Library/Technology.

5. Students will also receive Spanish instruction from a Spanish instructor and social skills lessons through the elementary guidance counselor.

6. Our teachers are some of the Omaha/Metro area's finest educators. They are skilled teachers and truly care about students. We work closely with parents/guardians to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students.

The district is required by federal law to inform you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). If you would like to request this information, please contact Dee Hoge at (402) 238-3044 and the information will be provided in a timely manner.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Stratford Elementary School is a special place to learn. Teachers and parents/guardians are partners in the process of educating and preparing our children for the future. We, like you, are interested and committed to the total development of your child. We pledge our best effort. Research indicates that the best schools, the best teachers, or the best principals are not as important to a child's achievement in school as parents/guardians. You have more opportunities to motivate, stimulate, and assist your child on the journey to success than anyone or anything else. Your involvement, attitude and support are vital components in the success of your child at school and in the home environment.

The teacher has the responsibility of educating and nurturing students in an academic and social environment. At Stratford Elementary, students also have responsibilities. Successful students must learn to listen and interact in a positive manner with peers and adults. Children are expected to conduct themselves according to school rules, including rules on the bus, in the classroom, in the lunchroom, on the playground, in the halls and to/from school. Students shall be courteous, safe, respectful and self-disciplined in all contact with classmates, parents/guardians, school personnel and visitors to the school. It is the position of Bennington Public Schools that the best learning

takes place in a calm, disciplined atmosphere with students who desire to do their best.

It is the philosophy of the school that discipline is an ongoing teaching process that fosters respect and dignity for all individuals. It is proactive, developmentally appropriate, culturally and gender sensitive. It stresses growth, individual responsibility, and problem solving in a collaborative effort among students, parents/guardians, educators, and the community.

The all-school expectations for Stratford Elementary School are as follows:

1. Be respectful;
2. Be responsible;
3. Be safe; and
4. Be kind.

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Levels of Intervention

Classroom teachers utilize building wide expectations along with classroom routines and procedures to support behavior within the classroom. When behaviors are unable to be modified successfully with teacher support, students may visit the office of administration for further assistance.

Serious Behavior Clause

There are three occasions when it will become necessary for adults to take immediate steps to help a child learn an alternative way of acting.

The "BIG 3 OFFENSES" are:

1. When a child or children are in physical danger. -- When touching or physical contact that causes bodily harm has occurred. EXAMPLES: Hitting – Biting – Scratching – Kicking – Spitting – Bullying Behavior
2. When a child or children are in emotional / verbal / physical distress. -- When a child is testing his/her abilities and pushes beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions. -- When a child is exhibiting threatening behavior / harmful teasing / bullying behavior. EXAMPLES: "I'll kill you!" – "I'll hurt you if you tell." - Racial Slurs - Sexual Slurs - "You're fat, ugly, etc." - Nonverbal gestures hurtful to others**.** Any bullying behavior as noted below**.**
3. Interrupting the teacher or students within the learning environment. EXAMPLES: Blatant refusal to cooperate with others, mocking others, sassing back to the teacher, lying, basic disrespect, etc. At such times, immediate action or removal from the group will be taken. The student will be referred to the principal.

Bullying: Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing.

AN AUTOMATIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR FOR ANY HARMFUL THREATS, GESTURES OR OFFENSES MADE TOWARDS STAFF MEMBERS. TERRORISTIC THREATS OF ANY KIND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Publications

The Bennington School District publishes an informative newsletter, *Horizons*, distributed quarterly to all residents through the local postage system. In addition, the *Stratford Scoop*, a weekly elementary bulletin, is sent electronically to each family providing a current email address. Both publications are utilized to update everyone on current school happenings and other community events. A copy of the *Stratford Scoop* may be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Report Cards and Portfolios

There are four official reporting periods during our school year, which are also referred to as quarters. Report cards (3-5), or a portfolio review/achievement summary (K-2) is completed each quarter. The Report Card and a Mid Term Report will be posted quarterly in grades 3-5 on the Parent Web Access.

Grading System	Portfolios
A = 4.0 = 100-93	Portfolios are a collection of the student's work samples.
B = 3.0 = 92-86	The Portfolio indicates the child's developmental
C = 2.0 = 85-77	progress rather than the specific grades for an
D = 1.0 = 76-70	academic area. Progress towards the Nebraska
F = 0.0 = Below 70	Standards is also included.

The complete approved Grading Framework can be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year and are noted on the calendar in the front of this booklet. Sign up for conferences will be done electronically through SignUp Genius. The links will be sent a few weeks prior to conferences to allow time for scheduling. Additional conferences and progress reports may be scheduled at any time by contacting the classroom teacher.

Lost and Found

A lost and found rack is located in the elementary commons. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check the rack for missing items. Each quarter the lost and found box is reorganized and unclaimed items are donated to a local organization.

Student Telephone

Students will be allowed to use the school phone for such things as medical illness, needed changes of clothing, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the teacher or school office.

Cell Phone/Technology Device Use

Cell phones and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense. Electronic

devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The responsibility for care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Personal Items

All items not benefiting or causing interruption to the educational process of students will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

Teacher/Student Messages

To help our students receive optimum learning time, neither students nor teachers will be interrupted during class to answer the telephone unless it is an emergency. Our phone system allows parents/guardians to leave messages on voicemail that can be returned at an appropriate time by the person you wish to contact. Teachers are available for telephone calls between 7:50-8:05 a.m. and 3:07-3:50 p.m.

Field Trips

Each classroom completes field trips for educational enhancement. Generally a teaching unit accompanies the learning experience so that optimal education is gained from the trip. Bus transportation is provided for all students and classroom teachers. The district will provide a student sack lunch for students requesting to use their lunch card. All students must return to school on District provided transportation. Once students arrive at school, parents may check them out through the office. Parents attending field trips are asked to follow school expectations. ***No other children are allowed to accompany a parent or guardian on a field trip. Some field trips may not allow for parental participation.*** Attendance on the field trip requires a parent-signed permission slip for each individual activity.

Birthday Celebrations

We ask that all party invitations be mailed to students rather than distributed at school. Special deliveries such as flowers or balloons will be held in the office until late afternoon. Students will be notified to come and pick them up before dismissal.

Classroom Treats

All food items distributed at school must be made in kitchens that are state licensed for food preparation. If you wish to provide treats the following suggestions may help: individual packaged items, bakery items from a local grocery store, pre-packaged crackers, non-food items, etc. Please be aware and considerate of student food allergies such as those towards peanuts and tree nuts. We ask you to prearrange treats with the classroom teacher so alternative treats may be offered to those unable to participate. Treats will only be distributed to those students and staff in their assigned classroom.

Classroom Parties

Stratford PTO sponsors the classroom parties. Parties are scheduled three times a year - a "Fall" party in October, a "Winter Holiday" party in December, and a "Valentines Day" party in February. At the end of the year students also participate in a "Fun Day". Parent help is always needed for these events and appreciated.

Recess

Stratford Elementary School strives to make recess safe and enjoyable for all students. All students participate in at least one scheduled daily recess period and sometimes more, depending on their classroom. Therefore, you will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the changing Nebraska weather conditions. Layering

clothing is the best option for cold mornings and hot afternoons. During inclement weather (rain or severe wind chill conditions) students will have indoor recess. Please note that during school hours our playground is not accessible to the public due to the safety and protection of the students. Physical activity and student socialization is an important part of recess. Students are required to participate in recess and will not be excused from participation without a doctor's note verifying the reason. Students may be held from recess due to academic assistance, completion of assignments, or misconduct.

Physical Education

Physical education is a required elementary course. Student wellness and gross-motor development is a crucial objective of the elementary curriculum. In order to meet this objective, student participation in physical activity is mandatory. Student release from physical activity requires a doctor's note. Prolonged dismissal from class may require an alternative assignment or further documentation from a doctor.

Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. In the past, most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in the classroom for the year.

Hall Lockers

Students will be provided a locker. Due to the amount of lockers, some students may share with one other student, The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to use the combination lock. Students are not to change lockers without permission (Board Policy #504.09).

Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The principal or his designee can confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the school safe and free from illegal drugs, the Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline (Board Policy #504.16).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves many students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities and in other natural environments. School age special education students are served in the least-restrictive environment. ***For further information contact the Student Services Director in the District Office at (402) 238-3044.***

Permitted Presence of Service Animals

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged. The school district will comply with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled students.

Service animals include guide dogs, hearing dogs, signal dogs, and any dog or animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled student. Service animals do not include pets, farm animals, wild or exotic animals, or any animals whose function is to provide crime deterrent effects, emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being. (Policy 508.010 - Service Animals)

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presence of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Counseling Services

Stratford Elementary is proud of their elementary counseling service options. Our counselor, Miss Austina Falcone, provides classroom lessons to help students see the multiple ways social skills can be used to communicate more effectively. She also is available for private counseling for any student needing her assistance. Parents/guardians are welcome to call her directly to answer any questions you might have in this area of development.

Families are also provided counseling services through Arbor Family Counseling, an independent counseling firm contracted by the District. Each student may receive two free confidential sessions through Arbor Family. For more information please contact Mrs. Saunders or the elementary office at (402) 238-2690.

RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student. If the agency provides this **verification**, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental signature is necessary to release the student data.

Directory Information

1. School officials may have access to only those records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.

3. Students or parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, the Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

    a. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

    b. The name and address of the office that administrates FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

    c. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools' Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL
As students arrive to school, the main doors will open at 7:45 for breakfast and morning clubs. Students may enter here for those programs/events.

We will use three student entrances for students to wait at until doors open at 7:55.

Main Doors (South side of the building) - 1st Grade - Students will wait on the concrete area in front of the main doors.
Playground Doors (East side of the building) - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th - Students will wait on the basketball court in grade level lines.
Kdg/1st Doors (Southeast side of the building) - Kdg - students will wait on the concrete area near the bike racks.

School personnel will be at each of these waiting areas at 7:50 a.m. to greet all students and let them in the building at 7:55. Any student who arrives after 7:55 should go to the main entry to be let inside. School begins promptly at 8:05 a.m.

Breakfast students will be let in the building starting at 7:45. They will pick up their grab n go meal and go back outside to their lines. They will be let in at 7:55 with the rest of their class to eat in the classroom.

DEPARTURE
Students will exit the building depending on their plan of departure.
Walkers will exit out of the K/1st hallway door,
Bus students will exit on the south side in the bus loop.
All other students will utilize either the main doors or east doors with their classroom teacher to arrive at the front of the building.

Students will be dismissed from their classroom teacher. Students who are picked up in the car line or my a parked parent will be in front of the building with their classroom teacher until their ride is available or seen.

Parents should remain on the south side of the crosswalk to alleviate any congestion on the main concrete path.

Student Entrances and Exits

- Main Doors (South side of the building) - 1st Grade - Students will wait on the concrete area in front of the main doors.
- Playground Doors (East side of the building) - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th - Students will wait on the basketball court in grade level lines.
- Kdg/1st Doors (Southeast side of the building) - Kdg - students will wait on the concrete area near the bike racks.

Safety Patrol Posts

The Safety Patrol supervises from 7:45 to 8:05 and 3:05-3:15.
Post 1 - Main crosswalk at the front of the building
Post 2 - Crosswalk on 171st Street
Post 3 - Crosswalk on Rachel Snowden (for Stratford Park students who walk)

Students are to cross only at guarded posts with help from the Safety Patrol. Students are to obey and respect safety patrol members to ensure a safe walk to and from school.

MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

The mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects, pursuant to law, not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office); or (4) has reached the age of 18.

Minimum Age Requirements

The district will not admit any child into kindergarten unless:

1. the child will reach the age of 5 years on or before July 31 on the current year;
2. the child will reach the age of five years by October 15th of the current year; and
    a. the parent provides an affidavit stating that the child attended kindergarten in another district, or
    b. the family will be relocating to another district that allows admission within the current year, or
    c. the child has demonstrated, through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board, his/her capability of carrying out the work of the beginner grade.

New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools either prior to or during an academic year in progress must go to www.benningtonschools.org and begin the registration process. Parents are also asked to provide the following items:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, required by state law be provided within 30 days of enrollment;
- Evidence of a physical and eye examination if they are entering Kindergarten or in the case of a transfer from out of state;
- Updated Immunization/Health records;
- Transcripts sent from the previous school; and
- Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. Many students take pride in their attendance and punctuality record. This is a commendable characteristic and it is our desire to motivate more students to think positively and seriously about this aspect of their school record. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be made up. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

2. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.
    a. Below is how attendance will be coded at Bennington Public Schools.

        E - Excused - family emergencies, celebrations, or events (examples could include a family wedding, or funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military) - students can make up work for full credit

        U - Unexcused - parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit

        MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit

        MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit

        T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day

        R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence

        SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity

    o *Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused." When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."*

    b. All students who arrive in the classroom after 8:20 a.m. yet before 9:00 a.m. will be deemed tardy. School Administration will determine if a tardy will be deemed excused based on provided documentation from the parent or guardian. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be charged with an absence.

    c. The following times show how the school day shall be divided in determining the length of an absence:
        i. 8:20—10:15=1/4 Day Absence
        ii. 10:16—12:00=1/2 Day Absence

iii. 12:01—1:45=3/4 Day Absence
iv. 1:46—3:07=Full Day Absence

d. Student absences will be determined using the times listed above.

3. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, a medical professional's note must be provided. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's lunch/recess period or during different times throughout the school day, so that one subject area is not affected on a routine basis. Please note that all students leaving before the 3:07 dismissal are considered absent from school. Illness requiring extended leave will require a doctor's note. During school hours, students will remain in class until the parent/guardian is present for pickup. This will ensure optimal time in class (Board Policy #503.03).

4. Each absence must be covered by a signed note, email, or telephone call from a parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence.

5. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work.

6. Any student missing 8, 15, or 20 days per school year (excused or unexcused) will be notified by mail. Refer to Excessive Absenteeism Section for further information.

7. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom with the bell 8:20. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. The student will receive a detention for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-5 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

9. Students shall be present by 12:00 p.m. in order to participate in any school event, including performances. If the activity occurs before 12:00 p.m., the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

Addressing Barriers to Attendance

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for the students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight, fifteen, and twenty absences [*unexcused; excused or unexcused*] absences or the hourly equivalent, communication will be made with the persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the child. A meeting or meetings will be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or member of the school administrative staff, if there is no school social worker), the student parent/guardian, and the student (if necessary) to attempt to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. A

"collaborative plan" to improve regular attendance may be developed as a result of the meeting or meetings. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
(i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
(ii) Educational counseling;
(iii) Educational evaluation;
(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
(v) Family or individual counseling; and
(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If a student is absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical.

This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.

2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.

3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.

4. A copy of the letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.

5. A copy of the attendance requirement.

6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include post actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Part-time Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment and will be under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to the dual enrollment student in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirement rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting part-time enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school principal.

MAKE-UP WORK

No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests or turn in assignments as soon as they return to school if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board Policy #503.03 states that it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work missed. The student shall receive full credit for the work missed when the absence is deemed as excused. The date make-up work is due will be determined by the teacher based on the content studied and length of absence. Ordinarily, the student will be expected to complete make-up work issued due to short-term absences (five days or less) within five days after returning to school. It is the responsibility of the

student to prepare all materials and homework requiring completion before leaving the building. On a limited basis, a child will be allowed to re-enter the classroom during teacher duty hours, ending at 3:50.

When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work. Extensive make-up work will be contracted in writing. Requests for assignments will be handled through the elementary office and the classroom teacher.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must go to the office for additional help with their needs. Students may not leave school without a parent/guardian present to sign them out of the building.

School Ceremonies and Observances

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reason.

Checking Students Out of the Building

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian before leaving school for appointments or other family needs. A note in advance is helpful for the office and the classroom teacher. Please note that in the event of a school emergency or disaster, only persons noted on your emergency information are able to have the student released to them. Students will remain in class until the arrival of the parent/guardian.

Bennington Public Schools views your child's safety as a top priority. During a lockdown drill or situation, your child will not be released until it has been deemed safe or an all-clear signal has been issued.

Student Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of schools is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern students while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or school operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities, contests, or performances (Board Policy #505).

No student shall:

A. Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Harassment on the basis of, but is not limited to: race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status, will not be tolerated. Forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to the following: verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse; repeated remarks of a demeaning nature; implied or explicit threats concerning one's

grades, achievements, etc., or demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.

B. Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.
C. Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.
D. Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18
E. Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).
F. Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
G. Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.
H. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
I. Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
J. Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).
K. Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion. Students using offensive language may be:
    a. 1st offense: Suspended from school for three days (parents/guardians informed).
    b. 2nd offense: The student will be recommended for long-term suspension from school.
    c. 3rd offense: The student will be recommended for expulsion from that class or all classes depending on the discipline committee decision.
L. Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.
M. Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.
N. Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.
O. Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.
P. Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.
Q. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
    a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the

reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or

b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

R. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

S. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous object to school for any reason is discouraged. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. However, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.

b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function, with the approval of the school: (i) in a historical reenactment, (ii) in a hunter education program, or (iii) as part of an honor guard.

c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.

d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

The all-school expectations for Stratford Elementary are as follows:

1. Respect yourself and others;

2. Contribute to the learning environment; and

3. Follow school, classroom, cafeteria, hall, bus and playground procedures;

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Bullying: *Bullying is a mean or hurtful behavior that is one-sided, unfair, and keeps happening.*

Bullying is Intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, electronic, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, oppressing, or controlling another student. This includes an imbalance of power and is ongoing.

Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of Department.

Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles or at school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

Detention

Detention will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10-3:45 in the assigned staff room. The staff will supervise detentions. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the rules, problems in the classroom, attendance problems, or excessive tardiness. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day issued unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or the principal. The student must then serve the next detention day. Students will be allowed to do homework or read a book. Repeated failures to serve detentions will result in further disciplinary consequences.

Sanctions - The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator has made an investigation of the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. A short-term suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from school attendance for a period not to exceed five school days. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and the student's parents/guardians or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents/guardians or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

    a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or

b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The Superintendent, on a case-by-case basis and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, 794, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the Superintendent. The School shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal delivery to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

   a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

   b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

   c. A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;

   d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

   e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents/guardians or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identify of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony;

   f. A form on which the student, student's parents/guardians, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

   g. Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents/guardians, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of receipt of the written notice by the student or the student's parents/guardians as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to.

Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary actions regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110) and television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT and KPTM. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If we have to use more than the number of days we have scheduled, time will be made up at the end of the school year.

If the decision to delay the start time of school is made, all beginning of the day procedures will be adjusted to reflect two hours. Staff supervision would begin at 10:00 a.m. and a student would be considered tardy at 10:20 a.m. All transportation services will run two hours behind schedule.

HEALTH SERVICES

Please note that Nebraska health statutes no longer allow school officials to provide over the counter medication to students in need. All non-prescription medications must be brought from home in the original container with permission slips, dosages and times to be given. See list below on all specific mediation requirements.

Injuries at School

Children sometimes fail to report unobserved injuries to the teacher. If your child has been injured at school during the day, please make certain it has been reported to the school nurse or health aide, as we wish to know about these incidents.

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are advised to report to the office. **Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions.** Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the **vomiting/diarrhea** has occurred.

Head Lice

Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
Chicken pox	7 days from onset
Measles	7 days from onset
3 Day Measles	5 days
Whooping Cough	21 days
Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public School through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

Medication Guidelines

A VNA School Health Program Medication Authorization needs to be completed in the event your child would need to take medication while at school. Forms are available at the office.

When a student must take medication during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of any controlled medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.

2. For prescription medications - the label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label. Non-prescription medications should be brought to school in the original container along with signed parental permission stating dosage instructions.

3. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication on them, in their desks, or in their backpacks.

4. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

5. Medication will be used by the student in the presence of a trained staff member.

6. All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer and effective controls shall be maintained to provide safety or proper usage. A record of daily dispensation will be maintained.

7. In some instances, the school may request parental permission to consult with the prescribing doctor about the medication and its effects.

Student self-management of medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Parents may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Diabetes, Asthma and Anaphylaxis. The parent will need to follow the following procedures:

1. The parent will be required to place their request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent will need written verification from the child/children's physician indicating the condition and specific medication including name, purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval**.**

Once the request has been approved, the school and parent/guardian, in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional;
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication; and
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies as well as notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition;
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

Effective July 1, 1994, the Revised Statutes Supplement was amended as follows:

Each student in the state shall be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to continue in school until he or she shall so comply.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school either of the following:

1. A statement signed by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physician's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

2. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

3. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school in Nebraska if he or she has begun the immunizations required under Section 49-444.01 and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.

NOTE: Kindergarten and out-of-state students are required to have a physical exam and vision evaluation, per state law, prior to enrollment in school. Kindergarten physical exams are required to be performed within 6 months prior to the student starting school.

Health Screenings

Bennington Public Schools will conduct health screenings throughout the year with identified grade levels. Screenings may include, but are not limited to, dental, height, weight, vision, color-blindness, and hearing.

There is no waiver option for screening. A parent NOT wishing their child to be screened at school must provide documentation signed by a qualified medical provider verifying the child has been screened, or the child WILL be screened at school.

Screenings as required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are:

- Dental and Audio Screenings: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.
- Vision, Height, Weight: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

1. **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
2. **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
3. **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
4. **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
5. **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.
6. **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING PROCEDURES (Revised 1991)

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Law
LB 505 passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature includes the following:
When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or any other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department to the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone, with caller giving his or her name and address, and shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect, and evidence of previous abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which, in the opinion of the person, may be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrators.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Breakfast Period:
Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:05 a.m. Our breakfast service is a grab and go model. Breakfast students will be let in the building starting at 7:45. They will pick up their grab n go meal and go back outside to their lines. They will be let in at 8:00 with the rest of their class to eat in the classroom.

Sack Lunches from Home

A food service calendar is sent home monthly indicating student meal choice. Kindergarten through fifth grade will have two lunch options. Students will have the choice of the hot lunch item or a second item on rotation between yogurt and cheese stick, and EZ jammer.

Students in kindergarten through second grade will receive all five components of the daily lunch menu. This includes milk, unless a documented health reasons is provided by a medical professional. Students in third through fifth grade will receive the option of "Offer vs. Serve". This allows the student to take only three components of the lunch offerings daily. They may continue to take all five, but must take at least three. One component must be a full serving of fruit or vegetables. During "Offer" service the student is allowed choice and may refuse the foods they do

not intend to eat. The school cannot require a child to take a milk or food item. Both "Offer and Serve" food service methods are priced the same.

Students may bring sack lunches if desired**.** Pop is not allowed in the cafeteria. (Marked Lunchboxes are easy to identify when left in an unusual place.) Food and drinks must stay in the lunchroom area. **Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch periods (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.)**.

Closed Campus

Our K-12 school has a closed campus at noon, which means students are not permitted to leave the school during the day.

Meal Rates

Both breakfast and lunch include a 1/2-pint of milk within the cost.

Breakfast (K-5)	$1.70 Daily
Breakfast (Adult)	$2.50 Daily
Lunch (K-5)	$2.60 Daily
Lunch (Adult)	$4.05 Daily

Milk Rates

1 Carton (K-12)	.50 each
Semester Milk (K-6)	$44.00 per semester

Milk can be purchased for snack by semester at $44 per semester. Semester milk cost is not included in your family meal account. Snack milk money may only be purchased by semester or quarter. Daily snack milk money will not be accepted. Only exact semester or quarter amounts can be sent to the elementary office. Milk is also available to be purchased by the carton during the lunch period. Juice is also available for those with milk allergies.

Free and reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches are provided for those who qualify. Application forms are available online at www.benningtonschools.org. We encourage families to apply. Students qualifying for such programs help the school receive additional federal grants to support reading. Information about students qualifying for a free or reduced lunch is kept highly confidential in the office of the Superintendent.

Meal Charges Procedures

Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services

program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:

1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods:
   a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.
   b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include the individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only.

Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044.

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures

The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:

1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.

ACTIVITY ADMISSION PRICES

Activity passes for regular season home activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Admission

Student	**$4.00**
Adult	**$6.00**

Non-Varsity Admission

Student	**$1.00**
Adult	**$3.00**

Passes

Student Pass	**$35.00**
Adult Pass	**$70.00**
Family Pass	**$160.00**

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the $6/$4 pricing.
** BHS Invitationals (Track & Wrestling) are subject the EMC Tournament price of $6 for students & $8 for adults.
** Activity passes are not honored for EMC and District tournament games.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities MUST attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school house they attend. Transportation may also be so provided for school activities as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon requests.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Bus/Van Rules and Student Responsibilities

Students in the Bennington School District who ride buses and/or vans are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Bus riders will be subjected to both video and audio recording. Any misbehavior, which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, and as such, jeopardizes the safety of all passengers. Consequence of continued misbehavior could result in a child being denied the privilege of riding the bus. Parents/guardians and students need to review the following bus rules together to

assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. Bus/van transportation is a privilege;

2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus/van;

3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus/van arrives;

4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus/van is moving;

5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus/van window;

6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus;

7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated! This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of other students;

8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic; and

9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.

Bennington school buses are monitored by video camera.

Recreational Trail

Use of the recreational trail which traverses the school grounds is subject to two sets of rules. The School has retained the authority to control use of the trail in conformance with student discipline and safety rules and regulations. When using the trail, students will be required to follow the same school rules that apply to school grounds. In addition, the City of Bennington has an ordinance which establishes additional rules that students and other users of the trail must follow. The City's ordinance is available in the Principal's office.

Students are requested to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for the children's attire and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students which possibly could cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the student or the student body.

1. It is inappropriate to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen, or any backless halter-top that ties at the neck and back. Tops with thin spaghetti straps or clothing that leaves underwear visible is prohibited. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Undergarments and private parts (front side and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment.

2. Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends his/her arms at his/her sides. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline.

3. Hats, bandanas and hoods of any kind are not to be worn in school. Your child should layer clothing if he/she gets chilled easily. Light coats and jackets are allowed if needed.

4. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity, is offensive, makes reference to sexuality, race or culture, has a double meaning; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that can be used as a weapon will not be

permitted.

Should any of these clothing infractions occur, the student may be required to change or a parent/guardian will be contacted to provide alternate attire.

SAFETY

1. Roller skates, tennis shoe-skates, inline skates, scooters and skateboards are not permitted at school.

2. Water guns and water play are not permitted on school grounds.

3. Bicycles are to be parked in the bike rack as soon as the student arrives. Students who ride bicycles must walk bikes while on school property and while moving among groups of children walking to or from school.

4. Please do not bring your pet(s) to school during arrival or dismissal. Please also refrain from bringing pets to extracurricular activities. The appropriate officials will be called when stray pets come on school property. Children walking should make sure pets do not follow them.

5. Illegal substances are not safe. State law and Board of Education policy strictly prohibit students and all patrons from having tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs at school. Weapons, firearms, knives, matches, and explosives are also prohibited. Violation of the policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

6. Walking to school can be dangerous unless basic guidelines are followed:
   a. stay on the sidewalk;
   b. follow the route designated by parents/guardians;
   c. don't talk to or take anything from strangers;
   d. report any contact strangers make with you; and
   e. make sure problems are reported to an adult at school.

7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's conduct to and from school. Misconduct will result in notification to parents/guardians.

8. Any threats to another's safety and terroristic threats will be taken seriously, and may be referred to local police department.

CELL PHONES/TECH EQUIPMENT

Cell phones, Smart watches, and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

Internet Access:

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students attending Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents/guardians must sign a "Parents/Guardians Agreement", which will be kept on file by the district. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, data bases, and bulletin

boards with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents/guardians should be warned that some material accessible by the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials at will. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

E-mail and Internet Rules

1. E-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for student use. Access to the Internet and e-mail is a privilege, not a right.

2. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

3. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

4. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

5. The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

2. Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).

3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

4. Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

5. Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

7. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

8. Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

9. Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

Penalties for Use of the Internet

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the network so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

Violations of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

Student and Parent Agreement

The Student's Agreement and Parent's Agreement, in the form attached respectively, are incorporated by this reference.

Bennington Public School
Bennington, Nebraska

ADDENDUM

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

403206672. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

403206912. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Bennington School District hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Bennington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Whitney Fagan, Director of student services, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, Ne 68007 402-238-3044 wfagan@bennps.org.

Employees and others: Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, NE. 68007 402-238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about the anti-discrimination laws and regulation, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Right in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, 816-268-0550 (voice), or 887-521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees , including , co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the

Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section below.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

PROCEDURES

Level One – Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complaints or victims. Extenuating circumstances do not include summer vacation, and if a designated compliance coordinator or investigator is unavailable, another coordinator or trained employee will be designated to conduct the investigation. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant**. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, if necessary.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **ten (10) working days** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose to a student who was discriminated against or harassed (victim), information about the sanction imposed upon a student who was found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment (student who discriminated) when the sanction directly relates to the victim. This includes an order that the student who discriminated stay away from the victim, or that the student who discriminated is prohibited from attending school for a period of time, or transferred to other classes.

Level Two – If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

Level Three – If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative

documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The Board will issue a written determination an=bout the appeal **within thirty (30) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

Remedies – If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible discrimination, including harassment or violence, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim, ensure the safety of the school community, and prevent further potential discrimination,

Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management a plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at (402) 238-3044.

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 33, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the **2019-2020 school year**. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	$ **Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt.
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.

Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $10.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	$50 to $200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
Textbook/Library Books	Loss or damage to district textbooks.	Books lost or damaged beyond repair will be charged full value for replacement. Broken binding/damage to cover will be $10-15.

Stratford Elementary School
Handbook Agreement

The 2020-2021 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools is available on the internet at www.benningtonschools.org.

We are asking you to consider using the internet to access and review the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search the handbook when you have questions throughout the school year. Thank you for considering this use of technology to improve school-home communication.

Please return to the Elementary office by August 26, 2022.

_____ **Thank you for providing the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**

_____ **I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

_____
Name

RECEIPT OF 2022-2023 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

The signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2020-2021 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools. It is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules and information about a Safe and Drug-Free School. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook.

Date: _____ **Date:** _____

_____ _____

Student's Signature **Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature**

Permission for Video or Photos

I give my permission for my child/children to be included in school photographs and/or videos used in school publications, including the yearbook and newsletters, on the school website and in area newspapers:

(Please check and initial the appropriate line). ( ) YES_____ ( ) NO_____

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS STUDENT/PARENT

AGREEMENT In order to make sure that all members of the Bennington Public Schools' community understand and agree to the rules of conduct, Bennington Public Schools asks that you as a student and parent/guardian sign the following statement: I have received a copy of, and have read, the "Terms and Conditions for Internet Access" adopted by the Bennington Public School District, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Bennington Public Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken. As a parent or guardian, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that is it impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Bennington Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network. I agree not to hold the Bennington Public Schools or any of its employees or any of the institutions for networks providing access to Bennington Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

BENNINGTON ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

2022-2023

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs. Danielle Robb, Principal
Bennington Elementary School
11620 North 156th Street
Bennington, NE 68007
(402) 238-2690 / Fax # (402) 243-0705
www.benningtonschools.org

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2022 - BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2023

AUGUST 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

NOVEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August 2022
12-16.....Staff Inservice
17.....First Day of School
Early Staggered Dismissal

September 2022
5.....Labor Day/No school
14.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

October 2022
5.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
11 & 12.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem 4:00-8:00/MS 4:30-8:30/HS 5:00-9:00
13.....Inservice/No school
14.....No school
17.....Second Quarter Begins
26.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

November 2022
16.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
23-25.....Thanksgiving Break

December 2022
7.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
21.....End of First Semester- 85 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
22-31.....Winter Break

January 2023
1-3.....Winter Break
4.....Staff Inservice/No school
5.....First Day of Second Semester
16.....Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School
18.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

February 2023
8.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
14-15.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem 4:00-8:00/MS 4:30-8:30/HS 5:00-9:00
16.....Staff Inservice/No School
17.....No School
20.....President's Day/No School

March 2023
1.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
10*.....Inservice/No School/Snow Day Make-up
13.....Fourth Quarter Begins
22.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice

April 2023
5.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
6-11.....Spring Break

May 2023
3.....Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
21.....Graduation
26.....End of Second Semester- 91 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
29.....Memorial Day

Conferences
No School In-Service
No School
Early Staggered Dismissal
Elem: 11:40 Middle: 11:50 High: 12:00

***Snow make up days if needed- March 10, May 25, May 26**

JANUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

FEBRUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10*
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25*	26*
29	30	31		

School year August 17-May 26 - 176 Student Days needed - 9 Teacher Inservice Days - 186 Total Contract Days
1 Contract day for P/T Conferences - Summer School June 1-24 - Approved 02/08/2020 Revised 04/11/2022

Dr. Valerie Calderon	Mrs. Allyson Slobotski	Mr. Tim Dreesen
Mr. Mark Byars	Mrs. Kara Neuverth	Dr. Heather Goertz

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent	Mr. Greg Lamberty, High School Principal
Mrs. Alison Evangelisti, Pine Creek Elementary Principal	Mr. Cody Bobolz, H.S. Assistant Principal
Mr. Chad Boyes, Anchor Pointe Elementary Principal	Mrs. Lynne Lurvey, District Bookkeeper
Mrs. Danielle Robb, Bennington Elementary Principal	Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Services Dir.
Mrs. Therese Nelson, Heritage Elementary Principal	Mrs. Jodie Green, Asst. Director of Student Services
Mrs. Molly O'Connor, Stratford Elementary Principal	Shannon Lehman, Elementary Secretary
Mr. Shawn Hoppes, North Middle School Principal	Mrs. Jodi McCoy, Board Secretary
Mr. Lucas Apfelbeck, North Middle School Asst. Principal	Dr. Shannon Thoendel, Asst. Director of CIA
Mrs. Renee Rucker, South Middle School Principal	Dr. Matt Blomenkamp, Asst. Superintendent of Operations
Mr. Matthew Wilson, South Middle School Asst. Principal	Dr. Dee Hoge, Executive Director

TEACHERS / STAFF

Mrs.	Candi DeLancey	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Jodie Erdman	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Lauren Powell	Kindergarten
Miss	Marissa Golden	Grade 1
Miss	Jennifer Solma	Grade 1
Miss	Stephanie Heater	Grade 1
Miss	Mandy Snyder	Grade 1
Mrs.	Vitalia Ascanio	Grade 2
Mrs.	Shelley Lampe	Grade 2
Miss	Jennifer Parker	Grade 2
Mrs.	Mickayla Hegy	Grade 3
Miss	Madi Limbach	Grade 3
Miss	Madi Weaver	Grade 3
Miss	Samantha Mandel	Grade 4
Mrs.	Calena Ohlson	Grade 4
Mrs.	Alex Bousema	Grade 4
Mrs.	Taylor Dahlheim	Grade 5
Miss	Alyssa Callaghan	Grade 5
Mrs.	Barb Kruid	Grade 5
Miss	Haley Kucera	Grade 5
Mrs.	Katherine Shores	Resource
Mrs.	Stephanie Hoffa	Resource
Mrs.	Nicole Meyer	Resource
Mrs.	Heather Krejci	Speech Pathologist
Mrs.	Tara Mattson	Psychologist

Miss	Lindsay Fisher	Art
Mrs.	Elizabeth Schaffart	Music
Mrs.	Lindsey Anderson	Reading Interventionist
Mrs.	Kellie Backlund	Math Interventionist
Mrs.	Melissa Smith	Media/Tech
Mr.	Ryan Johanek	P.E.
Mr.	Catherine Kuhl	HAL
Mrs.	Terese Vogel-Jose	Counselor
Mrs.	Kathy Albin	K-5 Spanish
Mrs.	Lisa Schoenoff	ELL Teacher
	TBD	Maintenance
Mr.	Gary Baker	Resource Officer
Mr.	Jeff Zeiss	B/A School Director
	TBD	Office/Health Para
Mrs.	Ambreen Kedwaii	ELL Para-Aide
Mrs.	Ashley Phillips	Para-Aide
Mrs.	Megan Dean	Para-Aide
Mrs.	Jessica Carranza	Para-Aide
Mrs.	Cathy Sharp	Nurse
Mrs.	Patricia Childers	Food Service
Mrs.	Megan Besch	Food Service
Mrs.	Tracey Dreessen	Food Service

WELCOME TO BENNINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
11620 N. 156th STREET
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007
(402) 238-2690 Fax # (402) 238-2185
www.benningtonschools.org

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Elementary School. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer questions regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of our school. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. Parents/guardians and other school friends are encouraged to visit school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we will make this year a successful educational experience for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please contact us. We are here for the children and community.

Teacher Hours	7:50-3:50
Office Hours	7:40-3:50
Elementary Students	8:05-3:07
Students to Classrooms	8:05

Bennington Elementary School	(402) 238-2690
Pine Creek Elementary School	(402) 238-2372
Heritage Elementary School	(402) 238-2095
Anchor Pointe Elementary School	(402) 238-2166
Bennington Middle School	(402) 238-3082
Bennington Secondary School	(402) 238-2447
Bennington School Fax	(402) 238-2185
Superintendent's Office	(402) 238-3044

MISSION STATEMENT OF BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE MISSION OF THE BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

School Colors: Royal Blue and White
School Mascot: The Badger

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Board of Education - The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Its duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

Superintendent of Schools - The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's final approval.

Principal - The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years of Junior High training (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the North Central Association of Schools and AdvancED.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Elementary Principal's office is located on the northeast side of the school facility on the corner of 156th and Bennington Road. The address is: 11620 N 156th Street Bennington, NE 68007

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/guardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit school. It is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. However, out of courtesy to the classroom teachers and students, we ask you to please call the office to check their schedules and make arrangements prior to visiting the classrooms. Please follow guidelines indicated below:

1. When visiting the school, please report to the office to register as a guest and receive a visitor's pass before going to the designated classroom or activity. All visitors must enter through the elementary office. During larger functions such as assemblies, room parties, etc., visitor's passes may be waived; however, we would still appreciate you checking in with the office on these occasions.

3. Due to classroom space availability and respect for the learning environment, children not enrolled in school are discouraged from visiting during school hours.

4. All visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum.

The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds of activities.

In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he/she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on the premises.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BENNINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bennington Elementary is a K-5 building with approximately **405** students. Many opportunities are available for student involvement beyond the elementary day in Bennington. Our community and parent involvement puts students first.

1. Our K-2 classrooms are self-contained with one teacher for the entire day.

2. The 3rd- 5th grade classrooms will rotate for content areas such as science and social studies, with the possibility of writing/grammar. Reading and math will be taught in their homeroom classroom.

4. All elementary students have specials which include Physical Education, Music, Art, Library/Technology, and Spanish

5. The elementary guidance counselor presents social skills lessons to each classroom weekly.

6. Our teachers are some of the Omaha/Metro area's finest educators. They are skilled teachers and truly care about students. We work closely with parents/guardians to provide the best possible

educational experiences for our students.

The district is required by federal law to inform you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). If you would like to request this information, please contact Dee Hoge at (402) 238-3044 and the information will be provided in a timely manner.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Bennington Elementary School is a special place to learn. Teachers and parents/guardians are partners in the process of educating and preparing our children for the future. We, like you, are interested and committed to the total development of your child. We pledge our best effort. Research indicates that the best schools, the best teachers, or the best principals are not as important to a child's achievement in school as parents/guardians. You have more opportunities to motivate, stimulate, and assist your child on the journey to success than anyone or anything else. Your involvement, attitude and support are vital components in the success of your child at school and in the home environment.

The teacher has the responsibility of educating and nurturing students in an academic and social environment. At Bennington Elementary, students also have responsibilities. Successful students must learn to listen and interact in a positive manner with peers and adults. Children are expected to conduct themselves according to school rules, including rules on the bus, in the classroom, in the lunchroom, on the playground, in the halls and to/from school. Students shall be courteous, safe, respectful and self-disciplined in all contact with classmates, parents/guardians, school personnel and visitors to the school. It is the position of Bennington Public Schools that the best learning takes place in a calm, disciplined atmosphere with students who desire to do their best.

It is the philosophy of the school that discipline is an ongoing teaching process that fosters respect and dignity for all individuals. It is proactive, developmentally appropriate, culturally and gender sensitive. It stresses growth, individual responsibility, and problem solving in a collaborative effort among students, parents/guardians, educators, and the community.

The all-school expectations for Bennington Elementary School are as follows:

1. Be respectful;
2. Be responsible;
3. Be safe; and
4. Be kind.

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Levels of Intervention

Steps listed below are for those students in Grades K-5 that may be used to support behavior within the classroom.

Step 1: Student is given verbal warnings.
Step 2: Student visits the safe seat within the classroom to collect themselves and be process with the teacher on expected behaviors.
Step 3: Buddy Room Pass/Signal is given to student. This signals the student to enter the buddy classroom/desk.
Step 4: Student waits at door of partner classroom until acknowledged by receiving teacher.
Step 5: Student completes processing form.
Step 6: Upon correct completion of the processing form the student will return to sending classroom.
Step 7: Student returns to sending classroom. Teacher/student conference is held to discuss undesired behavior and an avenue of change. A copy of the completed form is to be sent home to be signed and returned to classroom teacher the following day.

Repeated DWP visitations may result in a detention or suspension. A student asked to visit the DWP buddy classroom twice in one day or three times during the school week (Monday thru Friday) will be referred to the office.

Levels of intervention may vary depending on severity of discipline infraction. A child may skip the steps listed above if one or more of the "Big 3 Offenses" (listed below) occurs.

Serious Behavior Clause

There are three occasions when it will become necessary for adults to take immediate steps to help a child learn an alternative way of acting.

The "BIG 3 OFFENSES" are:

1. When a child or children are in physical danger. -- When touching or physical contact that causes bodily harm has occurred. EXAMPLES: Hitting – Biting – Scratching – Kicking – Spitting – Bullying Behavior
2. When a child or children are in emotional / verbal / physical distress. -- When a child is testing his/her abilities and pushes beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions. -- When a child is exhibiting threatening behavior / harmful teasing / bullying behavior. EXAMPLES: "I'll kill you!" – "I'll hurt you if you tell." - Racial Slurs - Sexual Slurs - "You're fat, ugly, etc." - Nonverbal gestures hurtful to others**.** Any bullying behavior as noted below**.**
3. Interrupting the teacher or students within the learning environment. EXAMPLES: Blatant refusal to

cooperate with others, mocking others, sassing back to the teacher, lying, basic disrespect, etc. At such times, immediate action or removal from the group will be taken. The student will be referred to the principal.

Bullying: Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing.

AN AUTOMATIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR FOR ANY HARMFUL THREATS, GESTURES OR OFFENSES MADE TOWARDS STAFF MEMBERS. TERRORISTIC THREATS OF ANY KIND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Publications

The Bennington School District publishes an informative newsletter, *Horizons*, distributed quarterly to all residents through the local postage system. In addition, the *Badgerline*, a weekly elementary bulletin, is sent electronically to each family providing a current email address. Both publications are utilized to update everyone on current school happenings and other community events. A copy of the *Badgerline* may be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Report Cards and Portfolios

There are four official reporting periods during our school year, which are also referred to as quarters. Report cards (3-6), or a portfolio review/achievement summary (K-2) is completed each quarter. The Report Card and a Mid Term Report will be posted quarterly in grades 3-5 on the Parent Web Access.

Grading System	Portfolios
A = 4.0 = 100-93	Portfolios are a collection of the student's work samples.
B = 3.0 = 92-86	The Portfolio indicates the child's developmental
C = 2.0 = 85-77	progress rather than the specific grades for an
D = 1.0 = 76-70	academic area. Progress towards the Nebraska
F = 0.0 = Below 70	Standards is also included.

The complete approved Grading Framework can be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year and are noted on the calendar in the front of this booklet. Sign up for conferences will be done electronically through SignUp Genius. The links will be sent a few weeks prior to conferences to allow time for scheduling. Additional conferences and progress reports may be scheduled at any time by contacting the classroom teacher.

Lost and Found

A lost and found rack is located in the elementary commons. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check the rack for missing items. Each quarter the lost and found box is reorganized and unclaimed items are donated to a local organization.

Student Telephone

Students will be allowed to use the school phone for such things as medical illness, needed changes of clothing, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the teacher or school office.

Cell Phone/Technology Device Use

Cell phones and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense. Electronic devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The responsibility for care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Personal Items

All items not benefiting or causing interruption to the educational process of students will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

Teacher/Student Messages

To help our students receive optimum learning time, neither students nor teachers will be interrupted during class to answer the telephone unless it is an emergency. Our phone system allows parents/guardians to leave messages on voicemail that can be returned at an appropriate time by the person you wish to contact. Teachers are available for telephone calls between 7:50-8:05 a.m. and 3:07-3:50 p.m.

Field Trips

Each classroom completes field trips for educational enhancement. Generally a teaching unit accompanies the learning experience so that optimal education is gained from the trip. Bus transportation is provided for all students and classroom teachers. The district will provide a student sack lunch for students requesting to use their lunch card. All students must return to school on District provided transportation. Once students arrive at school, parents may check them out through the office. Parents attending field trips are asked to follow school expectations. ***No other children are allowed to accompany a parent or guardian on a field trip. Some field trips may not allow for parental participation.*** Attendance on the field trip requires a parent-signed permission slip for each individual activity.

Birthday Celebrations

We ask that all party invitations be mailed to students rather than distributed at school. Special deliveries such as flowers or balloons will be held in the office until late afternoon. Students will be notified to come and pick them up before dismissal.

Classroom Treats

All food items distributed at school must be made in kitchens that are state licensed for food preparation. If you wish to provide treats the following suggestions may help: individual packaged items, bakery items from a local grocery store, pre-packaged crackers, non-food items, etc. Please be aware and considerate of student food allergies such as those towards peanuts and tree nuts. We ask you to prearrange treats with the classroom teacher so alternative treats may be offered to those unable to participate. Treats will only be distributed to those students and staff in their assigned classroom.

Classroom Parties
Bennington PTO sponsors the classroom parties. Parties are scheduled three times a year - a "Fall" party in October, a "Winter Holiday" party in December, and a "Valentines Day" party in February. At the end of the year students also participate in a "Fun Day". Parent help is always needed for these events and appreciated.

Recess
Bennington Elementary School strives to make recess safe and enjoyable for all students. All students participate in at least one scheduled daily recess period and sometimes more, depending on their classroom. Therefore, you will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the changing Nebraska weather conditions. Layering clothing is the best option for cold mornings and hot afternoons. During inclement weather (rain or severe wind chill conditions) students will have indoor recess. Please note that during school hours our playground is not accessible to the public due to the safety and protection of the students. Physical activity and student socialization is an important part of recess. Students are required to participate in recess and will not be excused from participation without a doctor's note verifying the reason. Students may be held from recess due to academic assistance, completion of assignments, or misconduct.

Physical Education
Physical education is a required elementary course. Student wellness and gross-motor development is a crucial objective of the elementary curriculum. In order to meet this objective, student participation in physical activity is mandatory. Student release from physical activity requires a doctor's note. Prolonged dismissal from class may require an alternative assignment or further documentation from a doctor.

Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. In the past, most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in the classroom for the year.

Hall Lockers
Students will be provided a locker. Due to the amount of lockers, many students will share with one other student, The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to use the combination lock. Students are not to change lockers without permission (Board Policy #504.09).

Search and Seizure
School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The principal or his designee can confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the school safe and free from illegal drugs, the Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline (Board Policy #504.16).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves many students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities and in other natural environments. School age special education students are served in the least-restrictive environment. ***For further information contact the Student Services Director in the District Office at (402) 238-3044.***

Permitted Presence of Service Animals

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged. The school district will comply with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled students.

Service animals include guide dogs, hearing dogs, signal dogs, and any dog or animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled student. Service animals do not include pets, farm animals, wild or exotic animals, or any animals whose function is to provide crime deterrent effects, emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being. (Policy 508.010 - Service Animals)

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presence of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Counseling Services

Bennington Elementary is proud of their elementary counseling service options. Our counselor, Mrs. Terese Vogel-Jose, provides classroom lessons to help students see the multiple ways social skills can be used to communicate more effectively. She also is available for private counseling for any student needing her assistance. Parents/guardians are welcome to call her directly to answer any questions you might have in this area of development.

Families are also provided counseling services through Arbor Family Counseling, an independent counseling firm contracted by the District. Each student may receive two free confidential sessions through Arbor Family. For more information please contact Mrs. Terese Vogel-Jose or the elementary office at (402) 238-2690.

RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student. If the agency provides this **verification**, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental signature is necessary to release the student data.

Directory Information

1. School officials may have access to only those records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities

and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.

3. Students or parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, the Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

   a. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

   b. The name and address of the office that administrates FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

   c. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools' Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

We will use two entrances this year.
- Main Doors (West side of the building) - Kdg, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade
- Playground Doors (North side of the building) - 1st Grade, 4th Grade, and 5th Grade

School personnel will be at each of these doors at 7:55 a.m. to greet all students and let them in the building. Any student who arrives after 8:05 should go to the main entry to be let inside. School begins promptly at 8:05 a.m.

Breakfast students will be let in the building starting at 7:45. They will pick up their grab n go meal and go back outside to their lines. They will be let in at 8:00 with the rest of their class to eat in the classroom.

Student Entrances and Exits

1. After school supervision is only provided at the main entrance of the elementary building. Parents/guardians are only allowed to use the northeast location for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please be considerate of the 3:07 dismissal time.

Safety Patrol Posts

The Safety Patrol supervises from 7:45 to 8:05 and 3:05-3:15.

Students are to cross only at guarded posts with help from the Safety Patrol. Students are to obey and respect safety patrol members to ensure a safe walk to and from school.

MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

The mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects, pursuant to law, not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office); or (4) has reached the age of 18.

Minimum Age Requirements

The district will not admit any child into kindergarten unless:

1. the child will reach the age of 5 years on or before July 31 on the current year;
2. the child will reach the age of five years by October 15th of the current year; and
    a. the parent provides an affidavit stating that the child attended kindergarten in another district, or
    b. the family will be relocating to another district that allows admission within the current year, or
    c. the child has demonstrated, through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board, his/her capability of carrying out the work of the beginner grade.

New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools either prior to or during an academic year in progress must go to www.benningtonschools.org and begin the registration process. Parents are also asked to provide the following items:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, required by state law be provided within 30 days of enrollment;
- Evidence of a physical and eye examination if they are entering Kindergarten or in the case of a transfer from out of state;
- Updated Immunization/Health records;
- Transcripts sent from the previous school; and
- Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. Many students take pride in their attendance and punctuality record. This is a commendable characteristic and it is our desire to motivate more students to think positively and seriously about this aspect of their school record. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be made up. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

2. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.
    a. Below is how attendance will be coded at Bennington Public Schools.

E - Excused - family emergencies, celebrations, or events (examples could include a family wedding, or funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military) - students can make up work for full credit

U - Unexcused - parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit

MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit

MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit

T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day

R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence

SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity

- *Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused." When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."*

b. All students who arrive in the classroom after 8:05 a.m. yet before 9:00 a.m. will be deemed tardy. School Administration will determine if a tardy will be deemed excused based on provided documentation from the parent or guardian. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be charged with an absence.

c. The following times show how the school day shall be divided in determining the length of an absence:
   i. 8:05—10:15=1/4 Day Absence
   ii. 10:16—12:00=1/2 Day Absence
   iii. 12:01—1:45=3/4 Day Absence
   iv. 1:46—3:07=Full Day Absence

d. Student absences will be determined using the times listed above.

3. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, a medical professional's note must be provided. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's lunch/recess period or during different times throughout the school day, so that one subject area is not affected on a routine basis. Please note that all students leaving before the 3:07 dismissal are considered absent from school. Illness requiring extended leave will require a doctor's note. During school hours, students will remain in class until the parent/guardian is present for pickup. This will ensure optimal time in class (Board Policy #503.03).

4. Each absence must be covered by a signed note, email, or telephone call from a parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence.

5. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work.

6. Any student missing 8, 15, or 20 days per school year (excused or unexcused) will be notified by mail. Refer to Excessive Absenteeism Section for further information.

7. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom with the bell 8:05. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. The student will receive a detention for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-5 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

9. Students shall be present by 12:00 p.m. in order to participate in any school event, including performances. If the activity occurs before 12:00 p.m., the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

Addressing Barriers to Attendance

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for the students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight, fifteen, and twenty absences [*unexcused; excused or unexcused*] absences or the hourly equivalent, communication will be made with the persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the child. A meeting or meetings will be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or member of the school administrative staff, if there is no school social worker), the student parent/guardian, and the student (if necessary) to attempt to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. A "collaborative plan" to improve regular attendance may be developed as a result of the meeting or meetings. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
(i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
(ii) Educational counseling;
(iii) Educational evaluation;
(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
(v) Family or individual counseling; and
(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If a student is absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical.

This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.

2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.

3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.

4. A copy of the letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.

5. A copy of the attendance requirement.

6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include post actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Part-time Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment and will be under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to the dual enrollment student in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirement rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting part-time enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school principal.

MAKE-UP WORK

No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests or turn in assignments as soon as they return to school if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board Policy #503.03 states that it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work missed. The student shall receive full credit for the work missed when the absence is deemed as excused. The date make-up work is due will be determined by the teacher based on the content studied and length of absence. Ordinarily, the student will be expected to complete make-up work issued due to short-term absences (five days or less) within five days after returning to school. It is the responsibility of the student to prepare all materials and homework requiring completion before leaving the building. On a limited basis, a child will be allowed to re-enter the classroom during teacher duty hours, ending at 3:50.

When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work. Extensive make-up work will be contracted in writing. Requests for assignments will be handled through the elementary office and the classroom teacher.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must go to the office for additional help with their needs. Students may not leave school without a parent/guardian present to sign them out of the building.

School Ceremonies and Observances

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not

advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reason

Checking Students Out of the Building

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian before leaving school for appointments or other family needs. A note in advance is helpful for the office and the classroom teacher. Please note that in the event of a school emergency or disaster, only persons noted on your emergency information are able to have the student released to them. Students will remain in class until the arrival of the parent/guardian.

Bennington Public Schools views your child's safety as a top priority. During a lockdown drill or situation, your child will not be released until it has been deemed safe or an all-clear signal has been issued.

Student Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of schools is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern students while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or school operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities, contests, or performances (Board Policy #505).

No student shall:

A. Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Harassment on the basis of, but is not limited to: race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status, will not be tolerated. Forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to the following: verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse; repeated remarks of a demeaning nature; implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc., or demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.
B. Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.
C. Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.
D. Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18
E. Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).
F. Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it

does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

G. Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.
H. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
I. Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
J. Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).
K. Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion. Students using offensive language may be:
    a. 1st offense: Suspended from school for three days (parents/guardians informed).
    b. 2nd offense: The student will be recommended for long-term suspension from school.
    c. 3rd offense: The student will be recommended for expulsion from that class or all classes depending on the discipline committee decision.
L. Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.
M. Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.
N. Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.
O. Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff. *Bullying is defined as a mean or hurtful behavior that is one-sided, unfair, and keeps happening.*
P. Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.
Q. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
    a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
    b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of dangerous weapon other than a firearm.
R. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.
S. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous object to school for any reason is discouraged. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica

or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. However, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function, with the approval of the school: (i) in a historical reenactment, (ii) in a hunter education program, or (iii) as part of an honor guard.
c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of the Department.

Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles or at school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

Detention

Detention will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10-3:45 in the assigned staff room. The staff will supervise detentions. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the rules, problems in the classroom, attendance problems, or excessive tardiness. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day issued unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or the principal. The student must then serve the next detention day. Students will be allowed to do homework or read a book. Repeated failures to serve detentions will result in further disciplinary consequences.

TOOK OUT SATURDAY SCHOOL INFO

Sanctions - The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator has made an investigation of the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is

necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. A short-term suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from school attendance for a period not to exceed five school days. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and the student's parents/guardians or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents/guardians or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

   a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or
   b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The Superintendent, on a case-by-case basis and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, 794, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the Superintendent. The School shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal delivery to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;
2. Such written notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

    c. A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;

    d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

    e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents/guardians or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identify of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony;

    f. A form on which the student, student's parents/guardians, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

    g. Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents/guardians, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of receipt of the written notice by the student or the student's parents/guardians as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to.

Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary actions regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110) and television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT and KPTM. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If we have to use more than the number of days we have scheduled, time will be made up at the end of the school year.

If the decision to delay the start time of school is made, all beginning of the day procedures will be adjusted to reflect two hours. Staff supervision would begin at 10:00 a.m. and a student would be considered tardy at 10:20 a.m. All transportation services will run two hours behind schedule.

HEALTH SERVICES

Please note that Nebraska health statutes no longer allow school officials to provide over the counter medication to students in need. All non-prescription medications must be brought from home in the original container with permission slips, dosages and times to be given. See list below on all specific mediation requirements.

Injuries at School

Children sometimes fail to report unobserved injuries to the teacher. If your child has been injured at school during the day, please make certain it has been reported to the school nurse or health aide, as we wish to know about these incidents.

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are advised to report to the office. **Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions.** Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the **vomiting/diarrhea** has occurred.

Head Lice

Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
Chicken pox	7 days from onset
Measles	7 days from onset
3 Day Measles	5 days
Whooping Cough	21 days
Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
Hepatitis	Until physician approves return

Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public School through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

Medication Guidelines

A VNA School Health Program Medication Authorization needs to be completed in the event your child would need to take medication while at school. Forms are available at the office.

When a student must take medication during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of any controlled medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.

2. For prescription medications - the label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label. Non-prescription medications should be brought to school in the original container along with signed parental permission stating dosage instructions.

3. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication on them, in their desks, or in their backpacks.

4. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

5. Medication will be used by the student in the presence of a trained staff member.

6. All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer and effective controls shall be maintained to provide safety or proper usage. A record of daily dispensation will be maintained.

7. In some instances, the school may request parental permission to consult with the prescribing doctor about the medication and its effects.

Student self-management of medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Parents may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Diabetes, Asthma and Anaphylaxis. The parent will need to follow the following procedures:

1. The parent will be required to place their request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent will need written verification from the child/children's physician indicating the condition and specific medication including name, purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval**.**

Once the request has been approved, the school and parent/guardian, in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;

3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional;
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication; and
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies as well as notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition;
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

Effective July 1, 1994, the Revised Statutes Supplement was amended as follows:

Each student in the state shall be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to continue in school until he or she shall so comply.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school either of the following:

1. A statement signed by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physician's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

2. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

3. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school in Nebraska if he or she has begun the immunizations required under Section 49-444.01 and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.

NOTE: Kindergarten and out-of-state students are required to have a physical exam and vision evaluation, per state law, prior to enrollment in school. Kindergarten physical exams are required to be performed within 6 months prior to the student starting school.

Health Screenings

Bennington Public Schools will conduct health screenings throughout the year with identified grade levels. Screenings may include, but are not limited to, dental, height, weight, vision, color-blindness, and hearing.

There is no waiver option for screening. A parent NOT wishing their child to be screened at school must provide documentation signed by a qualified medical provider verifying the child has been screened, or the child WILL be screened at school.

Screenings as required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are:

- Dental and Audio Screenings: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.
- Vision, Height, Weight: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

1. **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
2. **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
3. **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
4. **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
5. **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.
6. **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING PROCEDURES (Revised 1991)

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Law

LB 505 passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature includes the following:

When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or any other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department to the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone, with caller giving his or her name and address, and shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect, and evidence of previous abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which, in the opinion of the person, may be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrators.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Breakfast Period:

Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:05 a.m. Breakfast service will continue as a grab and go model. Breakfast students will be let in the building starting at 7:45. They will pick up their grab n go meal and go back outside to their lines. They will be let in at 8:00 with the rest of their class to eat in the classroom.

Sack Lunches from Home

A food service calendar is sent home monthly indicating student meal choice. Kindergarten through fifth grade will have two lunch options. Students will have the choice of the hot lunch item, a prepared salad tray or yogurt and cheese stick tray. The salad will include a fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, and grain item.

Students in kindergarten through second grade will receive all five components of the daily lunch menu. This includes milk, unless a documented health reasons is provided by a medical professional. Students in third through fifth grade will receive the option of "Offer vs. Serve". This allows the student to take only three components of the lunch offerings daily. They may continue to take all five, but must take at least three. One component must be a full serving of fruit or vegetables. During "Offer" service the student is allowed choice and may refuse the foods they do not intend to eat. The school cannot require a child to take a milk or food item. Both "Offer and Serve" food service methods are priced the same.

Students may bring sack lunches if desired**.** Pop is not allowed in the cafeteria. (Marked Lunchboxes are easy to identify when left in an unusual place.) Food and drinks must stay in the lunchroom area. **Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch periods (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.)**.

Closed Campus

Our K-12 school has a closed campus at noon, which means students are not permitted to leave the school during the day.

Meal Rates

Both breakfast and lunch include a 1/2-pint of milk within the cost.

Breakfast (K-5)	$1.70 Daily
Breakfast (Adult)	$2.50 Daily
Lunch (K-5)	$2.60 Daily
Lunch (Adult)	$4.05 Daily

Milk Rates

1 Carton (K-12)	.50 each
Semester Milk (K-6)	$44.00 per semester

Milk can be purchased for snack by semester at $44 per semester. Semester milk cost is not included in your family meal account. Snack milk money may only be purchased by semester or quarter. Daily snack milk money will not be accepted. Only exact semester or quarter amounts can be sent to the elementary office. Milk is also available to be purchased by the carton during the lunch period. Juice is also available for those with milk allergies.

Free and reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches are provided for those who qualify. Application forms are available online at www.benningtonschools.org. We encourage families to apply. Students qualifying for such programs help

the school receive additional federal grants to support reading. Information about students qualifying for a free or reduced lunch is kept highly confidential in the office of the Superintendent.

Meal Charges Procedures-UPDATED

Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees are able to use a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:

1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods:
   a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.
   b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Smart Snack foods and beverages are offered at the High School and Middle School. Students must have a positive school meal account balance to purchase Smart Snacks foods and beverages or they may pay with cash.

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Free and Reduced Price Meals

Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. A new application must be completed every school year. Applications are available on the district website. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures

The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:

1. All households at or before the start of each school year.

2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

ACTIVITY ADMISSION PRICES

Activity passes for regular season home activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Admission

Student	**$4.00**
Adult	**$6.00**

Non-Varsity Admission

Student	**$1.00**
Adult	**$3.00**

Passes

Student Pass	**$35.00**
Adult Pass	**$70.00**
Family Pass	**$160.00**

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the $6/$4 pricing.
** BHS Invitationals (Track & Wrestling) are subject the EMC Tournament price of $6 for students & $8 for adults.
** Activity passes are not honored for EMC and District tournament games.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities MUST attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school house they attend. Transportation may also be so provided for school activities as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon requests.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Bus/Van Rules and Student Responsibilities

Students in the Bennington School District who ride buses and/or vans are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Bus riders will be subjected to both video and audio recording. Any misbehavior, which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, and as such, jeopardizes the safety of all passengers. Consequence of continued misbehavior could result in a child being denied the privilege of riding the bus. Parents/guardians and students need to review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. Bus/van transportation is a privilege;
2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus/van;
3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus/van arrives;
4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus/van is moving;
5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus/van window;
6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus;
7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated! This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of other students;
8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic; and
9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.

Bennington school buses are monitored by video camera.

Recreational Trail

Use of the recreational trail which traverses the school grounds is subject to two sets of rules. The School has retained the authority to control use of the trail in conformance with student discipline and safety rules and regulations. When using the trail, students will be required to follow the same school rules that apply to school grounds. In addition, the City of Bennington has an ordinance which establishes additional rules that students and other users of the trail must follow. The City's ordinance is available in the Principal's office.

Students are requested to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for the children's attire and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students which possibly could cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the student or the student body.

1. It is inappropriate to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen, or any backless halter-top that ties at the neck and back. Tops with thin spaghetti straps or clothing that leaves

underwear visible is prohibited. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Undergarments and private parts (front side and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment.

2. Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends his/her arms at his/her sides. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline.

3. Hats, bandanas and hoods of any kind are not to be worn in school. Your child should layer clothing if he/she gets chilled easily. Light coats and jackets are allowed if needed.

4. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity, is offensive, makes reference to sexuality, race or culture, has a double meaning; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that can be used as a weapon will not be permitted.

Should any of these clothing infractions occur, the student may be required to change or a parent/guardian will be contacted to provide alternate attire.

SAFETY

1. Roller skates, tennis shoe-skates, inline skates, scooters and skateboards are not permitted at school.

2. Water guns and water play are not permitted on school grounds.

3. Bicycles are to be parked in the bike rack as soon as the student arrives. Students who ride bicycles must walk bikes while on school property and while moving among groups of children walking to or from school.

4. Please do not bring your pet(s) to school during arrival or dismissal. Please also refrain from bringing pets to extracurricular activities. The appropriate officials will be called when stray pets come on school property. Children walking should make sure pets do not follow them.

5. Illegal substances are not safe. State law and Board of Education policy strictly prohibit students and all patrons from having tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs at school. Weapons, firearms, knives, matches, and explosives are also prohibited. Violation of the policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

6. Walking to school can be dangerous unless basic guidelines are followed:
   a. stay on the sidewalk;
   b. follow the route designated by parents/guardians;
   c. don't talk to or take anything from strangers;
   d. report any contact strangers make with you; and
   e. make sure problems are reported to an adult at school.

7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's conduct to and from school. Misconduct will result in notification to parents/guardians.

8. Any threats to another's safety and terroristic threats will be taken seriously, and may be referred to local police department.

CELL PHONES/TECH EQUIPMENT

Cell phones, Smart watches, and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

Internet Access:

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students attending Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents/guardians must sign a "Parents/Guardians Agreement", which will be kept on file by the district. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, data bases, and bulletin boards with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents/guardians should be warned that some material accessible by the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials at will. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

E-mail and Internet Rules

1. E-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for student use. Access to the Internet and e-mail is a privilege, not a right.

2. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

3. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

4. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

5. The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

2. Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).

3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

4. Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

5. Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

7. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

8. Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

9. Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

Penalties for Use of the Internet

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the network so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

Violations of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

Student and Parent Agreement

The Student's Agreement and Parent's Agreement, in the form attached respectively, are incorporated by this reference.

Bennington Public School
Bennington, Nebraska

ADDENDUM

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

403206672. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

403206912. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Bennington School District hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Bennington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Whitney Fagan, Director of student services, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, Ne 68007 402-238-3044 wfagan@bennps.org.

Employees and others: Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, NE. 68007 402-238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about the anti-discrimination laws and regulation, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Right in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, 816-268-0550 (voice), or 887-521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees

and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees , including , co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section below.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

PROCEDURES

Level One – Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complaints or victims. Extenuating circumstances do not include summer vacation, and if a designated compliance coordinator or investigator is unavailable, another coordinator or trained employee will be designated to conduct the investigation. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant**. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, if necessary.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **ten (10) working days** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose to a student who

was discriminated against or harassed (victim), information about the sanction imposed upon a student who was found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment (student who discriminated) when the sanction directly relates to the victim. This includes an order that the student who discriminated stay away from the victim, or that the student who discriminated is prohibited from attending school for a period of time, or transferred to other classes.

Level Two – If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

Level Three – If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The Board will issue a written determination an=bout the appeal **within thirty (30) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

Remedies – If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible discrimination, including harassment or violence, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim, ensure the safety of the school community, and prevent further potential discrimination,

Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management a plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at (402) 238-3044.

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 33, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the **2019-2020 school year**.

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	$ **Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt.
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $10.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	$50 to $200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
Textbook/Library Books	Loss or damage to district textbooks.	Books lost or damaged beyond repair will be charged full value for replacement.

		Broken binding/damage to cover will be $10-15.

Bennington Elementary School
Handbook Agreement

The 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools is available on the internet at www.benningtonschools.org.

We are asking you to consider using the internet to access and review the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search the handbook when you have questions throughout the school year. Thank you for considering this use of technology to improve school-home communication.

Please return to the Elementary office by August 26, 2022.

_____ **Thank you for providing the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**

_____ **I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

_____
Name

RECEIPT OF 2022-2023 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

The signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools. It is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules and information about a Safe and Drug-Free School. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook.

Date: _____ **Date:** _____

_____ _____

Student's Signature **Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature**

Permission for Video or Photos

I give my permission for my child/children to be included in school photographs and/or videos used in school publications, including the yearbook and newsletters, on the school website and in area newspapers:

(Please check and initial the appropriate line). ( ) YES_____ ( ) NO_____

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS STUDENT/PARENT

AGREEMENT In order to make sure that all members of the Bennington Public Schools' community understand and agree to the rules of conduct, Bennington Public Schools asks that you as a student and parent/guardian sign the following statement: I have received a copy of, and have read, the "Terms and Conditions for Internet Access" adopted by the Bennington Public School District, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Bennington Public Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken. As a parent or guardian, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that is it impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Bennington Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network. I agree not to hold the Bennington Public Schools or any of its employees or any of the institutions for networks providing access to Bennington Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Anchor Pointe Elementary
HANDBOOK

2022-2023

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Mr. Chad Boyes, Principal
Anchor Pointe Elementary School
17007 HWS Cleveland Boulevard
Bennington, NE 68007
402-238-2166
www.benningtonschools.org

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Valerie Calderon	Mr. Tim Dreessen	Mrs. Allyson Slobotski
Mr. Mark Byars	Mrs. Kara Neuverth	Dr. Heather Goertz

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent	Dr. Dee Hoge, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Shannon Thoendel, Asst. Dir. of Curriculum/ Instruction/Assessment	Dr. Matt Blomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Services Director	Mrs. Jodie Green, Assistant Student Services Director
Mrs. Jodi McCoy, District/Board Secretary	Mrs. Lynne Lurvey, District Bookkeeper
Mrs. Molly O'Connor, Stratford Elementary Principal	Mr. Greg Lamberty, High School Principal
Mrs. Therese Nelson, Heritage Elementary Principal	Mr. Cody Bobolz, High School Assistant Principal
Mrs. Alison Evangelisti, Pine Creek Elementary Principal	Mr. Chris Kessell, High School Asst. Prin./Activities Director
Mrs. Danielle Robb, Bennington Elementary Principal	Mrs. Renee Rucker, Bennington Middle School Principal
Mr. Shawn Hoppes, Bennington South Middle School Principal	Mr. Lucas Apfelbeck, Bennington South Middle School Principal
Mr. Matt Wilson, Bennington Middle School Asst. Principal	

Anchor Pointe Elementary Staff

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chad Boyes, Principal	Mrs. Jessica Schafer, Secretary

TEACHERS / STAFF

Mrs.	Katie Vogel	Kindergarten
Miss	Sarah Wheeler	Kindergarten
Ms.	Abbie Witherbee	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Courtney Pruneau	Grade 1
Mrs.	Kristin Straight	Grade 1
Mrs.	Sharla Barada	Grade 2
Mrs.	Jill Garton	Grade 2
Miss	Hannah Sowers	Grade 2
Miss	Gabrielle Breeling	Grade 3
Mrs.	Sara Reinoehl	Grade 3
Miss	Tosha Davis	Grade 4
Mrs.	Amanda Perkins	Grade 4
Mrs.	Kathleen Cannon	Grade 5
Mrs.	Alex Saunders	Grade 5
Mr.	Jay Thayer	Grade 5
Mrs.	Shelli Oborny	Resource
Ms.		Counselor
Mrs.	Kathryn Sindelar	Speech K-5
Mrs.	Tara Mattson	Psychologist
Mrs.	Robyn Romero	Art
Mr.	Alex McCabe	Music
Mrs.	Barb Knott	District Reading
Mrs.	Emily Kiger	Math Interventionist
Mrs.	Brenna Barney	Media/Tech
Mrs.	Missy DeHart	High Ability Teacher
Mrs.	Meggie Widholm	P.E.
Mrs.	Kathy Albin	K-5 Spanish

Mrs.	Ann Bouaphakeo	ELL Teacher
Mr.	Marc Austin	Maintenance
Mrs.	Rachel Emary	Preschool-ECSE
Miss	Kelly Sund	Preschool-ECSE
Miss	Taylor Niles	Preschool-ECSE
Mrs.	Christine Tomjack	Birth-5 Speech
Ms.	Kristin Bender	Speech-PK-5th Grade
Mrs.	Lisa Hanus	Preschool-Para
Mrs.	Kari Williams	Preschool-Para
Mrs.	Mindi Gansebom	Preschool-Para
Mrs.	Amy Gallagher	Preschool-Para
Mrs.	Morgan Selchert	Preschool-Para
Mr.	Gary Baker	Resource Officer
Mr.	Lance Sindelar	Allstar Kids Director
Mrs.	Gay Copeland	Para-Professional
Mrs.	Stephanie Pulverenti	Para-Professional
Ms.	Mara Martinez	Para-Professional
Mrs.		Para-Professional
Mrs.		Spanish Assistant
Mrs.	Andrea Keller	Media/Lunch Para
Mrs.	Lindsey West	Office/Health Para
Mrs.	Heather Cormier	Nurse
Mrs.	Cathy Sharp	Nurse
Mrs.	Janet Snyder	Food Service
Mrs.	Roxanne McGavran	Food Service
Mrs.		Food Service
Ms.	Connie Anderson	Food Service

You can access any staff member's email address at: www.benningtonschools.com

2022 - BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2023

AUGUST 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

NOVEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August 2022
12-16.....Staff Inservice
17.....First Day of School
Early Staggered Dismissal

September 2022
5 .....Labor Day/No school

October 2022
11 &12.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem. 4:00-8:00 pm/Secondary 5:00-9:00 pm
13.....Inservice/No school
14.....No school
17.....Second Quarter Begins

November 2022
23-25.....Thanksgiving Break

December 2022
21.....End of First Semester- 85 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
22-31.....Winter Break

January 2023
1-3.....Winter Break
4.....Staff Inservice/No school
5.....First Day of Second Semester
16.....Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School

February 2023
14-15.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elem.4:00-8:00 pm/Secondary 5:00-9:00 pm
16.....Staff Inservice/No School
17.....No School
20.....President's Day/No School

March 2023
10*.....Inservice/No School/Snow Day Make-up
13.....Fourth Quarter Begins

April 2023
6-11.....Spring Break

May 2023
14.....Graduation
26.....End of Second Semester- 91 days
Early Staggered Dismissal/Inservice
29.....Memorial Day

Conferences

No School In-Service

No School

Early Staggered Dismissal
Elem: 11:40 Middle: 11:50 High: 12:00

***Snow make up days if needed- March 10, May 25, May 26**

JANUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

FEBRUARY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10*
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25*	26*
29	30	31		

School year August 17-May 26 - 176 Student Days needed - 9 Teacher Inservice Days - 186 Total Contract Days
1 Contract day for P/T Conferences - Summer School June 1-24 - Approved 02/08/2020

WELCOME TO ANCHOR POINTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
17007 HWS CLEVELAND BOULEVARD
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007

www.benningtonschools.org

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Elementary School. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer questions regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of our school. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. Parents/guardians and other school friends are encouraged to visit school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we will make this year a successful educational experience for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please contact us. We are here for the children and community.

Office Hours	7:30-4:00
Teacher Hours	7:50-3:50
Student Hours	8:05-3:07

Anchor Pointe Elementary School	(402) 238-2166
Bennington Elementary School Phone	(402) 238-2690
Pine Creek Elementary School Phone	(402) 238-2372
Heritage Elementary School Phone	(402) 238-2095
Stratford Elementary School Phone	
Bennington Middle School	(402) 238-3082
Bennington South Middle School	
Bennington Secondary School	(402) 238-2447
Bennington School Fax	(402) 238-2185
Superintendent's Office	(402) 238-3044

MISSION STATEMENT OF BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE MISSION OF THE BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

School Colors: Royal Blue and White
School Mascot: The Badger

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Board of Education - The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Its duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

Superintendent of Schools - The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's final approval.

Principal - The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

ANCHOR POINTE VISION

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years of Junior High training (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the North Central Association of Schools and AdvancED. Anchor Pointe Elementary is home to the district preschool.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Elementary Principal's office is located on the north side of the school facility.
The address is: **17007 HWS Cleveland Boulevard**
Bennington, NE 68007

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/guardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit school. It is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. However, out of courtesy to the classroom teachers and students, we ask you to please call the office to check their schedules and make arrangements prior to visiting the classrooms. Please follow guidelines indicated below:

1. When visiting the school, please report to the office to register as a guest and receive a visitor's pass before going to the designated classroom or activity. All visitors must enter through the elementary office. During larger functions such as assemblies, room parties, etc., visitor's passes may be waived; however, we would still appreciate you checking in with the office on these occasions.

3. Due to classroom space availability and respect for the learning environment, children not enrolled in school are discouraged from visiting during school hours.

4. All visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum.

The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds of activities.

In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he/she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on the premises.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ANCHOR POINTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Anchor Pointe Elementary is a PRE K-5 building with approximately **400** students. Many opportunities are available for student involvement beyond the elementary day in Bennington. Our community and parent involvement puts students first.

1. Our K-2 classrooms are self-contained with one teacher for the entire day.

2. The 3rd/4th/5th grades will have a homeroom teacher who instructs reading, writing, and math. Students may rotate to other classrooms for science and social studies.

3. Our Preschool services students Birth-5. Students in one of our three or four year old classrooms attend class for three hours daily for four days per week. All elementary students have specials which include Physical Education, Music, Art,Media/Technology, and Spanish. The elementary guidance counselor presents social skills lessons to each classroom weekly.

4. Our teachers are some of the area's finest educators. They are skilled and truly care about students. We work closely with parents/guardians to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015
Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certifications or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

<u>Students at Anchor Pointe Elementary will be expected to practice "On Pointe" behaviors:</u>

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be safe
4. Be Kind

INSPIRE LEARN ACHIEVE TOGETHER	Hallway	Restroom	Lunchroom	Playground
BE SAFE BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE	Voice Level – 0	Voice Level – 0	Voice Level – 2	Voice Level – 4
	– Straight – Silent – Still – Smiling	– Silent – Quick – Clean – Respectful	– Safe – Clean – Eating – Respectful	– Safe – Visible – Kind – Respectful
	– Go directly to your destination. – Keep to the right to pass. – Hold doors for others. – Enjoy displays with your eyes only.	– Wash hand with soap. – Leave area clean. – Report problems and unsafe behaviors to the teachers. – Return to class quickly.	– Wait quietly in line. – Keep 2 hands on tray. – Sit on your pockets. – Use good manners. – Manage time wisely.	– Communicate in kind ways. – Include others. – Be a problem solver. – Show good sportsmanship. – Remain visible to adults. – Report problems and unsafe behaviors to the teachers.
BE ON POINTE				

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a

deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Levels of Intervention

Pier One: *Paper documentation is not required.*

- **Peaceful Pointe**
  Each classroom will provide children a spot to self-regulate and re-enter the learning activities. THIS IS NOT A DISCIPLINE/CONSEQUENCE/PUNISHMENT. We want children to self-identify when they are struggling and be able to pull themselves out of situations as needed. This is also a good opportunity for staff to observe these situations with children and either address as needed or call in the building counselor for assistance. This could be students self-selected or teacher encouraged.
  - Zones of Regulation posters included in the area for observation
  - May include items such as stress balls, de-escalation items, etc. for students to use.

- **Teacher/Student Conversation**
  Teacher should initiate a conversation/teachable talk with the child. This may result in parent contact.
  - Conversations should be guided by the 21st Century Skills, Zones of Regulation, DWP Skills, lessons learned through the counseling program (I message).. These may become future goals, problem solving options, etc. for the child if the behavior concern continues.

Pier Two: *Paper documentation and parent contact are required.*

- **Break/Think Time**
  Grade levels/Specialists will create a spot for either a Buddy Room or a designated area where a student can complete a reflection sheet. These will be done consistently across grade levels and shared with the parents at the beginning of the school year. Teachers and students will fill out an Anchor Pointe Think Sheet for documentation purposes. Teacher should initiate a conversation/teachable talk with the child. Parents should be contacted. Completed Anchor Pointe Think Sheets should be turned in to the school counselor.

  Consistent Pier Two infractions may result in an office referral. At this time an Office Referral Form will need to be completed and sent with the child to the office. Office Referral Forms will be retained in the office.

Pier Three: *Paper documentation and parent contact are required.*

- **Office Referral**
  If a student demonstrates behavior that warrants an office referral, the teacher will complete an Office Referral Form and send it with the student to the office. The Administrator will determine student consequences and will provide feedback to the teacher. Parents will be contacted by certified staff and administration. Office Referral Forms will be retained in the office.

Serious Behavior Clause

There are three occasions when it will become necessary for staff to take immediate disciplinary action. The student will be referred to the principal with an office referral form.

They include:

1. When a child or children are in physical danger. -- When touching or physical contact that causes bodily harm has occurred. EXAMPLES: Hitting – Biting – Scratching – Kicking – Spitting – Bullying Behavior
2. When a child or children are in emotional / verbal / physical distress. -- When a child is testing his/her abilities and pushes beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions. -- When a child is exhibiting threatening behavior / harmful teasing / bullying behavior. EXAMPLES: "I'll kill you!" – "I'll hurt you if you tell." - Racial Slurs - Sexual Slurs - "You're fat, ugly, etc." - Nonverbal gestures hurtful to others.

3. Interrupting the teacher or students within the learning environment. -- EXAMPLES: Blatant refusal to cooperate, mocking others, sassing back to the teacher, lying, basic disrespect, etc.

Bullying: Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing.

AN AUTOMATIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR FOR ANY HARMFUL THREATS, GESTURES OR OFFENSES MADE TOWARDS STAFF MEMBERS. TERRORISTIC THREATS OF ANY KIND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Publications

The Bennington School District publishes an informative newsletter, *Horizons*, distributed quarterly to all residents through the local postage system. In addition, The Beacon, a weekly elementary bulletin, is sent electronically to each family providing a current email address. Both publications are utilized to update everyone on current school happenings and other community events. A copy of the The Beacon may be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Report Cards and Portfolios

There are four official reporting periods during our school year, which are also referred to as quarters. Report cards (3-5), or a portfolio review/achievement summary (K-2) is completed each quarter. The Report Card and a Mid Term Report will be posted quarterly in grades 3-5 on the Parent Web Access.

Grading System	Portfolios
A = 4.0 = 100-93	Portfolios are a collection of the student's work samples.
B = 3.0 = 92-86	The Portfolio indicates the child's developmental
C = 2.0 = 85-77	progress rather than the specific grades for an
D = 1.0 = 76-70	academic area. Progress towards the Nebraska
F = 0.0 = Below 70	Standards are also included.

The complete approved Grading Framework can be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year and are noted on the calendar in the front of this booklet. Additional conferences and progress reports may be scheduled at any time by contacting the classroom teacher.

Lost and Found

A lost and found box is located in the elementary office. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check this box for missing items. Each quarter the lost and found box is reorganized and unclaimed items are donated to a local organization.

Student Telephone

Students will be allowed to use the school phone for such things as medical illness, needed changes of clothing, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the teacher or school office.

Cell Phone/Smart Watches/Technology Device Use

Cell phones, smart watches and other electronic devices used during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense. Electronic devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Personal Items

All items not benefiting or causing interruption to the educational process of students will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

Teacher/Student Messages

To help our students receive optimum learning time, neither students nor teachers will be interrupted during class to answer the telephone unless it is an emergency. Our phone system allows parents/guardians to leave messages on voicemail that can be returned at an appropriate time by the person you wish to contact. Teachers are available for telephone calls between 7:50-8:20 a.m. and 3:07-3:50 p.m.

Field Trips

Each classroom completes a yearly field trip for educational enhancement. Generally, a teaching unit accompanies the learning experience so that optimal education is gained from the trip. Bus transportation is provided for all students and classroom teachers. The district will provide a student sack lunch for students requesting to use their lunch card. ***All students must return to school on District provided transportation.*** Once students arrive at school, parents may check them out through the office. Parents attending field trips are asked to follow school expectations. ***No other children are allowed to accompany a parent or guardian on a field trip. Some field trips may not allow for parental participation.*** Attendance on the field trip requires a parent-signed permission slip for each individual activity.

Birthday Celebrations

We ask that all party invitations be mailed to students rather than distributed at school. Special deliveries will be held in the office until late afternoon. Students will be notified to come and pick them up before dismissal.

Classroom Treats

All food items distributed at school must be made in kitchens that are state licensed for food preparation. If you wish to provide treats the following suggestions may help: individual packaged items, bakery items from a local grocery store, pre-packaged crackers, non-food items, etc. Please be aware and considerate of student food allergies such as those towards peanuts and tree nuts. We ask you to prearrange treats with the classroom teacher so alternative treats may be offered to those unable to participate. Treats will only be distributed to those students and staff in their assigned classroom.

Classroom Parties

Anchor Pointe Elementary PTO sponsors the classroom parties. Parties are scheduled three times a year - a "Fall" party in October, a "Winter" party in December, and a "Valentine's Day" party in February. At the end of the year students also participate in a "Fun Day". Parent help is always needed for these events and appreciated.

Recess

Anchor Pointe Elementary School strives to make recess safe and enjoyable for all students. All students participate in at least one scheduled daily

recess period daily. Therefore, you will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the changing Nebraska weather conditions. Layering clothing is the best option for cold mornings and hot afternoons. During inclement weather (rain or severe wind chill conditions) students will have indoor recess. Please note that during school hours our playground is not accessible to the public due to the safety and protection of the students. Physical activity and student socialization is an important part of recess. Students are required to participate in recess and will not be excused from participation without a doctor's note verifying the reason. Students may be held from recess due to academic assistance, completion of assignments, or misconduct.

Physical Education

Physical education is a required elementary course. Student wellness and gross-motor development is a crucial objective of the elementary curriculum. In order to meet this objective, student participation in physical activity is mandatory. Student release from physical activity requires a doctor's note. Prolonged dismissal from class may require an alternative assignment or further documentation from a doctor. Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. In the past, most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in the classroom for the year.

Hall Lockers

Students will be provided a locker. The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to use the combination lock. Students are not to change lockers without permission (Board Policy #504.09).

Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The principal or his designee can confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the school safe and free from illegal drugs, the Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline (Board Policy #504.16).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves many students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities and in other natural environments. School age special education students are served in the least-restrictive environment. ***For further information contact the Student Services Director in the District Office at (402) 238-3044.***

Permitted Presence of Service Animals

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged. The school district will comply with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled students.

Service animals include guide dogs, hearing dogs, signal dogs, and any dog or animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled student. Service animals do not include pets, farm animals, wild or exotic animals, or any animals whose function is to provide crime deterrent effects, emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being. (Policy 508.010 - Service Animals)

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:
a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;

b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presence of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Counseling Services

Anchor Pointe Elementary is proud of their elementary counseling service options. Our counselor provides classroom lessons to help students see the multiple ways social skills can be used to communicate more effectively. The counselor is also available for private counseling for any student needing assistance. Parents/guardians are welcome to call the counselor directly to answer any questions you might have in this area of development. Families are also provided counseling services through Arbor Family Counseling, an independent counseling firm contracted by the District. Each student may receive two free confidential sessions through Arbor Family. For more information please contact the school counselor or the elementary office.

RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student. If the agency provides this **verification**, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental signature is necessary to release the student data.

Directory Information

1. School officials may have access to only those records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.

3. Students or parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

    a. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

    b. The name and address of the office that administrates FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

    c. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools' Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

The north doors (main elementary entrance) will open at 7:45 a.m. for students arriving for breakfast in the cafeteria. ***Students are not to arrive prior to 7:45***. All students at Anchor Pointe Elementary can attend a morning club, either Reading Club or Walking Club, or can attend Breakfast. It is also at this time that students can enter the building for classroom needs, drop off items in the office or deposit lunchroom money. School begins promptly at 8:05 a.m. All doors will be locked at 8:05 a.m. This is for the safety of our students and to help reinforce the procedure for visitors to register at the office. We must keep track of all visitors within our building to ensure safety to all students and patrons of Bennington Public Schools.

Preschool Student Entance and Exits

1. Preschool students enter and exit the building through the preschool doors located on the south side of the building next to the bus loop.

Student Entrances and Exits

1. K-5 students enter and exit the building through the main entrance on the north side of the building.

2. Students riding the bus or being dropped off by a daycare van will enter and exit at the south entrance of the building.

3. Dismissal supervision is provided at the main entrance of the elementary building and in the south bus loop until all students have safely been dismissed from the campus. Parents/guardians are to use the NORTH entrance for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please be considerate of the 3:07 dismissal time.

Safety Patrol Posts

The Safety Patrol supervises from 7:55 to 8:05 and 3:07-3:15.

Students are to cross only at guarded posts with help from the Safety Patrol. Students are to obey and respect safety patrol members to ensure a safe walk to and from school.

MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

The mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects, pursuant to law, not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office); or (4) has reached the age of 18.

Minimum Age Requirements

The district will not admit any child into kindergarten unless:

1. the child will reach the age of 5 years on or before July 31 on the current year;
2. the child will reach the age of five years by October 15th of the current year; and
    a. the parent provides an affidavit stating that the child attended kindergarten in another district, or
    b. the family will be relocating to another district that allows admission within the current year, or
    c. the child has demonstrated, through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board, his/her capability of carrying out the work of the beginner grade.

New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools either prior to or during an academic year in progress must go to www.benningtonschools.org and begin the registration process. Parents are also asked to provide the following items:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, required by state law be provided within 30 days of enrollment;
- Evidence of a physical and eye examination if they are entering Kindergarten or in the case of a transfer from out of state;
- Updated Immunization/Health records;
- Transcripts sent from the previous school; and
- Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. Many students take pride in their attendance and punctuality record. This is a commendable characteristic and it is our desire to motivate more students to think positively and seriously about this aspect of their school record. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be made up. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

2. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.
    a. Below is how attendance will be coded at Bennington Public Schools.

E - Excused - family emergencies, celebrations, or events (examples could include a family wedding, or funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military) - students can make up work for full credit

U - Unexcused - parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit

MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit

MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit

T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day

R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence

SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity

- *Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused." When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."*

b. All students who arrive in the classroom after 8:20 a.m. yet before 9:00 a.m. will be deemed tardy. School Administration will determine if a tardy will be deemed excused based on provided documentation from the parent or guardian. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be charged with an absence.

c. The following times show how the school day shall be divided in determining the length of an absence:
    i. 8:20—10:15=1/4 Day Absence
    ii. 10:16—12:00=1/2 Day Absence
    iii. 12:01—1:45=3/4 Day Absence

iv. 1:46—3:07=Full Day Absence

d. Student absences will be determined using the times listed above.

3. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, a medical professional's note must be provided. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's lunch/recess period or during different times throughout the school day, so that one subject area is not affected on a routine basis. Please note that all students leaving before the 3:07 dismissal are considered absent from school. Illness requiring extended leave will require a doctor's note. During school hours, students will remain in class until the parent/guardian is present for pickup. This will ensure optimal time in class (Board Policy #503.03).

4. Each absence must be covered by a signed note, email, or telephone call from a parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence.

5. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work.

6. Any student missing 8, 15, or 20 days per school year (excused or unexcused) will be notified by mail. Refer to Excessive Absenteeism Section for further information.

7. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom with the bell 8:20. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. The student will receive a detention for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-5 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

9. Students shall be present by 12:00 p.m. in order to participate in any school event, including performances. If the activity occurs before 12:00 p.m., the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

Addressing Barriers to Attendance

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for the students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight, fifteen, and twenty absences [*unexcused; excused or unexcused*] absences or the hourly equivalent, communication will be made with the persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the child. A meeting or meetings will be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or member of the school administrative staff, if there is no school social worker), the student parent/guardian, and the student (if necessary) to attempt to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. A "collaborative plan" to improve regular attendance may be developed as a result of the meeting or meetings. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

(i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
(ii) Educational counseling;
(iii) Educational evaluation;
(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
(v) Family or individual counseling; and
(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If a student is absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical.

This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.

2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.

3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.

4. A copy of the letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.

5. A copy of the attendance requirement.

6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include post actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Part-time Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment and will be under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to the dual enrollment student in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirement rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting part-time enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school principal.

MAKE-UP WORK

No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests or turn in assignments as soon as they return to school if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board Policy #503.03 states that it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work missed. The student shall receive full credit for the work missed when the absence is deemed as excused. The date make-up work is due will be determined by the teacher based on the content studied and length of absence. Ordinarily, the student will be expected to complete make-up work issued due to short-term absences (five days or less) within five days after returning to school. It is the responsibility of the student to prepare all materials and homework requiring completion before leaving the building. On a limited basis, a child will be allowed to re-enter the classroom during teacher duty hours, ending at 3:50.

When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work. Extensive make-up work will be contracted in writing. Requests for assignments will be handled through the elementary office and the classroom teacher.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must go to the office for additional help with their needs. Students may not leave school without a parent/guardian present to sign them out of the building.

After School Curricular Programs

Student participation in after school curricular programs such as vocal or instrumental music, science fair, etc. is required. It is understandable that family conflicts or illness may occur. Students unable to attend the program will be required to complete an alternative assignment. Non-participation in the program and a lack of completion of the alternative assessment will be reflected in the child's participation grade.

School Ceremonies and Observances

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons.

Checking Students Out of the Building

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian before leaving school for appointments or other family needs. A note in advance is helpful for the office and the classroom teacher. Please note that in the event of a school emergency or disaster, only persons noted on your emergency information are able to have the student released to them. Students will remain in class until the arrival of the parent/guardian.

Bennington Public Schools views your child's safety as a top priority. During a lockdown drill or situation, your child will not be released until it has been deemed safe or an all-clear signal has been issued.

Student Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of schools is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern students while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or school operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, contests, or performances (Board Policy #505).

1. No student shall:

   A. Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Harassment on the basis of, but is not limited to: race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status, will not be tolerated. Forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to the following: verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse; repeated remarks of a demeaning nature; implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc., or demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.
   B. Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.
   C. Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.
   D. Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18
   E. Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

F. Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

G. Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

H. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

I. Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

J. Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

K. Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion. Students using offensive language may be:
    - 1st offense: Suspended from school for three days (parents/guardians informed).
    - 2nd offense: The student will be recommended for long-term suspension from school.
    - 3rd offense: The student will be recommended for expulsion from that class or all classes depending on the discipline committee decision.

L. Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school,
assigned classes or activities.

M. Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

N. Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

O. Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

P. Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.

Q. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
    - The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
    - The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

R. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The

Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

2. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

   A. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
   B. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function, with the approval of the school: (i) in a historical reenactment, (ii) in a hunter education program, or (iii) as part of an honor guard.
   C. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
   D. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department/Douglas County Sheriff's Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents to the appropriate Department.

Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles or at school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

Detention

Detention will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10-3:45 in the assigned faculty room. The faculty will supervise detentions. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the rules, problems in the classroom, attendance problems, or excessive tardiness. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day issued unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or the principal. The student must then serve the next detention day. Students will be allowed to do homework or read a book. Failure to serve the detention on time may result in parental notification and a Saturday School assignment for students in grades 4-5. Repeated failures to serve detentions will result in further disciplinary consequences.

~~Saturday School~~

~~1. Saturday School may be earned for the following behaviors:~~

~~(a) Truancy: A full day absence may result in Saturday School assignment.~~
~~(b) Students receiving more than eight tardies during a semester may receive a Saturday School.~~
~~(c) Skipping detentions: The first skip may result in one Saturday School. All other skipped detentions will result in two days of Saturday School.~~
~~(d) Students who violate school rules that would result in a one-day suspension may receive a Saturday School rather than a suspension.~~

~~(c) Students may be assigned a Saturday School by the Discipline Committee for repeated violation of school rules.~~

~~2. Saturday School assignments will consist of three hours. The students will serve from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The doors to the school will open at 7:15 a.m. and be closed at 7:30 a.m. Students will be given a ten-minute break at 9:00 a.m.~~

3. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:

   (a) Students must be on time and prepared to work at 7:30 a.m.
   (b) Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
   (c) Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School supervisor's instructions. If students fail to follow Saturday School rules, they will be asked to leave and may be required to attend the next scheduled Saturday School or receive a suspension.
   (d) **A parent/guardian must notify the Principal if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 7:30 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.**
   (e) Parents/guardians will be notified of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive notice from the Principal prior to any Saturday School assignment.

4. Students who show up late to or skip a Saturday School may be assigned a suspension. Parents will be notified of the suspension.

Sanctions - The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator has made an investigation of the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. A short-term suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from school attendance for a period not to exceed five school days. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and the student's parents/guardians or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents/guardians or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

   a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or
   b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The Superintendent, on a case-by-case basis and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, 794, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the Superintendent. The School shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal delivery to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;
2. Such written notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

    c. A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;

    d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

    e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents/guardians or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony;

    f. A form on which the student, student's parents/guardians, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

    g. Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents/guardians, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of receipt of the written notice by the student or the student's parents/guardians as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to.

Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary actions regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110) and television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT and KPTM. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If we have to use more than the number of days we have scheduled, time will be made up at the end of the school year.

If the decision to delay the start time of school is made, all beginning of the day procedures will be adjusted to reflect two hours. Staff supervision would begin at 10:00 a.m. and a student would be considered tardy at 10:20 a.m. All transportation services will run two hours behind schedule.

HEALTH SERVICES

A Health Emergency Record is on file for each student. Updates to student health information throughout the school year can be made on the Parent Web on the student verification page. If an accident occurs at school, parents/guardians will be notified. If it is impossible to reach the parents/guardians, the other emergency number provided by the parent will be used. A medical emergency unit will be called as deemed necessary.

Injuries at School

Children sometimes fail to report unobserved injuries to the teacher. If your child has been injured at school during the day, please make certain it has been reported to the school nurse or health aide, as we wish to know about these incidents.

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are advised to report to the office. Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions. Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the vomiting/diarrhea has occurred.

Please note that Nebraska health statutes no longer allow school officials to provide over the counter medication to students in need. All non-prescription medications must be brought from home in the original container with permission slips, dosages and times to be given. See list below on all specific mediation requirements.

Head Lice

Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
Chicken pox	7 days from onset
Measles	7 days from onset
3 Day Measles	5 days
Whooping Cough	21 days
Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits

Medication Guidelines

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public School through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

A VNA School Health Program Medication Authorization needs to be completed in the event your child would need to take medication while at school. Forms are available at the office.

When a student must take medication during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of any controlled medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.

2. For prescription medications - the label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label. Non-prescription medications should be brought to school in the original container along with signed parental permission stating dosage instructions.

3. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication on them, in their desks, or in their backpacks.

4. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

5. Medication will be used by the student in the presence of a trained staff member.

6. All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer and effective controls shall be maintained to provide safety or proper usage. A record of daily dispensation will be maintained.

7. In some instances, the school may request parental permission to consult with the prescribing doctor about the medication and its effects.

Student self-management of medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Parents may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Diabetes, Asthma and Anaphylaxis. The parent will need to follow the following procedures:

1. The parent will be required to place their request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent will need written verification from the child/children's physician indicating the condition and specific medication including name, purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

Once the request has been approved, the school and parent/guardian, in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional;

4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication; and
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies as well as notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition;
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

Effective July 1, 1994, the Revised Statutes Supplement was amended as follows:

Each student in the state shall be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to continue in school until he or she shall so comply.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school either of the following:

1. A statement signed by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physician's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

2. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

3. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school in Nebraska if he or she has begun the immunizations required under Section 49-444.01 and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.

NOTE: Kindergarten and out-of-state students are required to have a physical exam and vision evaluation, per state law, prior to enrollment in school. Kindergarten physical exams are required to be performed within 6 months prior to the student starting school.

Health Screenings

Bennington Public Schools will conduct health screenings throughout the year with identified grade levels. Screenings may include, but are not limited to, dental, height, weight, vision, color-blindness, and hearing.

There is no waiver option for screening. A parent NOT wishing their child to be screened at school must provide documentation signed by a qualified medical provider verifying the child has been screened, or the child WILL be screened at school.

Screenings as required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are:

- Dental and Audio Screenings: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.
- Vision, Height, Weight: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

1. **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
2. **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
3. **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
4. **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
5. **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.
6. **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING PROCEDURES (Revised 1991)

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Law

LB 505 passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature includes the following:

When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or any other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department to the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone, with caller giving his or her name and address, and shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect, and evidence of previous abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which, in the opinion of the person, may be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrators.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Bennington Nutrition Services Meal Charges Procedures

Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding mealcharges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:

1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods:
    a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.

b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only. Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures
The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:
1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Breakfast Period:
Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:05 a.m.

Food Service

Breakfast is served each morning in our cafeteria. Serving begins at 7:45 a.m. and continues until the 8:05 a.m. start of school**.** All students arriving for breakfast are to use the north entrance to enter the cafeteria. Students who ride the bus will have adequate time to have breakfast at school. Elementary students must be in class by 8:05 to avoid being tardy.

Sack Lunches from Home

A food service calendar is sent home monthly indicating student meal choice. Kindergarten through fifth grade will have two lunch options. Students will have the choice of the hot lunch item or a second item on rotation of yogurt/cheese stick or EZ jammer. The salad will include a fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, and grain item.

Students in kindergarten through second grade will receive all five components of the daily lunch menu. This includes milk, unless a documented health reason is provided by a medical professional. Students in third through fifth grade will receive the option of "Offer vs. Serve". This allows the student to take only three components of the lunch offerings daily. They may continue to take all five, but must take at least three. One component must be a full serving of fruit or vegetables. During "Offer" service the student is allowed choice and may refuse the foods they do not intend to eat. The school cannot require a child to take a milk or food item. Both "Offer and Serve" food service methods are priced the same.

Students may bring sack lunches if desired**.** Pop is not allowed in the cafeteria. Marked lunch boxes are easy to identify when left in an unusual place. Food and drinks must stay in the lunchroom area. **Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch periods (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.)**.

Closed Campus

Our K-12 school has a closed campus at noon, which means students are not permitted to leave the school during the day.

Meal Rates

Both breakfast and lunch include a 1/2-pint of milk within the cost.

Breakfast	(K-5)	**$1.70** daily	**$8.50** weekly
	(6-8)	**$1.75** daily	**$8.75** weekly
	(9-12)	**$1.85** daily	**$9.25** weekly
	(Reduced)	**$0.30** daily	**$1.50** weekly
Lunch	(K-5)	**$2.60** daily	**$13.00** weekly
	(6-8)	**$2.90** daily	**$14.50** weekly
	(9-12)	**$2.95** daily	**$14.75** weekly
	(Reduced)	**$0.40** daily	**$ 2.00** weekly
Milk		**$0.50** each	**$ 2.50** weekly

Milk can be purchased for snack by semester at $44 per semester. Semester milk cost is not included in your family meal account. Snack milk money may only be purchased by semester. Daily snack milk money will not be accepted. Only exact semester amounts can be sent to the elementary office. Milk is also available to be purchased by the carton during the lunch period. Juice is also available for those with milk allergies.

Free and reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches are provided for those who qualify. Application forms are available online at www.benningtonschools.org. We encourage families to apply. Students qualifying for such programs help the school receive additional federal grants to support reading. Information about students qualifying for a free or reduced lunch is kept highly confidential in the office of the Superintendent.

ACTIVITY ADMISSION PRICES

Activity passes for regular season activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Admission

Student	$ 4.00	Adult	$ 6.00

Non-Varsity Admission

Student	$ 1.00	Adult	$ 3.00

Passes

Student Pass	$35.00	Adult Pass	$70.00
Family Pass	$160.00		

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the $6/$4 pricing.
** BHS Invitationals (Track & Wrestling) are subject to the EMC Tournament price of $6.00 students/$8.00 adults.
** Activity passes are not honored for EMC or District Tournament games.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities MUST attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by Bennington Public Schools from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon request.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation

fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Bus/Van Rules and Student Responsibilities

Students in the Bennington School District who ride buses and/or vans are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Bus riders will be subjected to both video and audio recording. Any misbehavior, which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, and as such, jeopardizes the safety of all passengers. Consequence of continued misbehavior could result in a child being denied the privilege of riding the bus. Parents/guardians and students need to review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. Bus/van transportation is a privilege;
2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus/van;
3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus/van arrives;
4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus/van is moving;
5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus/van window;
6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus;
7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated! This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of other students;
8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic; and
9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.

- ***Bennington school buses are monitored by video camera.***

STUDENT DRESS

Students are requested to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for the children's attire and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students which possibly could cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the student or the student body.

1. It is inappropriate to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen, or any backless halter-top that ties at the neck and back. A top with spaghetti straps or clothing that leaves underwear visible is prohibited. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Undergarments and private parts (front side and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment.
2. Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends his/her arms at his/her sides. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline.
3. Hats, bandanas, hoods, coats and jackets of any kind are not to be worn in school. Your child should layer clothing if he/she gets chilled easily. Light coats and jackets are allowed if needed.

4. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity, is offensive, makes reference to sexuality, race or culture, has a double meaning; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that can be used as a weapon will not be permitted.

If any of these clothing infractions occur, the student may be required to change or a parent/guardian will be contacted to provide alternate attire.

SAFETY

1. Roller skates, tennis shoe-skates, inline skates, scooters and skateboards are not permitted at school.

2. Water guns and water play are not permitted on school grounds.

3. Bicycles are to be parked in the bike rack as soon as the student arrives. Students who ride bicycles must walk bikes while on school property and while moving among groups of children walking to or from school.

4. Please do not bring your pet(s) to school or during arrival or dismissal. No pets should be brought to school activities. The appropriate officials will be called when stray pets come on school property. Children walking should make sure pets do not follow them.

5. Illegal substances are not safe. State law and Board of Education policy strictly prohibit students and all patrons from having tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs at school. Weapons, firearms, knives, matches, and explosives are also prohibited. Violation of the policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

6. Walking to school can be dangerous unless basic guidelines are followed:
   a. stay on the sidewalk;
   b. follow the route designated by parents/guardians;
   c. don't talk to or take anything from strangers;
   d. report any contact strangers make with you; and
   e. make sure problems are reported to an adult at school.

7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's conduct to and from school. Misconduct will result in notification to parents/guardians.

8. Any threats to another's safety and terroristic threats will be taken seriously, and may be referred to local police department.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

Internet Access:

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students attending Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents/guardians must sign a "Parents/Guardians Agreement", which will be kept on file by the district. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents/guardians should be warned that some material accessible by the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials at will. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

E-mail and Internet Rules

1. E-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for student use. Access to the Internet and e-mail is a privilege, not a right.

2. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

3. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

4. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

5. The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

2. Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).

3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

4. Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

5. Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

7. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

8. Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

9. Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

Penalties for Use of the Internet

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the network so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

Violations of the policies and procedures of Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

Student and Parent Agreement

The Student's Agreement and Parent's Agreement, in the form attached respectively, are incorporated by this reference.
Bennington Public School
Bennington, Nebraska

ADDENDUM

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
   (Fax202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Bennington School District hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Bennington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Whitney Fagan, Director of student services, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, Ne 68007 402-238-3044 wfagan@bennps.org.

Employees and others: Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, NE. 68007 402-238-3044 thaack@bennps.org.

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For

further information about the anti-discrimination laws and regulation, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Right in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, 816-268-0550 (voice), or 887-521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees , including , co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section below.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

PROCEDURES

Level One – Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complaints or victims. Extenuating circumstances do not include summer vacation, and if a designated compliance coordinator or investigator is unavailable, another coordinator or trained employee will be designated to conduct the investigation. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant**. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, if necessary.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **ten (10) working days** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose to a student who was discriminated against or harassed (victim), information about the sanction imposed upon a student who was found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment (student who discriminated) when the sanction directly relates to the

victim. This includes an order that the student who discriminated stay away from the victim, or that the student who discriminated is prohibited from attending school for a period of time, or transferred to other classes.

Level Two – If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

Level Three – If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The Board will issue a written determination an=bout the appeal **within thirty (30) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

Remedies – If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible discrimination, including harassment or violence, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim, ensure the safety of the school community, and prevent further potential discrimination,

Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management a plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at (402) 238-3044.

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 37, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the **2021-2022 school year**. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	$ **Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt.
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $10.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	$50 to $200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
Textbook/Library Books	Loss or damage to district textbooks.	Books lost or damaged beyond repair will be charged full value for replacement. Broken binding/damage to cover will be $10-15.

Anchor Pointe Elementary School
Handbook Agreement

The 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools is available on the internet at www.benningtonschools.org.

We are asking you to consider using the internet to access and review the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search the handbook when you have questions throughout the school year. Thank you for considering this use of technology to improve school-home communication.

Please return to the Principal's office by August 31, 2022.

_____ **Thank you for providing the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**

_____ **I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

Name _____

RECEIPT OF 2022-2023 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

The signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2022-2023 Student-Parent Handbook of Bennington Public Schools. It is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules and information about a Safe and Drug-Free School. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook.

Date: _____ **Date:** _____

_____ _____

Student's Signature **Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature**

Permission for Video or Photos

I give my permission for my child/children to be included in school photographs and/or videos used in school publications, including the yearbook and newsletters, on the school website and in area newspapers:

(Please check and initial the appropriate line). ( ) YES_____ ( ) NO_____

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS STUDENT/PARENT

AGREEMENT In order to make sure that all members of the Bennington Public Schools' community understand and agree to the rules of conduct, Bennington Public Schools asks that you as a student and parent/guardian sign the following statement: I have received a copy of, and have read, the "Terms and Conditions for Internet Access" adopted by the Bennington Public School District, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Bennington Public Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken. As a parent or guardian, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Bennington Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network. I agree not to hold the Bennington Public Schools or any of its employees or any of the institutions for networks providing access to Bennington Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

PINE CREEK ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

2022-2023

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs. Alison Evangelisti, Principal
Bennington Public Schools
7801 N. HWS Cleveland Boulevard
Bennington, NE 68007

(402) 238-2372 / Fax # (402) 243-0716
www.benningtonschools.org

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr.	Valerie Calderon
Mr.	Tim Dreeson
Mrs.	Allyson Slobotski
Mr.	Mark Byars
Mrs.	Kara Neuverth
Dr.	Heather Goertz

ADMINISTRATION

Dr.	Terry Haack, Superintendent
Mrs.	Jodi McCoy, District Secretary
Dr.	Denise Hoge, Assistant Superintendent
Dr.	Matt Blomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent
Dr.	Shannon Thoendel, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs.	Whitney Fagan, Student Services Coordinator
Dr.	Greg Lamberty, High School Principal
Mr.	Cody Bobolz, High School Assistant Principal
Mr.	Christopher Kessell, High School Athletic Director
Mr.	Shawn Hoppes, Middle School South Principal
Mrs.	Renee Rucker, Middle School Principal
Mr.	Matt Wilson, Middle School Assistant Principal
Mr.	Lucas Apfelback, Middle School South Assistant Principal
Mr.	Chad Boyes, Anchor Pointe Elementary Principal
Mrs.	Danielle Robb, Bennington Elementary Principal
Mrs.	Therese Nelson, Heritage Elementary Principal
Mrs.	Alison Evangelisti, Pine Creek Elementary Principal
Mrs.	Molly O'Connor, Stratford Elementary Principal

PINE CREEK TEACHERS / STAFF

Mrs.	Katie Lethcoe	Assistant Principal
Mrs.	Elizabeth Peterson	Secretary
Mrs.	Brooke Boyd	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Elizabeth Herzberg	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Christine Moran	Kindergarten
Miss	Meg Peitzmeier	Kindergarten
Mrs.	Stacy Gutz	Grade 1
Mrs.	Jennie Heese	Grade 1
Mrs.	Ellie Jepperson	Grade 1
Mrs.	Brooke Miller	Grade 1
Mrs.	Jennifer Mlnarik	Grade 1
Miss	Kim Hanusek	Grade 2
Mrs.	Lori Jorn	Grade 2
Mrs.	Maddie Mandl	Grade 2
Mrs.	Sara VanArsdel	Grade 2
Mrs.	Nikki Wright	Grade 2
Miss	Amanda Guenther	Grade 3
Mrs.	Morgan McCormick	Grade 3
Mrs.	Julie Puck	Grade 3
Mrs.	Sherri Sowers	Grade 3
Mr.	Jared Zysset	Grade 3
Mrs.	Kari College	Grade 4
Mrs.	Ashley Dabelstein	Grade 4
Mrs.	Anna Lukehart	Grade 4
Mrs.	Stephanie O'Callaghan	Grade 4
Ms	Vanessa Kruse	Grade 5
Mrs.	Callie O'Callaghan	Grade 5
Mrs.	Carrie Oswald	Grade 5
Mrs.	Heather Tovey	Grade 5
Mr.	Jachob Wiedeburg	Grade 5
Miss	Kaitlin Carl	Resource
Mrs.	Logan Karr	Resource
Mrs.	Emily Rosenbaum	Resource
Dr.	Adam Sempek	School Psychologist
Mrs.	Casey Mimick	Reading
Miss	Emily Pieper	Reading
Mrs.	MaryBeth Bates	Math
Mrs.	Kelly Gowen	Speech Pathologist
Mrs.	Alysha Korbel	Speech Pathologist
Miss	Abby Fitzgerald	HAL
Mrs.	Lisa Schonhoff	ELL
Mrs.	Denise Klaus	Media/Tech
Miss	Stephanie Lamb	Art
Mrs.	Kathy Knight	Art
Mr.	Marshall Keough	Vocal Music
Mr.	Alex McCabe	Vocal Music
Mr.	Ryan Johanek	P.E.
Mr.	Andrew Keane	P.E.
Mrs.	Mandy Boesch	Guidance
Mrs.	Kathy Albin	Spanish
Mr.	Gary Baker	Resource Officer
Mrs.	Kathy Nowak	Health Room
Miss	Emily Cutchall	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	DeAndra Dirkschneider	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Robyn Hames	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Patricia Lamb	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Sara Marxsen	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Samantha Phelps	Paraprofessional
Mr.	Jay Johanek	Maintenance
Mrs.	Margaret Binkley	Nutrition Service
Mrs.	Carissa Johnson	Nutrition Service
Mrs.	Kimberly Richmond	Nutrition Service
Mrs.	Sarah Moudry	Nutrition Service
		VNA Nurse

You can access staff member's email address at:
www.benningtonschools.org

WELCOME TO PINE CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7801 N. HWS CLEVELAND BOULEVARD
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007
Fax # (402)243-0716
www.benningtonschools.org

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Pine Creek Elementary School. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer questions regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of our school. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit school. We are proud of what happens at Pine Creek and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Pine Creek is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we will make this year a successful educational experience for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please contact us. We are here for the children and community.

Mrs. Alison Evangelisti, Principal
and
Pine Creek Elementary School Staff

Teacher Hours	7:50-3:50	Elementary School Phone	(402)238-2372
Office Hours	7:40-3:50	Superintendent's Office	(402)238-3044
Elementary Students	8:05-3:07	School Fax	(402)243-0716
Students to Classrooms	7:55		

MISSION STATEMENT OF BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE MISSION OF THE BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

School Colors: Royal Blue and White
School Mascot: The Badger

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Board of Education - The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Its duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

Superintendent of Schools - The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's final approval.

Principal - The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years of Middle School (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the North Central Association of Schools and AdvancED.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Elementary Principal's office is located at 7801 N. HWS Cleveland Boulevard.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/guardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit school. It is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. However, out of courtesy to the classroom teachers and students, we ask you to please call the office to check their schedules and make arrangements prior to visiting the classrooms. Please follow guidelines indicated below:

1. When visiting the school, please report to the office to register as a guest and receive a visitor's pass before going to the designated classroom or activity. All visitors must enter through the elementary office. During larger functions such as assemblies, room parties, etc. visitor's passes may be waived; however, we would still appreciate you checking in with the office on these occasions.

2. Due to limited cafeteria space, parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with their child during the 2022-2023 school year. Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch period (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Runza, Arby's, etc.). This practice is in support of the District wellness policy, education of healthy food choices, and the exposure to a variety of foods.

3. Due to classroom space availability and respect for the learning environment, children not enrolled in school are discouraged from visiting during school hours.

4. All visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum.

   The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:
   1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
   2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
   3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
   4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds of activities.

   In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he/she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on the premises.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PINE CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are a K-5 building with approximately 580 terrific students. Many opportunities are available for student involvement beyond the elementary day at Pine Creek. Our community and parent involvement

puts students first.

1. Our K-2 classrooms are self-contained with one teacher for the entire day.

2. The 3rd through 5th graders have a homeroom teacher who will teach math, reading and language arts. Students may rotate to other classrooms for science and social studies.

3. All elementary students have weekly specials which include P.E., music, art, and library/technology. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade, also receive Spanish language instruction.

4. Our elementary guidance counselor presents social skills lessons to each classroom. She also offers small group or individual counseling in specific areas of student need.

5. Our teachers are some of the Omaha/Metro area's finest educators. They are skilled teachers and truly care about students. We work closely with parents/guardians to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students. The district is required by federal law to inform you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). If you would like to request this information, please contact Dr. Dee Hoge at 402-238-3044 and the information will be provided in a timely manner.

THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) OF 2015

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Bennington Public School is a special place to learn. At our school, teachers and parents/guardians are partners in the process of educating and preparing our children for the future. We, like you, are interested and committed to the total development of your child. To that end, we pledge our best effort. Research indicates that the best schools, the best teachers, or the best principals are not as important to a child's achievement in school as parents/guardians. You have more ability to motivate, more ability to stimulate, and more ability to get your child to succeed than anyone or anything else. Your involvement,

attitude and support are vital components in the success of your child at school and in the home environment.

The teacher has the responsibility of teaching and nurturing students in an academic and social environment. The student also has responsibilities. Successful students must learn to listen and interact in a positive manner with peers and adults. Students are expected to conduct themselves according to school expectations, including expectations on the bus, in the classroom, in the lunchroom, on the playground, in the halls and to/from school. Students shall be courteous, respectful and self-disciplined in all contact with classmates, parents/guardians, school personnel and visitors to the school. It is the position of Bennington Public Schools that the best learning takes place in a calm, disciplined atmosphere with students who desire to do their best.

It is the philosophy of the school that discipline is an ongoing teaching process that fosters respect and dignity for all individuals. It is proactive, developmentally appropriate, culturally and gender sensitive. It stresses growth, individual responsibility, and problem solving in a collaborative effort among students, parents/guardians, educators, and the community.
In order for Bennington students to successfully achieve these expectations, Pine Creek has four all-school expectations that will be reviewed and practiced regularly.

The all-school expectations for Pine Creek are as follows

1. Be Respectful;
2. Be Responsible;
3. Be Safe; and
4. Be Kind.

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Levels of Intervention

STEP I	**STEP II**	**STEP III**
*Teacher assessment and acknowledgement of problem *Proximity *Verbal Warning *Redirect behavior *Peaceable Place	*Redirect behavior *Review classroom procedures *Debrief with teacher *Make a plan *Return to class/activity when ready **Parent contact at teacher discretion *Badger Den or sensory room	*Office referral *Debrief with Administration *Consequences assigned: Reteaching at recess Lunch detention After school detention Miss class activity *Student and teacher evaluate progress of plan *Parent contact

Levels of intervention may vary from classroom to classroom, based on their maturity levels.

Schoolwide and Classroom Matrices

Pine Creek Elementary works from a school wide behavior matrix, explicitly teaching students appropriate behavioral expectations in all common areas of the school. School staff will host mini lessons to teach

students these expectations and will consistently pre teach expected behavior to ensure student understanding.

Each classroom teacher will create a classroom matrix with their class, ensuring that expectations for all students are clear and consistent across all parts of a student's day. This program helps Pine Creek create a positive culture school-wide.

Serious Behavior Clause

There are three occasions when it will become necessary for adults to take immediate steps to help a child learn an alternative way of acting.

The "BIG 3 OFFENSES" are:

1. When a child or children are in physical danger. -- When touching or physical contact that causes bodily harm has occurred. EXAMPLES: Hitting – Biting – Scratching – Kicking – Spitting – Bullying Behavior

2. When a child or children are in emotional / verbal / physical distress. -- When a child is testing his/her abilities and pushes beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions. -- When a child is exhibiting threatening behavior / harmful teasing /bullying behavior. EXAMPLES: "I'll kill you!" - I'll hurt you if you tell." - Racial Slurs - Sexual Slurs - "You're fat, ugly, etc." - Nonverbal gestures that are hurtful to others**.** Any bullying behavior as noted below**.**

3. Interrupting the teacher or students within the learning environment. EXAMPLES: Blatant refusal to cooperate with others. -- Mocking others, sassing back to the teacher, lying, basic disrespect, etc. At such times, immediate action or removal from the group will be taken. The student will be referred to the principal.

Bullying: Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing. **Bullying is a mean or hurtful behavior that is one-sided, unfair, and keeps happening.**

Harassment: Intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words symbolic representations or behavior that is disruptive to the educational process in the form of (verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name calling, taunting, mocking, slander, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering, derogatory remarks, jokes, or drawings) Harassment prohibited by the school district includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, or disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status.

AN AUTOMATIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR FOR ANY HARMFUL THREATS, GESTURES OR OFFENSES MADE TOWARDS STAFF MEMBERS. TERRORISTIC THREATS OF ANY KIND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT!

Publications

The Bennington School District publishes an informative newsletter, *Horizons*, distributed quarterly to all residents through the local postage system. In addition, the *Badger Beat*, a weekly elementary bulletin, is sent electronically to each family providing a current email address. A paper copy may be requested to

be sent home with the youngest child attending school. Both publications are utilized to update everyone on current school happenings and other community events. A copy of the *Badger Beat* may be found at www.benningtonschools.org under Pine Creek-Parent-Badger Beat.

Report Cards and Portfolios

There are four official reporting periods during our school year, which are also referred to as quarters. Report cards (3-5) are posted quarterly. A portfolio review/achievement summary (K-2) is completed three times a year. The report card and mid-term reports are posted quarterly for grades (3-5) on the Parent Web found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Grading System	Portfolios
A = 4.0 = 100-93	Portfolios are a collection of the student's work samples.
B = 3.0 = 92-86	The Portfolio indicates the child's developmental
C = 2.0 = 85-77	progress, rather than the specific grades for an
D = 1.0 = 76-70	academic area. Progress towards the Nebraska
F = 0.0 = Below 70	Standards is also included.

The complete approved Grading Framework can be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year and are noted on the district website. Additional conferences and progress reports may be scheduled at any time by contacting the classroom teacher.

Lost and Found

A lost and found area is located near the front entry.. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check this area for missing items. Each quarter the lost and found box is reorganized and unclaimed items are donated to a local organization.

Student Technology Device Use

Cell phone and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:45-3:07 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense.

Electronic devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The responsibility for care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording

is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Teacher/Student Messages

To help our students receive optimum learning time, neither students nor teachers will be interrupted during class to answer the telephone, unless it is an emergency. Our phone system allows parents/guardians to leave messages on voicemail that can be returned at an appropriate time by the person you wish to contact. Teachers are available for telephone calls between 7:50-8:20 a.m. and 3:07-3:50 p.m.

Field Trips

Each K-5 classroom completes a yearly field trip for educational enhancement. Generally a teaching unit accompanies the learning experience so that optimal education is gained from the trip. Bus transportation is provided for all students and classroom teachers. The district will provide a student sack lunch for students requesting to use their lunch card. All students are required to ride school transportation to and from the activity. All students must return to school on district provided transportation. Once students arrive at school, the parent/guardian may check their student out through the office. Attendance on the field trip requires a parent-signed permission slip for each individual activity. Parents attending field trips are asked to follow school expectations. No other children are allowed to accompany a parent or guardian on a field trip. Some field trips may not allow for parental participation.

Birthday Celebrations

We ask that all party invitations be mailed to students, rather than distributed at school. Special deliveries will be held in the office until late afternoon. Students will be notified to come and pick them up before dismissal.

Classroom Treats

All food items distributed at school must be made in kitchens that are state licensed for food preparation. If you wish to provide treats the following suggestions may help: nonfood items, individual packaged items, bakery items from a local grocery store or pre-packaged crackers, etc. Please be aware and considerate of student food allergies. We ask you to pre-arrange treats with the classroom teacher so alternative treats may be offered to those unable to participate. Birthday treats will only be distributed within the classroom to staff and students assigned to that room.

Classroom Parties

Pine Creek PTO sponsors the classroom parties. Parties are scheduled three times a year - a "Fall" party in October, a "Winter Holiday" party in December, and a "Valentine's Day" party in February. At the end of the year students also participate in a "Track and Field Day". Parent help is always needed for these events and appreciated. Contact a PTO officer or the school if you would like to volunteer for one of these events.

Recess

Pine Creek Elementary strives to make recess safe and enjoyable for all students. All K-5 students participate in at least one scheduled daily recess period and sometimes more, depending on their classroom. Therefore, you will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the changing Nebraska weather conditions. Layering clothing is sometimes the best option for cold mornings and hot afternoons. During inclement weather (rain or severe wind chill conditions) students will have indoor recess. Please note that during school hours our playground is not accessible to the public due to the safety and protection needs of the students. Physical activity and student socialization is an important

part of recess. Students are required to participate in recess and will not be excused from participation without a doctor's note verifying the reason. Students may be held from recess due to receiving additional academic assistance, practice expected behavior, or due to repeated misconduct.

Physical Education

Physical education is a required elementary course. Student wellness and gross-motor development is a crucial objective of the elementary curriculum. In order to meet this objective, student participation in physical activity is mandatory. Student release from physical activity requires a doctor's note. Prolonged dismissal from class may require an alternative assignment or further documentation from a doctor.

Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. Most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in their locker for the year.

Hall Lockers

Students will be provided a locker. The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to use the combination lock. Students are not to change lockers without permission. (Board Policy #504.09)

Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or dangerous object as defined in Policy 504.11 or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. Such items are not to be possessed by a student without specific permission of the building principal while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. The principal or her designee can confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the school safe and free from illegal drugs, the Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline. (Board Policy #504.16)

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves students in the district special education programs from birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities and in other natural environments. School age special education students are served in the least-restrictive environment. For further information contact our Student Services Coordinator at (402)238-3044.

Permitted Presence of Service Animals

The school district will comply with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled students.

Service animals include guide dogs, hearing dogs, signal dogs, and any dog or animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled student. Service animals do not include pets, farm animals, wild or exotic animals, or any animals whose function is to provide crime deterrent effects, emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being.

Counseling Services

Pine Creek Elementary is proud of their elementary counseling service options. Our counselor provides classroom lessons to help students see the many ways social skills can be used to communicate more effectively. She also is available for private counseling for any student needing her assistance. Parents/guardians are welcome to call her directly to answer any questions you might have in this area of development.

Families are also provided counseling services through Arbor Family, an independent counseling firm contracted by the District. Each student may receive two free confidential sessions through Arbor Family. For more information please contact the Pine Creek counselor.

RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the agency provides this verification, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental signature is necessary to release the student data.

Directory Information

1. School officials may have access to only those records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.

3. Students or parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, the Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

   a. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

   b. The name and address of the office that administrates FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

   c. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

The northwest multipurpose/cafeteria doors will open at 7:45 a.m. for K-5 students arriving for breakfast or before school clubs only. Students are not to arrive prior to 7:45. School personnel will be present in front of the school at 7:50 a.m. to greet kindergarten-fifth grade students not attending morning clubs. School begins promptly at 8:05 a.m. All doors except the main office entrance will be locked at 8:05 a.m. This is for the safety of our students and to help reinforce the procedure for visitors to register at the office. We must keep track of all visitors within our building to ensure safety to all students and patrons of Bennington Public Schools.

K-5 Student Entrances and Exits

1. Student dismissal will begin at 3:00 p.m. with bus and daycare riders. Bus and daycare riders will meet in the main entrance and exit the building through the east bus loop doors. At 3:03 p.m. all walkers will be dismissed through the northwest multipurpose doors and escorted to the crosswalk before dismissal of parent/guardian transportation. All students receiving parent/guardian transportation will be dismissed at 3:07 through the west side main entrance. Students will remain with their classroom teacher until their transportation is located.

2. Students receiving bus or daycare transportation will enter the building from the bus loop located on the east side of the building. Bus students will be escorted from and to the bus loop daily.

3. After school supervision is only provided along the main west side entrance of the elementary building. Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to use this location for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Parents/guardians are requested to stay in their vehicles along the curbside and wait for their student to walk to the vehicle. The curbside pickup lane extends to the northwest multipurpose doors past the main front entrance. Limited front parking will be used for visitor parking only and not arrival/dismissal parking. Parents wishing to exit their vehicles MUST park

on the back eastside of the building. Please be considerate of the 3:07 dismissal time.

Safety Patrol Posts

The Safety Patrol supervises from 7:45 to 8:05 am and 3:03-3:15 pm.

Post 1 Northwest end of main entrance drive
Post 2 Northwest end of back bus loop drive
Post 3 Four way stop at H. W. S. Cleveland Boulevard and Leeman Street
Post 4 Northeast corner of Leeman Street and 161st Street

Students are to cross only at guarded posts and with help from the Safety Patrol. Students are to obey and respect safety patrol members to ensure a safe walk to and from school.

MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

The district will not admit any child into kindergarten unless:

a) the child will reach the age of five years on or before July 31 of the current year*, or*
b) the child will reach the age of five years by October 15 of the current year, and;
    a. the parent provides an affidavit stating that the child attended kindergarten in another district, or
    b. the family will be relocating to another district that allows admission within the current year, or
    c. the child has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board his/her capability of carrying the work of the beginner grade.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress must go to www.benningtonschools.org and begin the registration process by providing the following items:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time, shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
2. Evidence of a physical examination if they are entering Kindergarten or, in the case of a transfer from out of state.
3. Updated Immunization/Health records.
4. Transcripts sent from the previous school.
5. Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM/ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for the students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight, fifteen, and twenty absences [*unexcused; excused or unexcused*] absences or the hourly equivalent, communication will be made with the persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the child. A meeting or meetings may be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or member of the school administrative staff, if there is no school social worker), the student parent/guardian, and the student (if necessary) to attempt to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. A "collaborative plan" to improve regular attendance may be developed as a result of the meeting or meetings. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

(i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
(ii) Educational counseling;
(iii) Educational evaluation;
(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
(v) Family or individual counseling; and
(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If a student is absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical.

This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.
2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.
3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.
4. A copy of the letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.
5. A copy of the attendance requirement.
6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include past actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. Many students take pride in their attendance and punctuality record. This is a commendable characteristic, and it is our desire to motivate more students to think positively and seriously about this aspect of their school record. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be made up. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.
2. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.

a) Below is how attendance will be coded at Bennington Public Schools.
   - E - Excused - family emergencies, celebrations, or events (examples could include a family wedding, or funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military) - students can make up work for full credit
   - U - Unexcused - parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit
   - MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill - students can make up work for full credit
   - MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school - students can make up work for full credit
   - T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day
   - R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence
   - SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity.

     Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused." When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."

b) All students who arrive in the classroom after 8:05 a.m. and before 8:45 a.m. will be deemed tardy. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. Students who arrive after 8:45 a.m. will be charged with an absence. The student will receive a detention for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-5 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

c) The following times show how the school day shall be divided in determining the length of an absence:

   8:05—10:00=1/4 Day Absence
   10:01—12:00=1/2 Day Absence
   12:01—1:45=3/4 Day Absence
   1:46—3:07=Full Day Absence
   Students' absences will be determined using the times listed above.

d) During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours a doctor's note is required to document the appointment. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's lunch/recess period or during different times throughout the school day, so that one subject area is not affected on a routine basis. Please note

that all students leaving before the 3:07 dismissal are considered absent from school. Illness requiring extended leave will require a doctor's note. During school hours, students will remain in class until the parent/guardian is present for pickup. This will ensure optimal time in class (Board policy # 503.03).

e) Each absence must be covered by a signed note, email, or telephone call from a parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence.

f) The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work.

g) Any student missing 8, 15, or 20 days per school year (excused or unexcused) will be notified by mail. Refer to Excessive Absenteeism Section for further information.

h) A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring at 8:05 a.m. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. The student will receive a detention or alternate consequence for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-5 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

i) Students shall be present by 12:00 p.m. in order to participate in any school event, including performances. If the activity occurs before 12:00 p.m., the student must be in attendance for all previous periods.

Part-time Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment and will be under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to the dual enrollment student in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirement rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting part-time enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school principal.

MAKE-UP WORK

No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests or turn in assignments as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board Policy #503.03 states that it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work missed. The student shall receive full credit for the work missed when the absence is deemed as excused. The date make-up work is due will be determined by the teacher based on the content studied and length of absence. Ordinarily, the student will be expected to complete make-up work issued due to short-term absences (five days or less) within five days after returning to school.

When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work. Extensive make-up work will be contracted in writing. Requests for assignments will be handled through the elementary office and the classroom teacher.

It is the responsibility of the student to prepare all materials and homework needing completion that evening at the end of the school day. On a limited basis, a child will be allowed to re-enter the classroom during teacher duty hours, ending at 3:50. If the classroom teacher is not available during duty time, the student will not be allowed back in the classroom.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must go to the office for additional help with their needs. Students may not leave school without a parent/guardian present to sign them out of the building.

School Ceremonies and Observances

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons.

After School Curricular Programs

Student participation in after school curricular programs such as vocal or instrumental music, science fair, etc. is required. We understand that family conflicts or illness may occur. Students unable to attend the program will be required to complete an alternative assignment. Non-participation in the program and lack of completion of the alternative assessment will be reflected in the student's participation grade.

Checking Students Out of the Building

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian before leaving school for appointments or other family needs. A note in advance is helpful for the office and the classroom teacher. Please note that in the event of a school emergency or disaster, only persons noted on your emergency information are able to have the student released to them. Students will remain in class until the arrival of the parent/guardian.

Bennington Public Schools views your child's safety as a top priority. During a lockdown drill or situation, your child will not be released until it has been deemed safe or an all-clear has been issued.

Student Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of schools is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension,

expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities, contests, or performances (Board Policy #505).

1. No student shall:

   (a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment. Harassment on the basis of, but is not limited to: race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status, will not be tolerated. Forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to the following: verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse; repeated remarks of a demeaning nature; implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc., or demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual (Board Policy 504.18).
   (b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.
   (c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.
   (d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.
   (e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or dangerous object.
      (i) The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. (Board Policy 504.11)
      (ii) Parents of students found to possess weapons or dangerous objects or look-a-likes on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.
   (f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor

of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

(g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

(h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

(j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

(k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion. Students using offensive language may be:

1st offense: Suspended from school for three days (parents/guardians informed).
2nd offense: The student will be recommended for long-term suspension from school.
3rd offense: The student will be recommended for expulsion from that class or all classes depending on the discipline committee decision.

(l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.

(m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

(n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

(o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

(p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.

(q) A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

(i) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or

(ii) The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

(r) Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify each one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

2. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

(a) Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent/guardian.
(b) The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function, with the approval of the school: (i) in a historical reenactment, (ii) in a hunter education program, or (iii) as part of an honor guard.
(c) A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
(d) The firearm or other dangerous object shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

B. Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact law enforcement whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the law enforcement and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of student discipline for violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act to the law enforcement.

K-5 Detention

At times, an after school detention may be necessary to address a repeated or serious behavior. Classroom teachers should refer all repeated or serious behavior to the office through the referral process. Detentions will be handed out by administration only. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day issued unless another date is collaboratively determined between parents and administration. Mrs. Evangelisti will be on detention duty when needed. Failure to serve the detention on time may result in parental notification and assignment of an additional detention. Repeated failures to serve detentions will result in further disciplinary consequences.

Sanctions

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions -** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator has made an investigation of the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. A short-term suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from school attendance for a period not to exceed five school days. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and the student's parents/guardians or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents/guardians or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Exclusions -** Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

    a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmittable through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the school community; or

    b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within

ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The Superintendent, on a case-by-case basis and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, 79-4, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the Superintendent. The School shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal delivery to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

    c. A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;

    d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

    e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents/guardians or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony;

f. A form on which the student, student's parents/guardians, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

g. Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents/guardians, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student or the student's parents/guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to.

Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary actions regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110 AM), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT and KPTM. The School District messaging system will also be used to report important information. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If we have to use more than the number of days we have scheduled, time will be made up at the end of the school year.

If the decision to delay the start time of school is made, all beginning of the day procedures will be adjusted to reflect two hours. Staff supervision would begin at 10:00 a.m. and a student would be considered tardy at 10:20 a.m. All transportation services will run two hours behind schedule.

HEALTH SERVICES

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public Schools through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

A Health Emergency Record is on file for each student. Updates to student health information throughout the year can be made through the Parent Web on the student verification page. Should an accident occur at school, parents/guardians will be notified. If it is impossible to reach the parents/guardians, the other emergency number provided by the parent will be used. A medical emergency unit will be called as deemed necessary.

Injuries at School

Children sometimes fail to report unobserved injuries to the teacher. If your child has been injured at school during the day, please make certain that it has been reported to the school nurse or health aide, as we wish to know about these incidents.

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are advised to report to the office. **Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions.** Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the **vomiting/diarrhea** has occurred.

Please note that Nebraska health statutes no longer allow school officials to provide over the counter medication to students in need. All non-prescription medications must be brought from home in the original container with permission slips, dosages and times to be given. See list below on all specific mediation requirements.

Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
Chicken pox	7 days from onset
Measles	7 days from onset
3 Day Measles	5 days
Whooping Cough	21 days

Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
Lice	1 day after treatment with no nits attached ¼ an inch or live lice

Head Lice

Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

Concussion Awareness

Concussions – Return to Play Progression

1. No Physical Activity: this period of time should be a minimum of 24 hours rest.
2. Light Aerobic Exercise: Walking, swimming or stationary biking at less than 70% of the maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.
3. Sport Specific Exercise: NO head impact activities. Exercises are designed to the movements required for the specific sport and are done close to full speed.
4. Non-contact Training: Begin to incorporate resistance training and coordination (catching, rebounding, spiking, etc…) exercises. Begin preparing the athlete for return to full contact activities.
5. Full-contact Practice: Participate in normal training activities as directed by the coaching staff while being observed by the medical staff.
6. Return to Play: Cleared for normal game play.

** Failure to successfully complete any one step returns the athlete to step #1 on the progression. Every athlete is different and every concussion is different. Recommendations for athletes are that the return to play progression is done on a daily basis that results in a week-long progression to return to the sport activity.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

1. At Home Rest: Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
2. At Home Light Mental Activity: No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
3. School – Part time: NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
4. School – Part time: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
5. School – Part time: Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.
6. School – Full time: Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

Any parent or guardian who suspects a student has sustained a concussion is expected to immediately notify district coaches or administrators of the injury. Students who suspect they have sustained a concussion shall immediately make such notification. (Board Policy 508.15)

Medication Guidelines

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public School through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

A VNA School Health Program Medication Authorization needs to be completed in the event your child would need to take medication while at school. Forms are available at the office.

When a student must take medication during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of any controlled medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.

2. For prescription medications - the label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label. Non-prescription medications should be brought to school in the original container along with signed parental permission stating dosage instructions.

3. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication on them, in their desks, or in their backpacks.

4. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

5. Medication will be used by the student in the presence of a trained staff member.

6. All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer and effective controls shall be maintained to provide safety or proper usage. A record of daily dispensation will be maintained.

7. In some instances, the school may request parental permission to consult with the prescribing doctor about the medication and its effects.

Student Self-Management of Medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Parents may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Diabetes, Asthma and Anaphylaxis. The parent will need to follow the following procedures:

1. The parent will be required to place their request for self-management of medications in writing.

2. The parent will need written verification from the child/children's physician indicating the condition and specific medication including name, purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval**.**

Once the request has been approved, the school and parent/guardian, in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional;
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication; and
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies as well as notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition;
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

Effective July 1, 1994, the Revised Statutes Supplement was amended as follows:

Each student in the state shall be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to continue in school until he or she shall so comply.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school either of the following:

1. A statement signed by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physician's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

2. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

3. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school in Nebraska if he or she has begun the immunizations required under Section 49-444.01 and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.

Vision Evaluation

Kindergarten and out-of-state transfer students are required to have a physical and vision evaluation, per state law, prior to enrollment in school. Kindergarten physical exams are required to be performed within six months prior to the student starting school.

Health Screenings at School

Bennington Public Schools will conduct health screenings throughout the year with identified grade levels. Screenings may include, but are not limited to dental, height, weight, vision, color-blindness, and hearing.

There is no waiver option for screening. A parent NOT wishing their child to be screened at school must provide documentation signed by a qualified medical provider verifying the child has been screened, or the child WILL be screened at school.

Screenings as required by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are:

- Dental and Audio Screenings: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.
- Vision, Height, Weight: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING PROCEDURES (Revised 1991)

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Law
LB 505 passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature includes the following:
When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or any other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department to the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone, with caller giving his or her name and address, and shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect, and evidence of previous abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which, in the opinion of the person, may be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrators.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Breakfast Period:
Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:10 a.m.

Lunch Periods:

Student Lunch Time	Teachers	Recess Time
11:00-11:30	**Kindergarten** Boyd, Herzberg, Moran, Peitzmeier	11:30-12:00
11:15-11:45	**1st Grade** Gutz, Heese, Jepperson, Miller, Mlnarik	11:45-12:15
11:30-12:00	**3rd Grade** Guenther, McCormick, Puck, Sowers, Zysset	12:00-12:30

11:45-12:15	**4th Grade** College, Dabelstein, Lukehart, S. O'Callaghan	12:15-12:45
12:00-12:30	**2nd Grade** Hanusek, Jorn, Mandl, VanArsdel, Wright	12:30-1:00
12:15-12:45	**5th Grade** Kruse, C. O'Callaghan, Oswald, Tovey, Wiedeburg	12:45-1:15

Food Service

Breakfast is served each morning in our cafeteria. Serving begins at 7:45 a.m. and continues until 8:05 a.m**.** All students arriving for breakfast are to use the northeast entrance to enter the cafeteria. Students who ride the bus are invited to go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival; there will be adequate time for those who wish to have breakfast at school. Students will carry their breakfast with them to before school clubs or to wait outdoors prior to 7:55 am. Elementary students must be in class by 8:05 am to avoid being tardy.

Sack Lunches from Home

A food service calendar is sent home monthly indicating student meal choice. Kindergarten through fifth grade will have three lunch options. Students will have the choice of the hot lunch item, or an alternate lunch (yogurt and cheese stick tray or EZ jammer).

Students in kindergarten will receive all five components of the daily lunch menu. This includes milk, unless a documented health reason is provided by a medical professional. Students in first through fifth grade will receive the option of "Offer vs. Serve". This allows the student to take only three components of the lunch offerings daily. One component must be a full serving of a fruit or vegetable. They may continue to take all five, but must take at least three. During "Offer" service the student is allowed choice and may refuse the foods they do not intend to eat. The school cannot require a child to take a milk or food item. Both "Offer and Serve" food service methods are priced the same.

Students may bring sack lunches if desired**.** Pop is not allowed in the cafeteria. (Marked lunch boxes are easy to identify when left in an unusual place.) Food and drinks must stay in the lunchroom area. **Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch periods in accordance with the District Wellness Plan (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.)**.

Closed Campus

Our K-12 schools have a closed campus at noon, which means students are not permitted to leave the school during the day.

Meal Rates

Both breakfast and lunch include a 1/2-pint of milk within the cost.

Breakfast		
School	**Daily Price**	**Weekly Price**
Elementary	$1.70	$8.50
Middle	$1.75	$8.75
High	$1.80	$9.25
Reduced	$0.30	$1.50
Adult	$2.50	$12.50
Milk	$0.50	$2.50

Lunch		
School	**Daily Price**	**Weekly Price**
Elementary	$2.60	$13.00
Middle	$2.90	$14.50
High	$2.95	$14.75
Reduced	$0.40	$2.00
Adult	$4.05	$20.25

	Daily Price	**Weekly Price**	**Semester Price**
Milk	$0.50	$2.50	$44.00

- High School and Middle School students who wish to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entree, will be charged regular pricing on their school meal account.
- High School and Middle School students who wish to purchase smart snack foods or smart snack beverages will pay a la carte pricing with cash only.
- Adult Meal Prices ~ Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will publish the adult meal prices in July 2021. Adult meal prices are based on the federal reimbursement rates and value of commodity foods per meal.
- Meal Chagres Procedures ~ USDA requires schools to have written procedures that address unpaid cafeteria charges. We are in the process of finalizing these written procedures. Once finished, we will ask each principal to add it to their student handbook.

Free and reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches are provided for those who qualify. Application forms are available on the District website. We encourage families to apply. Students qualifying for such programs help the school receive additional federal grants to support reading. Information about students qualifying for a free or reduced lunch is kept highly confidential in the office of the Superintendent.

Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:
1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods:
a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.
b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include the individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only. Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044.

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures

The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:
1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
1. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
1. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ACTIVITY ADMISSION PRICES

Activity passes for home activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Game:		**High School Lower Level:**	
Student Admission	$ 4.00	Student Admission	$ 1.00
Adult Admission	$ 6.00	Adult Admission	$ 3.00
Student Pass	$35.00		
Adult Pass	$70.00	**Middle School:**	
Family Pass	$160.00	Student Admission	$ 1.00
Family pass/Booster Member	$150.00	Adult Admission	$ 3.00

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the $6/$4 pricing.
** Student is defined as any child enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities **MUST** attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school house they attend. Transportation may also be so provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon requests.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

Bus/Van Rules and Student Responsibilities

Students in the Bennington School District who ride buses and/or vans are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Any misbehavior, which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, and as such, jeopardizes the safety of

all passengers. Consequence of continued misbehavior could result in a child being denied the privilege of riding the bus. Parents/guardians and students need to review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. Bus/van transportation is a privilege;

2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus/van;

3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus/van arrives;

4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus/van is moving;

5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus/van window;

6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus;

7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated! This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of other students;

8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic; and

9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.

*Bus riders will be subjected to both video and audio recording.

Recreational Trail

Use of the recreational trail which traverses the school grounds is subject to two sets of rules. The School has retained the authority to control use of the trail in conformance with student discipline and safety rules and regulations. When using the trail, students will be required to follow the same school rules that apply to school grounds. In addition, the City of Bennington has an ordinance which establishes additional rules that students and other users of the trail must follow.

STUDENT DRESS

Students are requested to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for the children's attire and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students which possibly could cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the student or the student body.

1. It is inappropriate to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen, or any backless halter-top that ties at the neck and back. Tops with thin spaghetti straps or clothing that leaves underwear visible is prohibited. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Undergarments and private parts (front side and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment.

2. Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends his/her arms at his/her sides. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline.

3. Hats, bandanas and hoods of any kind are not to be worn in school. Your child should layer clothing if he/she gets chilled easily. Light coats and jackets are allowed if needed.

4. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity, is offensive, makes reference to sexuality, race or culture, has a double meaning; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that can be used as a weapon will not be permitted.

Should any of these clothing infractions occur, the student may be required to change or a parent/guardian will be contacted to provide alternate attire.

CELL PHONES/TECH EQUIPMENT

Cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:45-3:07 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense.

Electronic devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The responsibility for care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

PERSONAL ITEMS

All items brought to school not benefiting or causing interruption to the educational process of students will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage to these items.

SAFETY

1. Roller skates, tennis shoe-skates, inline skates, and skateboards are not permitted at school.

2. Water guns and water play are not permitted on school grounds.

3. Bicycles and scooters are to be parked in the bike rack as soon as the student arrives. Students who ride bicycles or scooters must walk alongside them while on school property and while moving among groups of children walking to or from school.

4. Please do not bring your pet(s) to school during arrival or dismissal. Please also refrain from bringing pets to extracurricular activities. The appropriate officials will be called when stray pets come on school property. Children walking should make sure pets do not follow them.

5. Illegal substances are not safe. State law and Board of Education policy strictly prohibit students and all patrons from having tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs at school. Weapons, firearms, knives, matches, explosives, and other dangerous objects are also prohibited. Violation of the policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

6. Walking to school can be dangerous unless basic guidelines are followed:

a. stay on the sidewalk;
b. follow the route designated by parents/guardians;
c. don't talk to or take anything from strangers;
d. report any contact strangers make with you; and
e. make sure problems are reported to an adult at school.

7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's conduct to and from school. Misconduct will result in notification to parents/guardians.

8. Any threats to another's safety and terroristic threats will be taken seriously, and may be referred to the local police department.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

Internet Access:

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of the Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents/guardians must sign a "Parents/Guardians Agreement", which will be kept on file by the district. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents/guardians should be warned that some material accessible by the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials at will. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, the Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

E-mail and Internet Rules

1. E-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for student use. Access to the Internet and e-mail is a privilege, not a right.

2. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

3. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

4. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

5. The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

2. Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).
3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

4. Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

5. Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

7. Users shall not write, produce, generate copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

8. Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

9. Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

Penalties for Use of the Internet

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administering the network so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

Violations of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Bennington School District hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Bennington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Whitney Fagan, Director of student services, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, NE 68007 402-238-3044 wfagan@bennps.org.

Employees and others: Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington, NE. 68007 402-238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about the anti-discrimination laws and regulation, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Right in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, 816-268-0550 (voice), or 887-521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees , including , co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section below.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

PROCEDURES

Level One – Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complaints or victims. Extenuating circumstances do not include summer vacation, and if a designated compliance coordinator or investigator is unavailable, another coordinator or trained employee will be designated to conduct the investigation. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant**. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, if necessary.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **ten (10) working days** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose to a student who was discriminated against or harassed (victim), information about the sanction imposed upon a student who was found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment (student who discriminated) when the sanction directly relates to the victim. This includes an order that the student who discriminated stay away from the victim, or that the student who discriminated is prohibited from attending school for a period of time, or transferred to other classes.

Level Two – If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both) set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

Level Three – If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The Board will issue a written determination about the appeal **within thirty (30) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

Remedies – If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible discrimination, including harassment or violence, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim, ensure the safety of the school community, and prevent further potential discrimination,

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by the Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at 238-3044.

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 46, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	$ **Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and athletic socks, running shorts, T-shirt.
Art Classes and Special Projects or Events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.
Music-Optional Band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None--costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer School Courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	$50 to $200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
Textbook/Library Book Fines	Loss or damage to District textbooks	Books lost or damaged beyond repair- full value of replacement $10 to $15 broken bindings

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK
2022-2023

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs. Therese Nelson, Principal
Bennington Public Schools
9950 Rosewater Parkway
Bennington, NE 68007

(402) 238-2095/ Fax # 243-0715
www.benningtonschools.org

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr.	Valerie Calderon	Mr.	Mark Byars
Mr.	Tim Dreesen	Mrs.	Kara Neuverth
Mrs.	Allyson Slobotski	Mrs.	Heather Goertz

ADMINISTRATION

Dr.	Terry Haack, Superintendent	Dr.	Dee Hoge, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs.	Alison Evangelisti, Pine Creek Elementary Principal	Dr.	Matt Bloomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs.	Danielle Robb, Bennington Elementary Principal	Mrs.	Jodi McCoy, District Secretary
Mr.	Chad Boyes, Anchor Pointe Elementary Principal	Mrs.	Cassie Rawson, Heritage Secretary
Mrs.	Molly O'Connor, Stratford Elementary Principal	Mrs.	Whitney Fagan, Director Student Services
Mrs.	Therese Nelson, Heritage Elementary Principal	Mrs.	Jodie Green, Assist. Director,Student Services
Dr.	Greg Lamberty, High School Principal	Dr.	Shannon Thoendel, Assist. Director, CIA
Mr.	Cody Bobolz, High School Assistant Principal	Mrs.	Lynne Lurvey, District Business Manager
Mr.	Christopher Kessell, High School Athletic Director		
Mr.	Shawn Hoppes, Bennington South Middle School Principal		
Mr.	Mr. Lucas Apfelbeck, Bennington South Middle School Asst. Principal/Athletic Director		
Mrs.	Renee Rucker, Bennington Middle School Principal		
Mr.	Matt Wilson, Middle School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director		

TEACHERS / STAFF

Mrs.	Susan Allen	Kindergarten	Miss	April DeHaan	Vocal Music
Mrs.	Lisa Plourde	Kindergarten	Ms.	Kathy Knight	Art
Mrs.	Erica Nightengale	Kindergarten	Mrs.	Amy Ackerman	Media/Technology
Mrs.	Rebecca Mergens	Grade 1	Mrs.	Pamela Rowley	Reading
Mrs.	Ariel Cunningham	Grade 1	Mrs.	Jessica Ehlers	Math
Miss	Allie Reinhart	Grade 1	Mrs.	Ann Bouaphakeo	ELL
Mrs.	Mallory Fink	Grade 1	Mrs.	Lisa Schonoff	ELL
Mrs.	Bobbi Singer	Grade 2	Mrs.	Katie Korth	Speech Pathologist
Mrs.	Kiley Plourde	Grade 2	Dr.	Philip Scherer	School Psychologist
Mrs.	Tricia Powell	Grade 2	Miss	Melissa DeHart	HAL
Mrs.	Satarah Reardon	Grade 2	Mrs.	Erin LaPatka	School Counselor
Miss	Tara Camp	Grade 3	Ms.	Kathy Albin	Spanish
Mrs.	Jami Madden	Grade 3	Ms.	McKenzie White	Tech Facilitator
Miss	Alex Filipowicz	Grade 3	Mr.	Rob Uchtman	Tech Coordinator
Mrs.	Lauren Allen	Grade 3	Mr.	Chuck Matland	Maintenance
Miss	Ashley Vacura	Grade 4	Mrs.	Cassie Rawson	Secretary
Mr.	Matt Gouldsmith	Grade 4	Mrs.	Cindy Barry	Health/Office
Mrs.	Dylan Mahoney	Grade 4	Mrs.	Christy Pohl	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Tarin Knapp	Grade 5	Ms.	Angela Kienbaum	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Shelby Ellison	Grade 5	Mrs.	Jenny Schwery	Paraprofessional
Ms.	Autumn Muller	Grade 5	Mrs.	Angie Butler	Paraprofessional
Mrs.	Jennifer Rucker	Grade 5	Mrs.	Karla Evans	Head Cook
Mrs.	Janna Pohlmann	Resource	Mr.	Chuck Matland	Maintenance
Mrs.	Christine Young	Resource	Mr.	Gary Baker	SRO Officer
Miss	Hannah Knight	Resource			
Mr.	Garet Wright	Resource			
Mrs.	Shane Thibault	PE			

You can access any staff member's email address at: www.benningtonschools.org

WELCOME TO HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9950 Rosewater Parkway
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007
Phone # 402-238-2095/Fax #402- 243-0715
www.benningtonschools.org

Welcome to Heritage Elementary!!

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Heritage Elementary School. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer questions regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of our school. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. We encourage parents/guardians and other school friends are encouraged to visit school. We are proud of what happens at Heritage Elementary and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child! The staff at Heritage Elementary is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers and we value our partnership with you. By working together, we will make this year a successful educational experience for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please contact us. We are here for the children and community.

Office Hours	7:40-3:50	Heritage Elementary	402-238-2095/Fax: 402-243-0715
Staff Hours	7:50-3:50	Bennington Elementary	402-238-2690
Elementary Hours	8:05-3:07	Pine Creek Elementary	402-238-2372
		Anchor Pointe Elementary	402-238-2166
		High School School	402-238-2447
		Middle School	402-238-2082
		Superintendent's Office	402-238-3004

MISSION STATEMENT OF BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE MISSION OF THE BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

School Colors: Royal Blue and White
School Mascot: The Badger

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Board of Education - The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Its duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

Superintendent of Schools - The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's final approval.

Principal - The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years of Middle School training (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the North Central Accrediting Association and AdvancED.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Elementary Principal's office is located at 9950 Rosewater Parkway.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/guardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit school. It is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. However, out of courtesy to the classroom teachers and students, we ask you to please call the office to check their schedules and make arrangements prior to visiting the classrooms. Please follow guidelines indicated below:

1. When visiting the school, please report to the office to register as a guest and receive a visitor's pass before going to the designated classroom or activity. All visitors must enter through the elementary office. During larger functions such as assemblies, room parties, etc. visitor's passes may be waived, however, we would still appreciate you checking in with the office on these occasions.

2. If you plan to eat lunch, please call ahead to alert the cafeteria staff, so an additional meal can be added to the daily count. An adult lunch is $3.65. ***We prohibit the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch period. (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Runza, etc.).***

3. Due to classroom space availability and respect for the learning environment, children not enrolled in school are discouraged from visiting during school hours.

4. All visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum.

   The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

   1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
   2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
   3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
   4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds of activities.

In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he/she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on the premises.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are a K-5 building with approximately 440 terrific students. Many opportunities are available for student involvement beyond the elementary day at Heritage. Our community and parent involvement puts students first.

1. Our K-2 classrooms are self-contained with one teacher for the entire day.

2. The 3rd/4th/5th grades will have a homeroom teacher who instructs reading, writing, and math. Students may rotate to other classrooms for science and social studies.
3. All elementary students have specials which include Physical Education, Music, Art,Media/Technology, and Spanish. The elementary guidance counselor presents social skills lessons to each classroom weekly.

4. Our teachers are some of the area's finest educators. They are skilled and truly care about students. We work closely with parents/guardians to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015
Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

Heritage Elementary Student Expectations:

Students at Heritage Elementary will be expected to practice and show their Badger pride using 'Badger' Behaviors.

1. **Be Respectful,**
2. **Be Responsible,**
3. **Be Safe, and**
4. **Be Kind**

Heritage Elementary Matrix

We just can't hide our Badger pride!	Hallway	Restroom	Cafeteria	Playground
Be Respectful	Walk in a line Be aware of other classrooms Respect other people's property Use a level 0 voice	Respect all bathroom property Respect the privacy of self and others Use a level 0 voice	Clean up our mess Wait quietly in line Use good manners Use a level 2 voice	Keep hands and feet to self Keep away from the windows Use equipment properly Use up to a level 4 voice
Be Responsible	Walk directly to our destination Walk in our line Enjoy wall displays with our eyes only	Return to class immediately Leave area clean Report any problems to your teacher	Sit on your pockets Use two hands to hold your tray Manage your time wisely	Put all playground equipment away Line up quickly and quietly when called Be a problem-solver
Be Safe	Walk on the right side of the hall Keep hands and feet to self Use walking feet	Wash hands with soap and water Report unsafe behaviors to an adult immediately Let adults know where you are going	Be aware of your surroundings Listen for adult instructions Walk at all times	Use equipment appropriately Leave wood chips on the ground Remain visible to adults
Be Kind	Give a silent wave or smile to others Hold doors for others	Respect the privacy of others Leave the area clean Stay quiet	Say "please" and "thank you" Be polite to adults and other students Help others when needed	Communicate in kind ways Include others Show good sportsmanship
Show your positive Badger behavior!				

All efforts for positive approaches and recognition of students will help deter any inappropriate behaviors. When a student's behavior becomes a deterrent to the learning environment, he/she will be removed or suspended from classes or school.

Levels of Intervention

Tier One: *Paper documentation is not required.*

- **Safe Seat**

Each classroom will provide children a spot to self-regulate and re-enter the learning activities. THIS IS NOT A DISCIPLINE/CONSEQUENCE/PUNISHMENT. We want children to self-identify when they are struggling and be able to pull themselves out of situations as needed. This is also a good opportunity for staff to observe these situations with children and either address as needed or call in the building counselor for assistance. This could be students self-selected or teacher encouraged. A Think Sheet may be used for student reflection.

● Badger Behavior expectation posters included in the area for observation
● May include items such as noise canceling headphones, weighted blanket, sand timer, sensory de-escalation items, etc. for students to use.

● **Teacher/Student Conversation**
Teacher should initiate a conversation using processing questions to help students process behavior choices and rejoin the instruction. This may result in parent contact.
○ Conversations should be guided by the 21st Century Skills, Badger Behavior Expectations, lessons learned through
the counseling program (Ex: I message). These may become future goals, problem solving options, etc. for the child if the behavior concern continues.

Tier Two: *Paper documentation and parent contact are required.*
● Break/Think Time
Grade levels/Specialists will all have a Buddy Room classroom or a designated area with a Safe Seat where a student can complete a reflection sheet. These will be done consistently across grade levels and shared with the parents at the beginning of the school year. Teachers and students will fill out a Heritage Elementary Think Sheet for documentation purposes. Teacher should initiate a conversation and process through the situation with the student. Parents should be contacted. Completed Heritage Elementary Think Sheets should be retained by the classroom teacher.

Consistent Tier Two infractions may result in an office referral. At this time an Office Referral Form will be completed and sent with the child to the office. Office Referral Forms will be retained in the office.

Tier Three: *Paper documentation and parent contact are required.*
● Office Referral
If a student demonstrates behavior that warrants an office referral, the teacher will complete an Office Referral Form and send it with the student to the office. The Administrator will determine student consequences and will provide feedback to the teacher. Parents will be contacted by certified staff and/or administration. Office Referral Forms will be retained in the office.

Serious Behavior Clause
There are three occasions when it will become necessary for staff to take immediate disciplinary action. The student will be referred to the principal with an office referral form.

They include:
1. **When a child or children are in physical danger.** -- *When touching or physical contact that causes bodily harm has occurred. EXAMPLES: Hitting – Biting – Scratching – Kicking – Spitting – Bullying Behavior*

2. **When a child or children are in emotional / verbal / physical distress.** -- *When a child is testing his/her abilities and pushes beyond the limits of respect by using abusive language or actions. -- When a child is exhibiting threatening behavior / harmful teasing / bullying behavior. EXAMPLES: "I'll kill you!" – "I'll hurt you if you tell." - Racial Slurs - Sexual Slurs - "You're fat, ugly, etc." - Nonverbal gestures hurtful to others.*

3. **Interrupting the teacher or students within the learning environment.** -- *EXAMPLES: Blatant refusal to cooperate, mocking others, sassing back to the teacher, lying, basic disrespect, etc.*

Bullying: *Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the*

purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to verbal, graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing, or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting, motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing.

AN AUTOMATIC OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR FOR ANY HARMFUL THREATS, GESTURES OR OFFENSES MADE TOWARDS STAFF MEMBERS. TERRORISTIC THREATS OF ANY KIND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Publications

The Bennington School District publishes an informative newsletter, *Horizons*, distributed quarterly to all district residents through the local postage system. In addition, the *Badger Tracks*, a weekly elementary bulletin, is sent electronically to each family providing a current email address. Both publications are utilized to update everyone on current school happenings and other community events. A copy of the *Badger Tracks* may be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Report Cards and Portfolios

There are four official reporting periods during our school year, which are also referred to as quarters. Report cards (3-5), or a portfolio review/achievement summary (K-2) is completed each quarter. The report card and a mid-term reports are posted quarterly in grades (3-5) on the parent web.

Grading System	Portfolios
A = 4.0 = 100-93	Portfolios are a collection of the student's work samples.
B = 3.0 = 92-86	The Portfolio indicates the child's developmental
C = 2.0 = 85-77	progress, rather than the specific grades for an
D = 1.0 = 76-70	academic area. Progress towards the Nebraska
F = 0.0 = Below 70	Standards is also included.

The complete approved Grading Framework can be found at www.benningtonschools.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year and are noted on the calendar in the front of this booklet. Additional conferences and progress reports may be scheduled at any time by contacting the classroom teacher.

Lost and Found

A lost and found box is located in the elementary nurse's office. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check this box for missing items. Each quarter the lost and found box is reorganized and unclaimed items are donated to a local organization.

Student Telephone/Cell/Technology Device Use

Students will be allowed to use the school phone for such things as medical illness, needed changes of clothing, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the teacher or school office.

Cell phone and other electronic device use during the hours of 7:30-3:30 is prohibited at school unless used for educational purposes. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office. Students may use the office phone and messages may be relayed through the secretary.

Any student caught using their cell phone or other electronic device to bully or harass another student will lose the privilege of having their phone on school property for at least one month from the date of the offense.

Electronic devices will be allowed for educational purposes. The responsibility for care and safety of the device is the responsibility of the student.

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Personal Items

All items not benefiting or causing interruption to the educational process of students will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.

Teacher/Student Messages

To help our students receive optimum learning time, neither students nor teachers will be interrupted during class to answer the telephone, unless it is an emergency. Our phone system allows parents/guardians to leave messages on voicemail that can be returned at an appropriate time by the person you wish to contact. Teachers are available for telephone calls between 7:50-8:00 a.m. and 3:07-3:50 p.m.

Field Trips

Each K-5 classroom completes a yearly field trip for educational enhancement. Generally a teaching unit accompanies the learning experience so that optimal education is gained from the trip. Bus transportation is provided for all students and classroom teachers. The district will provide a student sack lunch for students requesting to use their lunch card. All students are required to ride school transportation to and from the activity. All students must return to school on District provided transportation. Once students arrive at school, the parent/guardian may check their student out through the office. Attendance on the field trip requires a parent-signed permission slip for each individual activity. Parents attending field trips are asked to follow school expectations. No other children are allowed to accompany a parent or guardian on a field trip. Some field trips may not allow for parental participation.

Birthday Celebrations

We ask that all party invitations be mailed to students, rather than distributed at school. Special deliveries will be held in the office until late afternoon. Students will be notified to come and pick them up before dismissal.

Classroom Treats

All food items distributed at school must be made in kitchens that are state licensed for food preparation. If you wish to provide treats the following suggestions may help: individual packaged items, bakery items from a local grocery store or pre-packaged crackers, non-food items, etc. Please be aware and considerate of student food allergies. We ask you to prearrange treats with the classroom teacher so alternative treats may be offered to those unable to participate. Treats should only be brought for the students and staff in the child's own classroom.

Classroom Parties

Heritage PTO sponsors the classroom parties. Parties are scheduled three times a year - a "Fall" party in October, a "Winter Holiday" party in December, and a "Valentine's Day" party in February. At the end of the year students also participate in a "Field Day/Fun Day". Parent help is always needed for these events and appreciated. Contact a PTO officer or the school if you would like to volunteer for one of these events.

Recess

Heritage Elementary strives to make recess safe and enjoyable for all students. All K-5 students participate in at least one scheduled daily recess period and sometimes more, depending on their classroom. Therefore, you will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the changing Nebraska weather conditions. Layering clothing is sometimes the best option for cold mornings and hot afternoons. During inclement weather (rain or severe wind chill conditions) students will have indoor recess. Please note that during school hours our playground is not accessible to the public due to the safety and protection needs of the students. Physical activity and student socialization is an important part of recess. Students are required to participate in recess and will not be excused from participation without a doctor's note verifying the reason. Students may be held from recess due to academic assistance, completion of assignments, or misconduct.

Physical Education

Physical education is a required elementary course. Student wellness and gross-motor development is a crucial objective of the elementary curriculum. In order to meet this objective, student participation in physical activity is mandatory. Student release from physical activity requires a doctor's note. Prolonged dismissal from class may require an alternative assignment or further documentation from a doctor.

Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. In the past, most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in the classroom for the year.

Hall Lockers

Students will be provided a locker. The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to use the combination lock. Students are not to change lockers without permission. (Board Policy #504.09)

Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or dangerous object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. The principal or his designee can confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the school safe and free from illegal drugs, the Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline. (Board Policy #504.16)

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves approximately 129 students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities and in other natural environments. School age special education students are served in the least-restrictive environment. For further information contact our Student Services Coordinator at 238-3044.

PERMITTED PRESENCE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

The school district will comply with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled students.

Service animals include guide dogs, hearing dogs, signal dogs, and any dog or animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled student. Service animals do not include pets, farm animals, wild or exotic animals, or any animals whose function is to provide crime deterrent effects, emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being.

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such an animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:
a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presence of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Counseling Services

Heritage Elementary is proud of their elementary counseling service options. Our counselor provides classroom lessons to help students see the many ways social skills can be used to communicate more effectively. She also is available for private counseling for any student needing her assistance. Parents/guardians are welcome to call her directly to answer any questions you might have in this area of development.

Families are also provided counseling services through Arbor Family, an independent counseling firm contracted by the District. Each student may receive two free confidential sessions through Arbor Family. For more information please contact Mrs. Gemberling, Heritage's school counselor.

RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the agency provides this **verification**, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental signature is necessary to release the student data.

Directory Information

1. School officials may have access to only those records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.

3. Students or parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

a. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

b. The name and address of the office that administrates FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

c. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools' Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

The northeast multipurpose/cafeteria doors will open at 7:45 a.m. for K-5 students arriving for breakfast or before school clubs only. Students are not to arrive prior to 7:45. School personnel will be at the northeast multipurpose doors at 8:00 a.m. to greet kindergarten-fifth grade students not attending breakfast or morning clubs. **The northeast multipurpose doors will be the only doors open for students entering the building in the morning.** It is at this time that students can enter the building to deposit lunchroom money, and wait to be dismissed to their classrooms. School begins promptly at 8:20 a.m. All doors except the main office entrance will be locked at 8:20 a.m. This is for the safety of our students and to help reinforce the procedure for visitors to register at the office. We must keep track of all visitors within our building to ensure safety to all students and patrons of Bennington Public Schools.

K-5 Student Entrances and Exits

1. All students will enter the building in the morning through the northeast multipurpose doors. Dismissal will begin at 2:50 p.m. with All Stars Kids. Dismissal will be at 2:55 for bus and daycare riders. Bus and daycare riders will meet in the main entrance and exit the building through the west bus loop doors.

Grade level dismissals will be staggered between 3:00-3:07for grade K-5 students who are walking and being picked up in the car line. Students will remain with their classroom teacher until their transportation is located.

- Students receiving bus transportation will enter and exit the building from the bus loop located on the west side of the building. Bus students will be escorted from and to the bus loop daily.
- Students receiving daycare transportation will be dropped off and enter the northeast entrance on the east side of the building. Daycare riders will be picked up and exit the bus loop doors on the west side of the building.

2. After school supervision is only provided along the main east side entrance of the elementary building. Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to use this location for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Parents/guardians are requested to stay in their vehicles along the curbside and wait for their student to walk to the vehicle. The curbside pickup lane extends from the northeast multipurpose doors past the main front entrance. Limited front parking will be used for visitor parking only and not arrival/dismissal parking. Parents wishing to exit their vehicles MUST park in the eastside parking lot. For the safety of our students and families, students will not be dismissed to cars parked on the street. Please be considerate of the 3:07 dismissal time.

Safety Patrol Posts

The Safety Patrol supervises from 8:00 to 8:15 and 3:00-3:15.

Post 1: Four way stop at Rosewater Parkway and Rainwood Road
Post 2: Crosswalk at main parking lot entrance
Post 3: Valet in car line (mornings only)
***The Safety Patrol also may also assist with the drop off line in the morning by greeting students and helping them out of cars.

Students are to cross only at guarded posts and with help from the Safety Patrol. Students are to obey and respect safety patrol members to ensure a safe walk to and from school.

MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

The district will not admit any child into kindergarten unless:

1. the child will reach the age of five years on or before July 31 of the current year
2. the child will reach the age of five years by October 15 of the current year and;
    a. the parent provides an affidavit stating that the child attended kindergarten in another district, or
    b. the family will be relocating to another district that allows admission within the current year, or
    c. the child has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board his/her capability of carrying the work of the beginner grade.

New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress must go to www.benningtonschools.org and begin the registration process by providing the following items:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time, shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
2. Evidence of a physical examination if they are entering Kindergarten or, in the case of a transfer from out of state.
3. Updated Immunization/Health records.
4. Transcripts sent from the previous school.
5. Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, if provisionally

enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. Many students take pride in their attendance and punctuality record. This is a commendable characteristic, and it is our desire to motivate more students to think positively and seriously about this aspect of their school record. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be made up. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.
2. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians. Below is how attendance will be coded at Bennington Public Schools:

    a) **E - Excused** - family emergencies, celebrations, or events (examples could include a family wedding, or funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military) - students can make up work for full credit
    b) **U - Unexcused** - Parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit
    c) **MP - Medical Parent** - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit
    d) **MD - Medical Doctor** - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit
    e) **T - Tardy** - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day.
    f) **R - Truant** - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence.
    g) **SA - School Activity** - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity.

- *Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused." When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."*

    - All students who arrive in the classroom after 8:20 and before 9:00 a.m.will be deemed tardy. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be charged with an absence. School administration will determine whether the tardy is excused or unexcused based on documentation provided by the parent/guardian.
    - The following times show how the school day shall be divided in determining the length of an absence:

      8:20—10:15=1/4 Day Absence
      10:16—12:00=1/2 Day Absence
      12:01—1:45=3/4 Day Absence
      1:46—3:07=Full Day Absence
      Students' absences will be determined using the times listed above.

3. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, a medical professional's note is required to document the appointment. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's lunch/recess period or during different times throughout the school day, so that one subject area is not affected on a routine basis.

Please note that all students leaving before the 3:07 dismissal are considered absent from school. Illness requiring extended leave will require a doctor's note. During school hours, students will remain in class until the parent/guardian is present for pickup. This will ensure optimal time in class (Board policy # 503.03).

4. Each absence must be covered by a signed note, email or telephone call from a parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the absence.

5. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status at school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work.

6. Any student missing 8, 15 or 20 days per school year (excused or unexcused) will be notified by mail. *Refer to Excessive Absenteeism Section for further information.*

7. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring at 8:20 a.m. If a student is tardy for class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class. It will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. The student may receive a detention for every tardy after the fifth unexcused tardy. If a student in grades 4-6 receives more than eight tardies during a semester, he/she may be given an alternative time to complete missed school work. Tardies are cumulative for the semester.

8. Students shall be present by 12:00 p.m. in order to participate in any school event, including performances. If the activity occurs before 12:00 p.m., the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

Addressing Barriers to Attendance

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for the students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight, fifteen, and twenty absences [*unexcused; excused or unexcused*] absences or the hourly equivalent, communication will be made with the persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the child. A meeting or meetings will be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or member of the school administrative staff, if there is no school social worker), the student parent/guardian, and the student (if necessary) to attempt to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. A "collaborative plan" to improve regular attendance may be developed as a result of the meeting or meetings. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

(i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
(ii) Educational counseling;
(iii) Educational evaluation;
(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
(v) Family or individual counseling; and
(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If a student is absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical.

This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.

2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.

3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.

4. A copy of the letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.

5. A copy of the attendance requirement.

6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include post actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Part-time Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment and will be under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to the dual enrollment student in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirement rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting part-time enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school principal.

MAKE-UP WORK

No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests or turn in assignments as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board Policy #503.03 states that it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work missed. The student shall receive full credit for the work missed when the absence is deemed as excused. The date make-up work is due will be determined by the teacher based on the content studied and length of absence. Ordinarily, the student will be expected to complete make-up work issued due to short-term absences (five days or less) within five days after returning to school.

When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work. Extensive make-up work will be contracted in writing. Requests for assignments will be handled through the elementary office and the classroom teacher.

It is the responsibility of the student to prepare all materials and homework needing completion that evening at the end of the school day. On a limited basis, a child will be allowed to re-enter the classroom during teacher duty hours, ending at 3:50. If the classroom teacher is not available during duty time, the student will not be allowed back in the classroom.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must go to the office for additional help with their needs. Students may not leave school without a parent/guardian present to sign them out of the building.

School Ceremonies and Observances

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons.

After School Curricular Programs

Student participation in after school curricular programs such as vocal or instrumental music, science fair, etc. is required. We understand that family conflicts or illness may occur. Students unable to attend the program will be required to complete an alternative assignment. Non-participation in the program and lack of completion of the alternative assessment will be reflected in the student's participation grade.

Checking Students Out of the Building

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian before leaving school for appointments or other family needs. A note in advance is helpful for the office and the classroom teacher. Please note that in the event of a school emergency or disaster, only persons noted on your emergency information are able to have the student released to them. Students will remain in class until the arrival of the parent/guardian.

Bennington Public Schools views your child's safety as a top priority. During a lockdown drill or situation, your child will not be released until it has been deemed safe or an all-clear has been issued.

Student Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of schools is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities, contests, or performances (Board Policy #505).

1. No student shall:

(a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment on the basis of, but is not limited to: race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability, sex, veteran

status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status, will not be tolerated. Forms of harassment may include, but are not limited to the following: verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse; repeated remarks of a demeaning nature; implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc., or demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual. Board Policy 504.18.

(b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.

(c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.

(d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.

(e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

(f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

(g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

(h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

(j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

(k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion. Students using offensive language may be:

> 1st offense: Suspended from school for three days (parents/guardians informed).
> 2nd offense: The student will be recommended for long-term suspension from school.
> 3rd offense: The student will be recommended for expulsion from that class or all classes depending on the discipline committee decision.

(l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.

(m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

(n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

(o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

(p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of

Education.

(q) A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

(i) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or

(ii) The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

(r) Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

2. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous object to school for any reason is discouraged. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. However, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

(a) Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent/guardian.

(b) The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function, with the approval of the school: (i) in a historical reenactment, (ii) in a hunter education program, or (iii) as part of an honor guard.

(c) A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.

(d) The firearm or other dangerous object shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is a mean or hurtful behavior that is one-sided, unfair, and keeps happening.

B. Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of student discipline for violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act to the Bennington Police Department.

K-5 Detention

Detention will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10-3:45 in the assigned faculty room. The faculty will supervise detentions. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the rules, problems in the classroom, attendance problems, or excessive tardiness. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day issued unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or the principal. The student must then serve the next detention day. Students will be allowed to do homework or read a book. Failure to serve the detention on time may result in parental notification and a Saturday School assignment for students in grades 4-5. Repeated failures to serve detentions will result in further disciplinary consequences.

Saturday School for Grades 4-5 Only —REMOVE SECTION

Saturday School

1. Saturday School may be earned for the following behaviors:

   (a) Truancy: A full day absence will result in Saturday School assignment.
   (b) Students receiving more than eight tardies during a semester may receive a Saturday School.
   (c) Skipping detentions: The first skip will result in one Saturday School. All other skipped detentions will result in two days of Saturday School.
   (d) Students who violate school rules that would result in a one-day suspension will receive a Saturday School rather than a suspension.
   (e) Students may be assigned a Saturday School by the Discipline Committee for repeated violation of school rules.

2. Saturday School assignments will consist of three hours. The students will serve from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The doors to the school will open at 7:15 a.m. and be closed at 7:30 a.m. Students will be given a ten-minute break at 9:00 a.m.

3. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:

   (a) Students must be on time and prepared to work at 7:30 a.m.
   (b) Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
   (c) Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School supervisor's instructions. If a student fails to follow Saturday School rules, they will be asked to leave and will be required to attend the next scheduled Saturday School.
   (d) Any activity the supervisor sees as unacceptable such as sleeping, having gum/candy, arguing, or bringing nuisance devices, will result in dismissal from Saturday School and will result in a doubling of the Saturday School assignment.
   (e) **A parent/guardian must notify the Principal if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 7:30 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.**
   (f) Parents/guardians will be notified of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive notice from the Principal on the Thursday prior to any Saturday School assignment.

4. Students who show up late to, or skip a Saturday School may be assigned a suspension. Parents will be notified of the suspension.

Sanctions

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions -** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator has made an investigation of the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. A short-term suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from school attendance for a period not to exceed five school days. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall, as soon as is reasonably possible following the suspension, send a written statement to the student and the student's parents/guardians or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents/guardians or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or
b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester

of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The Superintendent, on a case-by-case basis and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, 79-4, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the Superintendent. The School shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal delivery to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

    c. A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;

    d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

    e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents/guardians or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony;

    f. A form on which the student, student's parents/guardians, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

    g. Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents/guardians, guardian or

representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student or the student's parents/guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to.

Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary actions regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110 AM), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT and KPTM. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If we have to use more than the number of days we have scheduled, time will be made up at the end of the school year.

If the decision to delay the start time of school is made, all beginning of the day procedures will be adjusted to reflect two hours. Staff supervision would begin at 10:00 a.m. and a student would be considered tardy at 10:20 a.m. All transportation services will run two hours behind schedule.

HEALTH SERVICES

A Health Emergency Record is on file for each student. Updates to the student health information throughout the school year can be made through the parent web on the student verification page. Should an accident occur at school, parents/guardians will be notified. If it is impossible to reach the parents/guardians, the other emergency number provided by the parent will be used. A medical emergency unit will be called as deemed necessary.

Please note that Nebraska health statutes no longer allow school officials to provide over the counter medication to students in need. All non-prescription medications must be brought from home in the original container with permission slips, dosages and times to be given. See list below on all specific mediation requirements.

Injuries at School

Children sometimes fail to report unobserved injuries to the teacher. If your child has been injured at school during the day, please make certain that it has been reported to the school nurse or health aide, as we wish to know about these incidents.

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are advised to report to the office. **Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions.** Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the **vomiting/diarrhea** has occurred.

Medication Guidelines

Healthy students learn best. Thank you for assisting us in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. The VNA School Health Program provides direct and consultative nursing services for Bennington Public School through a private contractual agreement. The nurse's office is located in the elementary office area.

A VNA School Health Program Medication Authorization needs to be completed in the event your child would need to take medication while at school. Forms are available at the office.

When a student must take medication during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of any controlled medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.

2. For prescription medications - the label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label. Non-prescription medications should be brought to school in the original container along with signed parental permission stating dosage instructions.

3. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication on them, in their desks, or in their backpacks.

4. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

5. Medication will be used by the student in the presence of a trained staff member.

6. All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer and effective controls shall be maintained to provide safety or proper usage. A record of daily dispensation will be maintained.

7. In some instances, the school may request parental permission to consult with the prescribing doctor about the medication and its effects.

Student self-management of medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Parents may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Diabetes, Asthma and Anaphylaxis.

The parent will need to follow the following procedures:

1. The parent will be required to place their request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent will need written verification from the child/children's physician indicating the condition and specific medication including name, purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

Once the request has been approved, the school and parent/guardian, in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional;
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication; and
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies as well as notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition;
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
Chicken pox	7 days from onset
Measles	7 days from onset
3 Day Measles	5 days
Whooping Cough	21 days
Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
Head Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits. Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ an inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

Effective July 1, 1994, the Revised Statutes Supplement was amended as follows:

Each student in the state shall be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to continue in school until he or she shall so comply.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school either of the following:

1. A statement signed by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physician's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

2. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

3. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school in Nebraska if he or she has begun the immunizations required under Section 49-444.01 and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.

NOTE: Kindergarten and out-of-state students are required to have a physical exam and vision evaluation, per state law, prior to enrollment in school. Kindergarten physical exams are required to be performed within 6 months prior to the student starting school.

Health Screenings at School

Bennington Public Schools will conduct health screenings throughout the year with identified grade levels. Screenings may include, but are not limited to dental, height, weight, vision, color-blindness, and hearing.

There is no waiver option for screening. A parent NOT wishing their child to be screened at school must provide documentation signed by a qualified medical provider verifying the child has been screened, or the child WILL be screened at school.

Screenings as required by the Department of Health and Human Services are:

- Dental and Audio Screenings: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.
- Vision, Height, Weight: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and all new students.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

1. **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
2. **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
3. **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
4. **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
5. **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.
6. **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment

that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance. Any parent or guardian who suspects a student has sustained a concussion is expected to immediately notify district coaches or administrators of the injury. Students who suspect they have sustained a concussion shall immediately make such notification.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING PROCEDURES (Revised 1991)

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Law
LB 505 passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature includes the following:
When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or any other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department to the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone, with caller giving his or her name and address, and shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect, and evidence of previous abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which, in the opinion of the person, may be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrators.

Bennington Nutrition Services

Meal Charges Procedures
Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:

1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods:
   a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.
   b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only.

Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044.

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures

The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:

1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Breakfast Period:
Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:05 a.m.

Breakfast is served each morning in our cafeteria. Serving begins at 7:45 a.m. and continues to 8:05 a.m**.** All students arriving for breakfast are to use the northeast entrance to enter the cafeteria. Students who ride the bus are invited to go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival. Heritage currently serves a Grab and Go breakfast. Students pick up their breakfast in the cafeteria and then take it to their classroom to eat. Students will wait with their grade level in a designated area before heading to their classroom at 8:00 am.

Sack Lunches from Home

A food service calendar is sent home monthly indicating student meal choice. Kindergarten through fifth grade will have three lunch options. Students will have the choice of the hot lunch item, a prepared salad tray or yogurt and cheese stick tray. The salad will include a fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, and grain item.

Students in kindergarten through second grade will receive all five components of the daily lunch menu. This includes milk, unless a documented health reason is provided by a medical professional. Students in third through sixth grade will receive the option of "Offer vs. Serve". This allows the student to take only three components of the lunch offerings daily. One component must be a full serving of a fruit or vegetable. They may continue to take all five, but must take at least three. During "Offer" service the student is allowed choice and may refuse the foods they do not intend to eat. The school cannot require a child to take a milk or food item. Both "Offer and Serve" food service methods are priced the same.

Students may bring sack lunches if desired**.** Pop is not allowed in the cafeteria. (Marked Lunch boxes are easy to identify when left in an unusual place.) There is a peanut free table designated in the cafeteria for students with peanut allergies. Food and drinks must stay in the lunchroom area. **Please note that our lunch program prohibits the bringing in of outside fast food during the lunch periods (McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.)**.

Closed Campus

Our K-12 schools have a closed campus at noon, which means students are not permitted to leave the school during the day.

Meal Rates

Both breakfast and lunch include a 1/2-pint of milk within the cost.

Nutrition Services

Updated Meal Prices:

Breakfast		
School	**Daily**	**Weekly**
Elementary	$1.70	$8.50
Middle School	$1.75	$8.75
High School	$1.80	$9.25
Reduced	$.30	$1.50
Adult	$2.50	$12.50
Milk	$.50	$2.50

Lunch		
School	**Daily**	**Weekly**
Elementary	$2.60	$13.00
Middle School	$2.90	$14.50
High School	$2.95	$14.75
Reduced	$.40	$2.00
Adult	$4.05	$20.25
Milk	$.50	$2.50

Snack Milk Rates:

Snack Milk (K-5) $44.00 per semester

Parents and/or guardians may purchase snack milk online at MySchoolBucks.com. One semester of snack milk costs $44.00 per student. Snack milk may be purchased by the semester. Refunds for snack milk will only be issued if a student leaves the school district.

Families who transfer into the district after the 10th school day of the semester may purchase partial semester snack milk. Partial semester snack milk payments will be paid by invoice on MySchoolBucks.com. For accounting purposes, we no longer are accepting cash or check payments for snack milk.

Free and Reduced Meals

Families who qualify for free and reduced price meals may also receive other benefits such as discounted transportation fees and other discounted school fees. If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by September 29th, 2022 in order to avoid an interruption in benefits. Application forms are distributed in August and are also available on the district website. Families must complete the Sharing Free and Reduced Information Waiver in order to receive discounted school fees.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ACTIVITY ADMISSION PRICES

Activity passes for regular season home activities may be purchased in the secondary office of the Bennington Public Schools. Prices for admission/passes are as follows:

Varsity Game:		**High School Lower Level:**	
Student Admission	$ 4.00	Student Admission	$ 1.00
Adult Admission	$ 6.00	Adult Admission	$ 3.00
Student Pass	$35.00	Adult Pass	$70.00

Middle School:

Family Pass	$160.00	Student Admission	$ 1.00
		Adult Admission	$ 3.00

** Freshman & JV games held in conjunction with Varsity contests will use the $6/$4 pricing.

** Student is defined as any child enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

** BHS Invitationals (Track & Wrestling) are subject to the EMC Tournament price of $6.00 students/$8.00 adults.

** Activity passes are not honored for EMC or District Tournament games.

Elementary students who attend secondary activities **MUST** attend with and be under the direct supervision of an adult throughout the activity. Students will not be admitted without a parent/adult supervisor attending the event. Good sports are persons who are fair with others and who are accepting when things go wrong or when they can't have their way. They take the bad, as well as the good with a smile.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Bennington Public Schools will provide free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools from time to time for resident students who live more than four miles from the school house they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School from time to time.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse they attend on a space available basis at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be made by the month, by the semester, or annually.

The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in its best interests.

Transportation fees assessed by the Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon requests.

If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

Bus/Van Rules and Student Responsibilities

Students in the Bennington School District who ride buses and/or vans are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Any misbehavior, which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, and as such, jeopardizes the safety of all passengers. Consequence of continued misbehavior could result in a child being denied the privilege of riding the bus. Parents/guardians and students need to review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. Bus/van transportation is a privilege;
2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus/van;
3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus/van arrives;
4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus/van is moving;
5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus/van window;
6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus;
7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated! This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of other students;
8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic; and
9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.

*Bennington school buses are monitored by video camera. Bus riders will be subjected to video and audio recording.

Recreational Trail

Use of the recreational trail which traverses the school grounds is subject to two sets of rules. The School has retained the authority to control use of the trail in conformance with student discipline and safety rules and regulations. When using the trail, students will be required to follow the same school rules that apply to school grounds. In addition, the City of Bennington has an ordinance which establishes additional rules that students and other users of the trail must follow. The City's ordinance is available in the Principal's office.

STUDENT DRESS

Students are requested to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for the children's attire and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students which possibly could cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the student or the student body.

1. It is inappropriate to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen, or any backless halter-top that ties at the neck and back. Tops with thin spaghetti straps or clothing that leaves underwear visible is prohibited. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Undergarments and private parts (front and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment.

2. Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends his/her arms at his/her sides. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants to the waistline.

3. Hats, bandanas, hoods, coats and jackets of any kind are not to be worn in school. Your child should layer clothing if he/she gets chilled easily. Light coats and jackets are allowed if needed.

4. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity, is offensive, makes reference to sexuality, race or culture, has a double meaning, or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that can be used as a weapon will not be permitted.

Should any of these clothing infractions occur, the student may be required to change or a parent/guardian will be contacted to provide alternate attire.

Cell Phones/Tech Equipment

Cell phones, smart watches, pagers, walkie-talkies, game counsels, and any other electronic device should not be brought to school unless used for educational purpose. Such devices interrupt the classroom learning environment. If use of a technology device is observed during school hours for a purpose other than an educational activity directed by a teacher, the item will be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick it up in the office.

Physical Education

Tennis shoes need to be brought to school for P.E. use to protect the floor and keep it clean. Students not wearing tennis shoes will need to participate in their stocking feet, which puts students in danger of slipping and falling in the gym. In the past, most children bring a pair of tennis shoes and leave them in their locker.

SAFETY

1. Roller skates, tennis shoe-skates, inline skates, scooters and skateboards are not permitted at school.

2. Water guns and water play are not permitted on school grounds.

3. Bicycles are to be parked in the bike rack as soon as the student arrives. Students who ride bicycles must walk bikes while on school property and while moving among groups of children walking to or from school.

4. Please do not bring your pet(s) to school during arrival or dismissal. Please also refrain from bringing pets to extra curricular activities. The appropriate officials will be called when stray pets come on school property. Children walking should make sure pets do not follow them.

5. Illegal substances are not safe. State law and Board of Education policy strictly prohibit students and all patrons from having tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs at school. Weapons, firearms, knives, matches, and explosives are also prohibited. Violation of the policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

6. Walking to school can be dangerous unless basic guidelines are followed:

    a. stay on the sidewalk;
    b. follow the route designated by parents/guardians;
    c. don't talk to or take anything from strangers;

d. report any contact strangers make with you; and
e. make sure problems are reported to an adult at school.

7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's conduct to and from school. Misconduct will result in notification to parents/guardians.

8. Any threats to another's safety and terroristic threats will be taken seriously, and may be referred to local police department.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

Internet Access:

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of the Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents/guardians must sign a "Parents/Guardians Agreement", which will be kept on file by the district. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, data bases, and bulletin boards with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents/guardians should be warned that some material accessible by the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials at will. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, the Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

E-mail and Internet Rules

1. E-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for student use. Access to the Internet and e-mail is a privilege, not a right.

2. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

3. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

4. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

5. The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

2. Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).

3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

4. Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

5. Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

7. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

8. Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

9. Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

Penalties for Use of the Internet

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the network so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

Violations of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

Student and Parent Agreement

The Student's Agreement and Parent's Agreement, in the forms attached hereto as Appendix "2" and Appendix "3" respectively, are incorporated by this reference.

Bennington Public School
Bennington, Nebraska

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Bennington Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Director of Student Services, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (wfagan@bennps.org)

Employees and Others: Dr. Terry L. Haack, Superintendent, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington Public School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section below.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

PROCEDURES

Level One – Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complaints or victims. Extenuating circumstances do not include summer vacation, and if a designated compliance coordinator or investigator is unavailable, another coordinator or trained employee will be designated to conduct the investigation. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant**. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, if necessary.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **ten (10) working days** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose to a student who was discriminated against or harassed (victim), information about the sanction imposed upon a student who was found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment (student who discriminated) when the sanction directly relates to the victim. This includes an order that the student who discriminated stay away from the victim, or that the student who discriminated is prohibited from attending school for a period of time, or transferred to other classes.

Level Two – If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal within **ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

Level Three – If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The Board will issue a written determination an=bout the appeal **within thirty (30) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

Remedies – If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible discrimination, including harassment or violence, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim, ensure the safety of the school community, and prevent further potential discrimination,

Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by the Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public

review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at 238-3044.

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, provided on page 35, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	$ **Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt.
Art Classes and Special Projects or Events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged.

Music-Optional Band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists.

Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student.
Summer School Courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	$50 to $200 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.

Textbook/Library Book Fines	Loss or damage to District textbooks	Books lost or damaged beyond repair-full value of replacement $10 to $15 broken bindings

Middle School Policies – Student Fees

The activity and transportation fees are the same for all students within Bennington Public Schools. See elementary above.

The Board of Education of Bennington Public Schools has adopted the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "1," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2021-22 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Middle School Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**

General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary.
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes.	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - $5 (if lost)
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles.
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to

		purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students by request. Regular pricing will apply.
School Meals		Student Breakfast - $0 Adult Breakfast - $2.45 Student Lunch - $0 Adult Lunch - $3.95 Milk - $0.50 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year lost or damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to $25.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined books are charged the replacement costs up to $100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Yearbook - optional	School Book	Not to exceed $60 per book.

Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
1 to 1 Technology	Damage fee or replacement costs	Cost will vary between $5 and $20 with cooperative loss program, and between $40 and $100 without cooperative loss program. Total replacement will be up to $200 (See pg. 55).

Extracurricular and other programs	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for $35 per year. Conference Tournaments, District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA/EMC.
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.

Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables. Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary according to instrument. Costs will vary
Vocal Music	Shoes and Performance Outfits	Costs will vary
Student Senate	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required

All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they are responsible for additional costs.
Camps and Clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Clubs	Clubs are considered extra-curricular and may require special supplies, clothing or fees for special events.	Costs will vary according to activity.

Social & Recognition Activities

School Dances	School/Grade Level	Not to exceed $15 per dance
Speech/Drama Performances	Admission to events	Not to exceed $15 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company

Trips; School Sponsored and Non-School Sponsored	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. Sack lunches will be provided for all students by request. Regular pricing will apply. Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be $2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

BENNINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2022- 2023

The Mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

www.benningtonschools.org
402-238-3082
Twitter: @WeRBenningtonMS

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PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Middle School. It presents guidelines and directions which will help answer questions regarding school polices. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of Bennington Middle School. These pages are devoted to the rules that govern Bennington Middle School. However, it is impossible to list the unique circumstances covered by every rule. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. We encourage parents and guardians to visit the school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington Middle School, and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we can provide the best educational experience possible for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please feel free to contact us.

SCHOOL COLORS -- *Royal Blue and White*

SCHOOL MASCOT -- *Badger*

SCHOOL MISSON STATEMENT – *The mission of Bennington Middle School is to promote learning experiences that challenge and empower students and faculty while developing the whole child and preparing them to be engaged citizens in a new and changing world.*

SCHOOL VISION -- *LEARN. GROW. LEAD*

SCHOOL PHONE – 402-238-3082
FAX – 402-916-5823

SCHOOL CONFERENCE – Eastern Midlands Conference

N.S.A.A. -- Class B

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.benningtonschools.org

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

A. The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Board duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

B. The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He/She is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He/She advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's sanction.

C. The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

II. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary school training (K-5), three years of Middle School training (6-8), and four years of Middle school (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the Nebraska State Department and the North Central Accreditation of Schools.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Middle School Principal, Assistant Principal/Activities Director, and Counselor's offices are located on your right as you enter the main entrance of the building.

Principal – Renee Rucker
Assistant Principal/Activities Director – Matt Wilson
School Resource Officer – Gary Baker

IV. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The primary concern of the counselor is to aid students who have questions concerning academic, personal, or social life. This is accomplished through private conferences and group discussion. The counselor discusses questions with students concerning future courses and possible vocations and careers.

The goal of the guidance program is to help students develop an understanding and acceptance of themselves so they may make intelligent vocational, educational and social choices. Students are assisted in formulating goals, which are unique to their personal talents, capacities, and interests. Guidance can help the students believe in themselves, to respect themselves and others, and to recognize that achievement can be a personally satisfying experience when goals are clarified. Counseling is the heart of the guidance service. It is defined as the process of an experienced and qualified individual helping a second person to understand oneself.

The following services are provided through the Counseling Office: self-evaluation, transitions to middle school and transitions to middle school programs, college and career readiness, studying vocational and career options, counseling students individually and in groups, administering individual and group tests, conferring with parents regarding student progress and concerns, making referrals to various agencies, scheduling classes and assisting with curriculum planning, and conducting follow-up studies with various groups.

6-8 Guidance Counselor – Amy Baumann

STAFF		
Mrs. Renee Rucker	Principal	rrucker@bennps.org
Mr. Matt Wilson	Assistant Principal/Activities Director	mwilson@bennps.org
Mrs. Amy Baumann	6-8 Guidance Counselor	abaumann@bennps.org
Mr. Mike Davis	6-8 Academic/Behavior Interventionist	mdavis@bennps.org
Mrs. Heather Cormier	School Nurse	hcormier@bennps.org
Mrs. Kris Obermeyer	Administrative and Activities Assistant	kobermeyer@bennps.org
Mrs. Julie McClure	Attendance/Office and Health Room Assistant	jmcclure@bennps.org
Mr. Gary Baker	School Resource Officer	gbaker@bennps.org
Mr. Reginald Evans	Head Cook	revans@bennps.org
Mr. Alex Reinwald	Head Maintenance	areinwald@bennps.org

6th Grade Teachers	6A	6B
Science	Mr. Dutton Hughes	Mrs. Lindsey Wilson
Math	Mrs. Dawn Kucera	Mrs. Lindsey Wilson
Reading	Mrs. Lani Baca	Mrs. Alexis Ritzdorf
English	Mrs. Sara Jorgensen	Mrs. Alexis Ritzdorf
Social Studies	Mrs. Lani Baca. Mr. Dutton Hughes, Mrs. Sara Jorgensen, Mrs. Dawn Kucera	Mrs. Alexis Ritzdorf, Mrs. Lindsey Wilson
Resource	Mrs. Kristin McCormick	
LIFE Skills	Ms. Elise Weaver	

7th Grade Teachers	7A	7B
Science	Mr. Hayden Rucker	Mr. Collin McClain
Math	Mrs. Lindsey Hollman	Mr. Collin McClain
Reading	Mrs. Karen Sorrows	Mrs. Chelsi Miller
English	Mrs. Emilie Powell	Mrs. Chelsi Miller
Social Studies	Mrs. Emilie Powell, Mr. Hayden Rucker, Mrs. Karen Sorrows	Mr. Collin McClain, Mrs. Chelsi Miller
Resource	Mrs. Tonya Eurek	
LIFE Skills	Ms. Elise Weaver	

8th Grade Teachers	8A
Science	Mrs. Kate Schumacher
Math	Mr. Kam Lenhart
Reading	Mrs. Stacey Noble
English	Mrs. Chelsea Douglas
Social Studies	Mr. Ben Deines
Resource	Ms. Carlie Derry
LIFE Skills	Ms. Elise Weaver

EXPLORATORY	Teacher(s)
Art	Mrs. Amy Blanchard
Band	Mr. Landon Barada
Chorus	Mrs. Tabetha Vogt
Computers	Mr. Brandon Henkel
General Music	Mrs. Madison Pressler
Health	Mr. Nic Laue
Media Center	Mrs. Konni In den Bosch
P.E.	Mr. Bart Miller
Speech/Drama	Ms. Angela Griffin
Tech and Living	Mrs. Danita Diamond and Mr. Larry Klaus
World Language	Mr. Jeffrey Moore

IV. RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

A. It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the agency provides this verification, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental/guardian signature is necessary to release the student data.

B. Information

- School officials may have access to only records in which there is a legitimate educational interest, unless a parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if an official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

- When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the superintendent or designee.

- Students and parents/guardian of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

- Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

- Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student intends to enroll. This is only if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

    - The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

    - A copy of the Bennington Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

VI. MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

Mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: The mandatory ages of attendance are age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a middle school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached 18 years of age; (4) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office). In addition to a signed notarized release form, the superintendent's designee (Principal) shall conduct an exit interview if the child is (a) enrolled in Bennington Middle school, or (b) resides in the school district and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to obtain maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center. The administration will follow Nebraska Statute 79-208 and 209 when dealing with attendance issues.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate the principal as the attendance officer. The principal will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status. The principal may assemble an attendance team that will facilitate implementation of the attendance plan and will be responsible for oversight of attendance strategies.

If any student has accumulated a total of, eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the school shall render all services to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
2. A meeting or meetings between a school attendance officer, school social worker a school administrator or designee, the person who has legal or actual control of the child, and the student (when appropriate) to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
    - Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child
    - Educational counseling
    - Educational evaluation
    - Referral to community agencies for economic services
    - Family or individual counseling
    - Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting or services offers as part of the attendance plan, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

Notification:

1. If a student has accumulated eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

2. If a student has accumulated fifteen (15) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

3. If a student is absent more than twenty (20) days in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. The District shall notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the student to the county attorney. The report shall state that the District has made the efforts required by this policy and that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful and the District recommends county attorney intervention. The report shall include all relevant information regarding the student's attendance and excessive absenteeism. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.

4. If a student has a history of being chronically absent from school, the District shall render any and all services in the District's power to compel the student to attend school at any time the attendance officer deems necessary. This may include filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides prior to twenty (20) days, or the hour equivalent, of absence in a school year.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

If a student is unexcused absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the County Attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical. This may be done by informing the County Attorney of either the number of absence due to such illnesses or that the attendance officer is of the opinion that prosecution is not warranted. This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.
2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.
3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.
4. A copy of the final certified letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.
5. A copy of the attendance requirement.
6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include past actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Attendance is coded at Bennington Public Schools as listed below.

E - Excused - family emergencies, events (examples could include a family wedding, funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military, or 50th wedding anniversary) - students can make up work for full credit

U - Unexcused - Parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit

MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit

MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit

T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day.

R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence.

SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity.

Below are a list of district procedures when recording excused and unexcused absences for all students.

1. Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused."
2. When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."

3. The school district will only recognize school sponsored activities as excused absences. Any club activity (volleyball, softball, basketball, hockey, etc.) where a students is absent will be coded as a "U" and considered unexcused.

VII. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

A. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be duplicated. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

B. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.

C. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, students must bring a note of parental/guardian request to the school office at least one day before the student leaves school for the appointment. Parent may also email the attendance secretary regarding the student's absence. In cases of emergency, the principal may waive this procedure. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's study period or during different periods throughout the school day. All students must report to the office after they have been absent.

D. Each absence must be covered by a signed note or email from a parent or guardian, stating the date and reason for the absence.

E. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work. Students and parents/guardians should avoid scheduling vacations during the days of final examinations.

F. Any student missing more than ten (10) days per semester (this includes both excused and unexcused absences) will have his/her record reviewed by an Attendance Committee with the possibility of credit loss for that semester. Meaning a student may not miss the same period more than ten (10) times. Any student with five absences (excused or unexcused absences) during any quarter will also have his/her attendance record reviewed by a school administrator, parent/guardian, and student (if necessary) to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. Parents/guardians will also be notified by mail when a student reaches their eighth absences for a semester. Parents/guardians will be notified when the tenth absence occurs. They will have seven school days to meet with the Attendance Committee. They will have an opportunity to explain if the child's absences were due to: 1) Illness with doctor verification; or 2) Absences due to family emergency and/or special family/student need. If the parent/guardian cannot provide clear proof to substantiate items 1 and 2, students will lose credit for all classes missed ten (10) or more times. Failure to comply with this meeting will result in automatic loss of credit.

F. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring. If a student is tardy for his/her first period class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class and will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. Tardies for periods Homeroom-9th will be recorded by the classroom teacher.

Emergencies will periodically occur causing a student to be late to school. Consequently, a student may be tardy two times without disciplinary consequences. Further tardiness (for all class periods 1-8) will result in the following disciplinary action:

3 tardies – Administrative Conference
6 tardies – one detention
9 tardies – two detentions
12 tardies – Saturday school
15 tardies – two Saturday schools
18 tardies – one day suspension
19 or more tardies – parent meeting, Attendance/Behavior Contract initiated, and administrative assigned consequence

Each tardy is accumulated for periods Homeroom through 9th throughout semester. The principal will deal with excessive unexcused tardies on an individual basis. When a student arrives more than 15 minutes late to any class period, it will be considered an unexcused absence and the student will be required to serve a detention.

H. Students who skip classes are in violation of BMS conduct rules. A skip (truancy) is defined as any absence that the school and parents/guardians do not approve or an absence that the principal will not accept as a reasonable absence: for example, oversleeping, hair appointments, shopping, and other absences when the school is not properly notified.

I. Students shall be present 5 of the 9 periods of the school day in order to participate in any school event, including practices, performances, or games. If the activity occurs before 5th period, the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

J. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities. Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant or parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and following unless administrators determine such participation poses a significant risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant or parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed health care provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification may be required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed health care provider. Pregnant or parenting students are here notified that they may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school.

Lactation:

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

VIII. MAKE-UP WORK

1. No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests and quizzes as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board policy #503.03 states that “students absences approved shall make up work missed and receive full credit”. Ordinarily, students will be given one-day for each day absent to make-up work (five day or less). In the case of long-term absences (six days or more), the instructor and grade level administer will determine when make-up work is due based on the difficulty of content and length of absence.

2. When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work at the end of the day on the day they return to school.

3. If a student is going to be absent from school for an athletic event, field trip, or other school-sponsored activity, he/she is required to turn in all assignments requested by teachers prior to the absence, or in a manner acceptable by the teacher. If the student does not meet this requirement, the teacher will inform the sponsor of the event or the principal and the student will not be dismissed from school. Staff members can be informed of the students who will be absent in two ways: by activity sheets or by a list provided to staff members by the sponsor at least two days prior to the event. If the sponsor chooses to use activity sheets, the sponsor will provide them to the student. This sheet is to be returned to the sponsor, who turns them into the office. Students are not counted absent on school-sponsored trips.

IX. THE SCHOOL DAY

A. Visiting Bennington Middle School

Visitors at Bennington Middle School: Visitors will be admitted into the school through the request entry system located at the main entrance of the building. Upon entering the building, all visitors must immediately report to the main office to sign in and show identification. All guests will be given a visitor's badge to wear during your time at BMS and will be escorted to and from your desired location. If you are here to pick up a student, the student will be called to the office to meet you. Upon completion of your visit, all visitors must check out in the main office and return the visitor badge. Additional questions concerning visitation can be directed to office staff or administration.
Meeting with a Staff Member: All visitors wishing to speak with a staff member must schedule an appointment prior to his/her visit.

1. Only visitors who have appointments will be allowed to visit classrooms.
2. Visits to classrooms, during the school day when students are present, will be granted through the principal by appointment only.

B. Interdisciplinary Teams

An interdisciplinary team is a group of teachers, usually from two to five persons who teach the core academic subjects, who share the same students, the same space, and the same schedule. Team teachers strive to integrate the academic program in which their common students are involved.
Honoring a middle school philosophy, our Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades will each be divided into teams for the purpose of teaching social studies, math, science, English, and reading.
Teaming allows teachers to work together, integrate curriculum, focus on student strengths/challenges, and provide assistance. Networking among teachers, parents/guardians, counselors, administrators, and special education is facilitated through the regularly scheduled team meetings. Teaming also fosters students' sense of belonging and builds on our positive school climate. *We are proudly a student-centered school, following a middle school philosophy.*

C. Exploratory Program

The exploratory program consists of all courses not a part of the interdisciplinary core structure. It is important middle level students are exposed to a wide variety of educational experiences that will assist them in making important future educational decisions.
Exploratory courses are short term (usually 6 weeks or alternate day schedules), project-oriented, hands-on, and promote a high level of student engagement/success. The learning activities are often, but not always, completed within the class period.

D. Homeroom Advisor-Advisee Program

The Bennington Middle School advisor/advisee program is called Badger Time. This model is designed to meet the affective needs of the student and to promote positive peer relationships, a positive school climate, covers some of the Counseling Curriculum, and 21st Century Skills. All students are assigned to a Homeroom group. Homerooms meet from 8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. daily.

E. Assignment Notebook (Student Planners)

The student assignment notebook (Student Planner) is designed to provide the student with a simple method for recording daily assignments, long-term projects, quizzes and tests and for corridor passes to pass to another area of the building. Regular use of the assignment notebook will help the student manage his/her time more efficiently and will aid his/her overall organization.

The purpose of the assignment notebook is to provide an opportunity for students, with the help of parents/guardians and teachers, to focus on specific goals aimed at improving their academic performance. The notebook will also enable parents/guardians to monitor and support the classroom assignments given by the teachers.
How to use the assignment notebook:

- Students record class work assignments every day.
- Students record all future dates for major tests and projects as soon as they are assigned.
- The assignment notebook may also be used as a daily progress report for parents/guardians by teachers and parents/guardians signing the daily entries.

F. Leaving and/or Returning to School During The Day

Any student leaving school during the day must submit a written parent/guardian permission slip or e-mail to the office prior to a parent/guardian request to pick up a student. Students will be given a pass to report to the office at the specified dismissal time.

Any student who is leaving during the school day must be signed out in the office by an adult listed in SIMS or as an emergency contact. If a parent/guardian requests that a non-listed adult sign out their student, the school must receive notice by the parent/guardian **prior** to the student signing out. **Anyone** signing a student out must show proof of identity to the office. Students must sign out in the office and wait in the office for their approved adult to arrive. If the student returns to school that same day, students must sign back in at the office and receive a pass back to class. Students who leave without proper permission will be considered truant. Failure to comply with this standard will be considered a major rule violation resulting in an administrative conference and potentially disciplinary action

G. Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are to report to the office. If the school nurse is present, he/she will help assess the situation. In his/her absence, the office staff will work with the student. Students will not be sent home until parents/guardians or emergency contacts have been notified.

H. School Lunch Program

Bennington Nutrition Services Meal Charges Procedures Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program. Payment Methods Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following: 1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com. 2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods: a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria. b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include individual's name and ID number with payment. Account Balances Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only. Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts

to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law. Communication of Meal Charges Procedures The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to: 1. All households at or before the start of each school year. 2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer. 3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

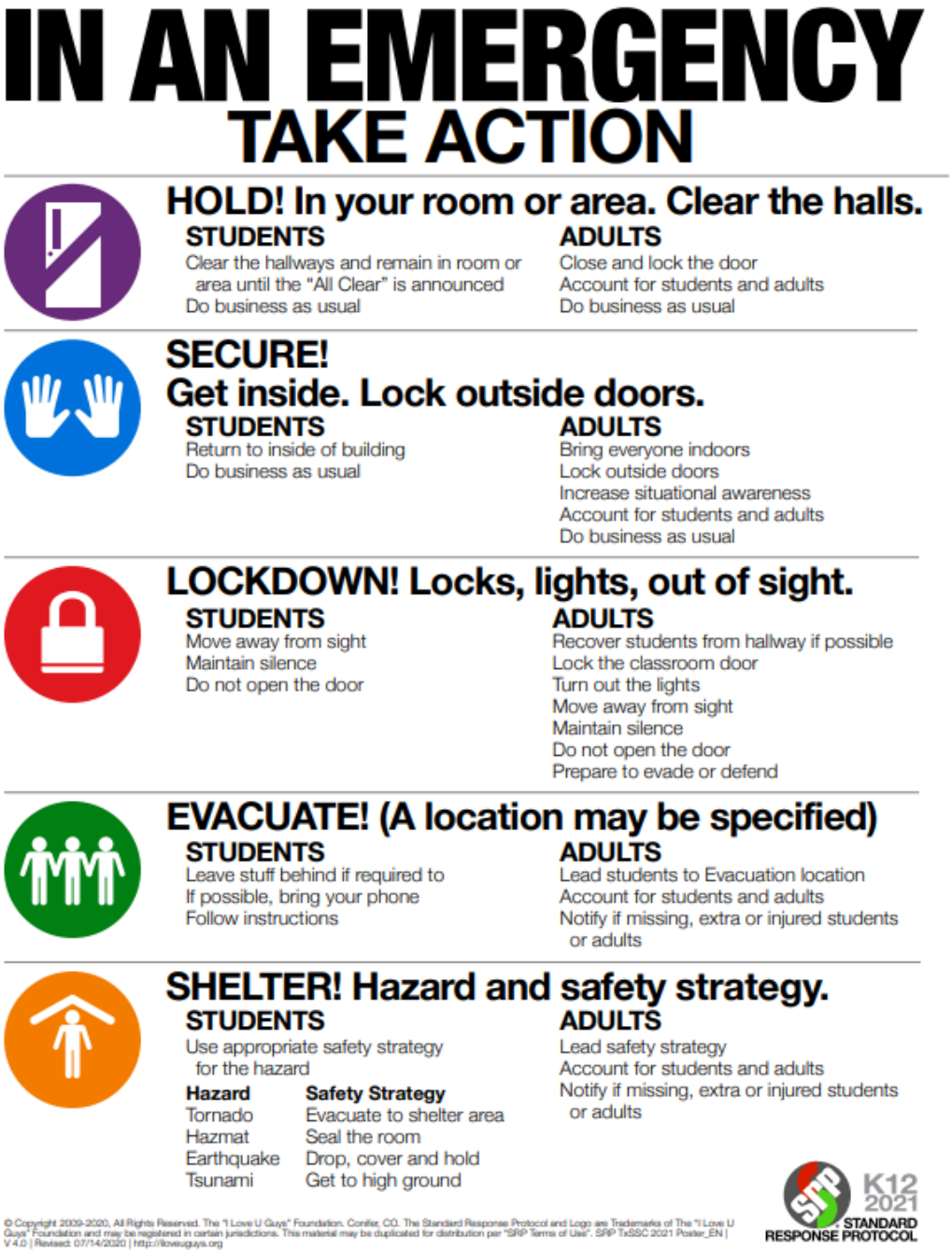
Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Students must remain on the campus during lunchtime. <u>Please note that the federal lunch program prohibits bringing in outside fast food items during the lunch period (McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, Runza, etc).</u> All students must report to the Commons area during their entire assigned lunch period (students may be excused with a prearranged pass from a teacher).

I. Fire Drill, Severe Weather Drills, and Safety Drills



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Teachers will give students instructions to follow during drills. There will be no talking or running during the drills. Everyone must leave the building when the fire alarm rings. In the event of a school-wide emergency, school officials will communicate with parents in every form possible. In the event of an off-campus evacuation, please do not immediately proceed to the school, a re-unification site will be established by the school or first responders and the location will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

J. School Closing

State law requires school to be in session a minimum of 175 days. Our calendar ranges from 175-177 days each year. In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. The School Messenger System will also provide school closing information to all patrons who have subscribed to the service. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If more days are used for inclement weather than the number scheduled, time will be made up Saturdays or at the end of the school year.

K. Daily Bulletin (The Daily Badger) and Monthly Newsletter (Badgers in the Middle)

School information will be read to students at the beginning of home room. A copy of the bulletin will be placed outside the office or emailed to staff each day. The daily bulletin will also be posted on the school website. Information for the bulletin should be given to the middle school secretary by 7:45 a.m. The monthly newsletter will be mailed out the first of each month. A copy of it will be posted on the school website.

L. Campus Hours

School hours are 8:00 A.M. to 3:10 P.M. Monday through Friday. The building is unlocked for student arrival at 7:40 A.M. Prior to that time, students must use the door buzzer entry system located at the main entry on the North side of the building to gain admittance.

The campus will close daily at 3:45 for all students not involved in a supervised activity such as athletics, clubs or individual work with a teacher. **All students not involved in an afterschool activity must be off campus by 3:45 P.M. Students' safety is our top priority and supervision cannot be guaranteed beyond organized activities after 3:45 P.M.** Counseling Team members and/or administrators will contact parents/guardians of students who habitually remain on campus/unsupervised.

M. Student Passes

If a student wishes to confer with a teacher or counselor during a guided study period, he/she should have that teacher issue a pass from their planner prior to the guided study period to present to the guided study teacher.

Students may be issued passes to leave a classroom or guided study for necessary reasons. Students in halls or restrooms during class time must have their signed planner with them. Students are limited to four passes per school day. Privileges will be taken away from students for not following appropriate pass procedures.

N. Passing Periods

Passing periods will be three minutes in length. This will allow ample time to get from one classroom to the next.

O. Class Period Schedule

8TH GRADE		7TH GRADE		6TH GRADE	
BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10	BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10	BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10
PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 ACADEMIC
PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 ACADEMIC
PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 EXPLORATORY
PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 EXPLORATORY
PERIOD 5*	8A - Lunch 11:13-11:43 Class: 11:44-12:27(43)	PERIOD 5*	7B Class 11:13-11:43 Lunch: 11:44-12:14 Class 12:15-12:25(43) 7A Class 11:13-11:57(44) Lunch: 11:58: 12:23	PERIOD 5	11:13- 11:37 STUDENT SUPPORT
PERIOD 6	12:30-12:54 STUDENT SUPPORT	PERIOD 6	12:30-12:54 Student Support	PERIOD 6*	6B Class 11:40-12:12 Lunch: 12:13-12:43 Class: 12:44-12:55(43) 6A Class 11:40-12:24(43) Lunch 12:25-12:55
PERIOD 7 Exploratory Personal Plan	12:57-1:40 GUIDED STUDY	PERIOD 7	12:57-1:40 Academic	PERIOD 7	12:58-1:40 ACADEMIC
PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 Guided Study
PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 GUIDED STUDY	PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 ACADEMIC

P. Late Assignments

It is the responsibility of all students to turn in their assignments in a timely manner. Teachers may require students to stay after school for 30 minutes or come 30 minutes before school to make up late work. Teachers will notify parents/ guardians by phone or email. If a student does not report, parents will be notified by the principal or designee. Students who are chronically missing work may be required to stay after school regularly, Monday-Thursday. If this becomes necessary, parents will be informed by the principal. The goal of the school is to provide middle school students opportunities to turn in their late homework. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of each individual teacher and will be covered in their syllabi.

Students, who come to class without assignments adequately completed may be required to attend an after school detention that day or a detention the next day. The after school detention center will be open Monday – Thursday from 3:15pm to 3:45pm. The individual teacher will determine whether the assignment is "adequately completed." Failure to serve a detention will result in parental notification and additional consequences assigned by the grade level administrator. All students who are involved in extra-curricular activities must serve their detentions at the regularly scheduled time and they must report to their practices immediately after their detention is finished. Rescheduling requests will be considered by the principal on an individual basis. Students will be required to complete the school assigned activities; they may not use cell phones or other electronic devices unless it's needed to complete homework.

Q. Bus Service

The Bennington Public Schools provides free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools for resident students who live more than four miles from the school they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse. They may use this service at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be paid by the month, by the semester, or annually. A $5.00 per-day per-student fee will be charged to occasional riders when and as determined appropriate by the Bennington Public Schools. Each of these situations will be handled on an individual basis depending on distance from the schoolhouse they attend and the established bus routes.

Transportation fees assessed by Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon request. If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts. Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in the school's best interests.

Parents/guardians must notify the school when a child is planning to ride a different bus or needs to be dropped off at a location different from his regular stop. If a student requests the change without parental/guardian notification, the driver will not allow the change to be made.

Parents/guardians and students should review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

- School transportation is a privilege.
- Students may be assigned seats on the bus.
- Students need to be ready and in place when the bus arrives. At the end of the school day busses will leave five minutes after middle school dismissal. All students riding the bus must report promptly after dismissal.
- Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus windows.
- Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus.
- Disruptions by students will not be tolerated. This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of the other students.
- Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic.
- Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.
- The back door is to be used only in case of emergency; <u>always</u> use the front door for entering and leaving the bus.

All bus behavior rules apply to activities and field trips as well as transportation to and from school.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

A. Hall & Locker Room Lockers

The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students will be provided a locker with attached lock. It is the responsibility of the student to properly lock their locker. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to share their locker combinations. Students are not to change lockers without permission. Only school locks can be used on all school lockers. Lockers will not have any decorations posted unless approved by the building administration.

B. Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions, and automobiles may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The principal or his designee may confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the middle school safe and free from illegal drugs, the middle school principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found, as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. Items of contraband may include, but are not limited to, nonprescription controlled substances, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, apparatus used for controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons, stolen property and dangerous objects as defined in Policy 504.11. Such items are not to be possessed by a student without specific permission of the building principal while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

C. Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

D. Public Displays of Affection/Aggression

Students are not allowed to display affection for each other at school. Such things as holding hands, embracing, and kissing are inappropriate behavior during school hours. Students are expected to conduct themselves with maturity.

Aggressive play or intimidating/bullying behavior is prohibited. Students who intimidate/bully or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of board policy #504.51.

E. Telephone

1. The school's phones are business phones and are not to be used by students during the school day unless they have received permission.
2. If messages are of an emergency nature, they will be delivered directly to the student in the classroom.
3. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used before 8am and after 3:10pm. Usage in classrooms is up to the discretion of each individual teacher. Students need to be aware of their teacher's expectations regarding these electronic devices. Failure to comply with appropriate electronic device etiquette may result in disciplinary action**. If a student is using a cell phone or electronic device in violation of school or classroom rules, the student will have the item confiscated and turned in to the administration.** Confiscated cell phones and other electronic devices may be picked up at the end of the day by students in the administration office unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law or school policy, or has been turned over to legal authorities. On the second offense, the student's parent/guardian may retrieve the device at the end of the school day in the administrative office. Failure to give the cell phone or other electronic device to a staff member upon request will be considered insubordination resulting in disciplinary action. Repeated infractions of the Bennington cellular phone or other electronic device guidelines will result in escalated consequences.
4. Any student caught using their cell phone to bully or harass another student will be subject to disciplinary action.

F. Possession of Nuisance Devices

Students are encouraged to bring only necessary materials to school in order to maintain a school environment where all students may reach their potential. Unnecessary items can be a distraction to the learning environment and create unnecessary opportunities for theft in which the school cannot be held responsible. Any item that is disruptive to the educational environment will be considered nuisance items and will not be allowed in classrooms, except at the discretion of an individual teacher. Students can expect to have these items confiscated by staff and administration; the items will be turned into the office.

G. Parking

Students are to park in designated student parking areas. There are no reserved parking areas for students. All parking is first come first serve. Parking in an unauthorized area may result in a fine, a car boot, or loss of parking privileges. Students are to use only the 168th street entrance. The Bennington Road entrance is for bus traffic and staff parking only. All parking/drop off traffic will enter and exit at the 168th street entrance. Drop-off traffic may continue straight ahead to the drop-off loop. There is no parking in the drop-off loop. Student and public parking is to the left of the main 168th street entrance. Students may not park in the teacher parking section during school hours. Students are not allowed to park in the loading dock area or teacher parking lot at any time. Students need to fill out a form in the office if they plan on driving to school.

- By parking on school grounds, students give consent to have their car searched by school officials when reasonable suspicion exists.
- All Vehicles must be street legal and only take up one parking stall in the lot. Farm equipment, ATVs, go karts, etc. will not be allowed.

H. Posters

Any student, group, or organization needs to have the approval of the sponsor and the principal before hanging any poster or sign. You must utilize the tack strips in the hallways to display posters, no taping up of posters, and those who put posters up must also remove them in a timely manner.

I. Food and Beverage

Students may have a water bottle with them during the day. No other beverages will be allowed during the school day. Students must adhere to individual teacher's procedures for beverages and food in the classroom. Teachers have the discretion in what is allowed in their classroom. Failure to comply with teacher procedures may result in teacher/administrator consequences.

J. Fund-Raising Activities

School organizations are regularly involved in revenue-producing projects to support planned activities. Since School District tax money cannot be used to finance these activities, each organization must decide which activities it wishes to conduct and is responsible for the costs involved. Each student involved in any of these projects must assume full responsibility for the products issued to him/her for selling. The student will be held accountable for returning the product or money or both to the office depending upon the sales. Each organization shall have the right to establish policies related to the projects. Refer to Board Policy 506.08 All fundraising must be approved by administration prior to any selling activity.

K. Lost and Found

The office maintains a small lost and found area. Any article left in the classroom or found in the building should be turned in to one of the secretaries. Articles may be claimed with proper identification. Appropriate safeguards should always prevail. Large amounts of money or valuables should not be brought to school. If brought to school by necessity, such items should be checked in at the office for safe keeping until after school hours.

L. Text books

All basic texts are provided to students during the school year. Texts are to be kept clean and in good condition. Fines are assessed for damaged texts. The teacher will handle end of the year textbook fines and as the fines are collected they will be turned into the office:

1. Books lost or damaged beyond repair – full value of replacement.
2. Backs or covers broken -- $12.50 per book (over 2 years old) $25.00 per book (less than 2 years old).
3. Pages torn and un-mended -- $.50 per page (not to exceed the value).
4. Ink writing, spots, etc-- $.25 per page.
5. Pencil marks – students must erase these marks.

M. Financial Indebtedness

Financial indebtedness is something that cannot be ignored or put off. School policy states that all course credit will be frozen and transcripts will be withheld until all financial obligations have been cleared with the school. Students or parents/guardians must also reimburse the school district the actual cost of replacing books or materials, the rebinding of books, or the value of replacing school property.

Students who willfully cause damage to school property will be responsible for the cost of the damage including labor. They will also receive disciplinary consequences for their actions.

N. School Assemblies

All students should express their school spirit through hand clapping (no whistling or shouting) during any assemblies held during the year. Performers are our guests; and students must respect them and their peers at all times during these performances. These programs, which quite often include our own students, are provided for our educational benefit. Therefore, we should show interest and consideration toward all presenters and performers. The same courtesy should be extended to students and teachers from other schools.

O. Student Spectators

Students are encouraged to attend all of the school activities offered by Bennington Schools. School spirit is encouraged at all times. School spirit means loyalty to all Bennington Middle school and high school activities and their participants while demonstrating respect for the opposing team's participants, coaches, and fans as well as the game officials. If a student chooses to leave during an event, he/she will not be allowed to return. [Exceptions: 1) Students may attend two different events being hosted at Bennington on the same night; and 2) Students may return during a day-long tournament.] BMS students are not allowed to bring outside containers into the gym during school activities. Students will need to pay to get into events. You can pay by cash or purchase an activity card.

P. Visitors

All visitors are required to first stop in the office, show proper ID, sign in to logbook and receive a visitor's badge before being escorted by a staff member to other parts of the building. Friends or siblings of students will not be allowed to visit classrooms or join students for lunch without administrative approval.

Q. Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by the Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at 402-238-3044.

R. Media Center Rules

The Library Media Center is available for your information needs and reading enjoyment from 7:35 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Students should come to use the library resources to help the library serve you better and make your library time more productive, please follow these rules:

1. Upon entering the library, students must log in the electronic log. You must have a pass. Please make sure to sign out when you leave.

2. Work quietly. If you need to talk, talk quietly. If you need to leave the library for any reason during the class period, notify the librarian.

3. Books may be checked out for two-week intervals. The due date is stamped on the inside cover of the book. Books may be renewed unless another patron has the book on hold.

4. Books should be returned to the circulation desk on or before the stamped due date. Students returning books after the due date has expired will be assessed a fine of 5 cents per day. Once a fine of $1.00 has been accrued, the student will no longer be able to check out books until the fine is paid in full.

5. Do not put checked-out books back on the shelves. You will be held accountable for any overdue fines that these books incur.

6. Replacement of ruined or lost books is the responsibility of the student to whom the book is checked out. A fine may also be charged for books that are damaged.

7. ~~Computer use is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Computers should be used for school related tasks only. Inappropriate use of the computer may cause you to forfeit use of the computer. The signing of the student handbook acknowledgement page includes the understanding of the computer usage rules.~~

S. Option Enrollment Program

Any student wishing to enroll in the option enrollment program must meet the deadlines prior to March 15 and all other guidelines set forth in the School Board policies.

T. Internet Use

Bennington Middle School Internet use is granted to students, and is monitored by staff and a software filtering service. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action and loss of Internet privileges. Parents /guardians who wish to have their student(s) not allowed usage of the Internet should contact their grade-level administrator. (See addendum XX).

U. School Ceremonies and Observances and Memorials

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reason in compliance with board policy. Requests for remembering or memorializing a person or event shall be approved by the Superintendent and/or building principal. Major school ceremonies such as graduation, awards, and scholarship events are not appropriate for significant memorial activities. School-wide recognition of anniversary dates will not occur. District counseling services may be made available to provide support. Temporary memorial symbols displayed on school grounds will be limited to a maximum of one month past the occurrence being memorialized. Requests may be made to memorialize an individual or event in the school yearbook or one edition of the school newspaper/newsletter. Information may be included on a “Memorial Page,” but should be limited to the name, photo, dates of birth/death, and school activities in which the student or staff member participated.

V. Recording of Others

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent

understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

W. Regulated Electronic Devices

Any prohibited items or devices brought to school or school events may be confiscated by district staff. Prohibited items will be turned over to the student's parents or guardian on request unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law, or has been turned over to legal authorities.

Prohibited devices shall include any item which is sufficiently annoying, offensive, unpleasant, or obnoxious that it substantially interferes with or materially disrupts the educational process.

In addition to any prohibitions on electronic devices defined in the student handbook, students shall not use electronic devices for recording or transmitting photographs, images or sounds of other persons without direct administrative approval and consent of all person(s) being recorded, other than the recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time where there is an expectation of privacy. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

XII. STUDENT DRESS

a. Students are required to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for their children's attire, and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students (dress which might cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the individual student or the student body).

b. It is inappropriate for students to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen or any backless top that ties at the neck or back. Tops with thin or "spaghetti" straps or clothing that leaves undergarments visible is prohibited. Should such attire be worn, the student will be required to return home and change. The time spent en-route will be unexcused. Wearing shorts is considered a privilege. Both girls and boys will be allowed to wear shorts as long as they are an appropriate length. (Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends their arm at the sides.) Shorts with pockets exposed below the hem are not appropriate for school attire.

c. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity; makes reference to sexuality; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Long chains will not be permitted. Backpacks and book bags will stay in lockers throughout the school day. Purses are also to be left in lockers throughout the school day.

d. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline. Any student wearing pants with undergarments visible will be required to raise the pants to the waist or they will be sent home to change and the time gone will be considered unexcused. Pants and skirts with holes are inappropriate student dress.

e. It is not appropriate to wear hats in the building during school hours. Therefore, all students wearing hats to school must keep them in their lockers during the day. Bandanas may not be worn to school or school activities.

f. Athletic (practice) clothing should not be worn in class.

g. Students should not wear clothing or hairstyles that are hazardous in school activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, or art; or block their vision; or restrict their movement. Teachers in lab areas may have grooming or dress rules to assure a safe environment. Students are required to adhere to such rules.

h. Coats and jackets of any kind shall not be worn in school. Hooded sweatshirts are allowed as long as the hoods are not used. Students who do not comply with this reasonable standard will be required to put the sweatshirt in their locker for the remainder of the school day. No blankets will be allowed.

i. Special eye protection may be required in some classes. Students are expected to comply with these rules for their own safety.

j. Shoes must be worn at all times on school grounds.

k. Students should not wear chains, collars, leashes, or anything that could be considered a choking hazard.

XIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. School Nurse

1. The School Nurse is an integral part of the total education program. The Visiting Nurses Association is funded by private contract. The Bennington Schools typically receive nurse's services three full days a week.

2. The location of the nurse's office varies. The Nurse will not treat walk-ins when she is on site. In an emergency, students must report to the office.

3. Medication should be given at home whenever possible. When it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, the parents/guardians must complete the Medication Authorization Form in the school office or on the school website. **It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide any medication given at school and ensures its safe travel to and from school. All medication must be sent to school in the original container and will be stored securely on arrival at school.**

4. Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions. Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the vomiting/diarrhea has occurred.

5. Students in 7th grade will be screened for height, weight, audio, and dental as well as new students to the district in 6th and 8th grade.

6. Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

7. Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

● Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
● Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
● Chicken pox	7 days from onset
● Measles	7 days from onset
● 3 Day Measles	5 days

● Whooping Cough	21 days
● Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
● Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
● Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
● Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
● Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits

B. **Medication Regulation**

1. Bennington Public Schools is not to administer any prescribed medication without the approval of parents/guardians and doctor. No unauthorized medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) shall be administered by the school nurse or any school staff member. No personnel of Bennington Public Schools will prescribe medication at any time. The staff is not allowed to give students any prescription or non-prescription medication. Students may use non-prescribed medication, but may not distribute non-prescribed (over the counter) medication to peers. Distribution of any type of medication will be in violation of the Code of Conduct.

2. When a student must take medication, which has been prescribed by a doctor during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

    a. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of the medication, if the medicine is controlled, and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.
    b. Only one-month supply shall be brought at a time unless otherwise indicated by the parent/guardian and attending physician.
    c. The label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label.
    d. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication with them or in the lockers.
    e. Medication will only be used by the student in the office and in front of the office staff or the principal.
    f. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

C. **Student Self-Management of Medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

Parents/Guardians may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis (both Diabetes and Anaphylaxis must be self- administered in the nurse's office under the care of the health para or nurse). The parent will need to follow the following procedures.

1. The parent/guardian will be required to request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent/guardian will need written verification from a physician or other health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment indicating the condition and specific medications including: name and purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.

3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

Once the request has been approved the school and parent/guardian in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items.

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at the school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional; and
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication;
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies, as well notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

A. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
B. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition.
C. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

XIV. PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICIES

A. The physical education dress for girls and boys is gym shorts, T-shirt, and socks. All students must wear tennis shoes for safety reasons while using the gym. Students must furnish their own towels.

B. All gym clothes and shoes should be marked with the owner's name.

C. When going to and from gym class, please use the hall door nearest your dressing room. No one is allowed in the gym before or after school without permission of the athletic director. If a coach or teacher is using the gym at any time, they are responsible for all students and equipment. Students must leave when the supervisor does. The gym should not be used as a play area during practice for non-athletic activities. Students will not be able to use the weight room or gym area without a teacher supervising. Students cannot be in these areas without a teacher present.

XV. SCHOLASTIC POLICIES

A. Grading System: Please see our district website for access to our district grading framework, or click the link below.

   a. http://www.benningtonschools.org/documents/Grading%20Framework%2007-2018.pdf

B. Grading is based on all facets of classroom performance.

Grading Scale:

Regular Courses
A = 100-93
B = 92-86
C = 85-77
D = 76-70
F = Below 70

C. **Grade Reports**

a. Bennington Public Schools' students will receive their hexter report once every 6 weeks. Student grades will start new each Hexter. We will not be averaging the Hexters together to come up with semester grades. Report cards will not be sent home, but you can access them online through the school's website (www.benningtonschools.org) on the Nebsis Family Account.

b. Parent/Guardian conferences may be scheduled at any time, although we will continue to have them in twice a year (ex: October and February).

c. On-line grades will be available to all parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians may view their child/children's grades by using the Nebsis accessed from Bennington School's website (www.benningtonschools.org). Parents and students will each receive log-in information to access this secure website. The information provided is secure. Parents/Guardians will be able to access their child/children's grades, attendance and discipline records. All information provided will be updated on a weekly basis.

D. **Extra Help**

Students are encouraged to seek extra help from teachers if an assignment is not understood, if the work is difficult, or if he/she has been absent and missed assignments or class instruction. Students should arrange a conference with their teacher before or after school or at a time convenient to both during the day. A teacher may request a student stay after school if it is apparent he/she is having difficulty with work.

E. Academic Dishonesty

Students who are academically dishonest (cheating) must meet with their teacher and grade level administrator, and parents will be notified as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Consequences could range from and administrative conference to short term suspension for cheating. At the conclusion of the meeting with teacher(s) and administrator(s), students may be allowed to make up work on their own time.

F. New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress complete the enroll new students process online through www.benningtonschools.org

i. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time. Shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
ii. Evidence of a physical examination if they are entering the 7th grade or, in the case of a transfer from out-of-state; 7th grade physical may not meet sports' physical criteria unless it says – eligible for sports, without restrictions.
iii. Updated Immunization records.
iv. A transcript/release of records from the previous school or current/proposed class schedule
v. Online enrollment approval through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, of if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given. New students and parents/guardians will register in the Counselor's office. New students will not start classes the same day they complete the online enrollment process.

G. Failing a Course

Middle School students must pass their courses before moving on to the next grade level. In a case where the student has failed a course the teacher, parent(s), administration, and counselor will work together to determine the next step for that student.

H. Music Courses Drop/Add

At end of term or by special circumstances and are approved by the administration

I. Part-time Students

Bennington Middle School students interested wanting part-time status are to see the counselor for eligibility. Parents/guardian will meet with the principal before approval is granted. LB 821 allows students who are residents of the Bennington District, but attend another public, private, denominational, parochial school, or home school to attend Bennington Middle school on a part-time basis. Parents need to complete the Enroll new student online process through www.benningtonschools.org to confirm residency in the district. Both the student and parents/guardians will be required to meet with the counselor and principal to provide proof of residence and to determine a class schedule. While the student is attending they will be required to follow all rules in the student handbook.

J. Hazing

Hazing or initiation by a school organization, groups, clubs, teams or individuals are prohibited. Anyone engaging in hazing or initiation behavior will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Hazing is any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. The school will follow Neb. Statute 79-2, 101 to 2, 102 when dealing with hazing.

XVI. STUDENT CONDUCT

PBS: Positive Behavior Support is a school-wide system of acknowledging positive student behavior. When programs and initiatives focus on building respectful and trusting relationships among

school staff, families, and community members they are more effective in creating and sustaining connections that support student achievement. The PBS introduces Bennington's school wide expectations. These expectations are taught to all students for specific areas in the building as explained below in the chart. Students will be acknowledged for consistently meeting these expectations

	Be Respectful	**Be Responsible**	**Be SAFE**
Classroom	►Listen to teacher ►Follow instructions ►Be courteous to others in words and actions ►Treat others' property with care	►Treat school property with care ►Come to class prepared ►Be safe ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►On Time ►On Task ►Do your BEST
Hallway	►Pace and Space ►Hands and feet to self ►Use an acceptable volume ►Treat others' property with care	►Keep hallways clean ►Move with a purpose ►Have your agenda book ►Keep your locker locked & organized ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►Keep your pace during passing periods ►Be aware of the time
Locker Room	►Knock and be acknowledged before entering office ►Hands and feet to self ►Treat others' property with care ►Be considerate of others privacy	►Keep your locker locked & organized ►Pick up after yourself ►Have the proper attire	►Be dressed on time
Commons/ Lunchroom	►Follow directions ►Hands and feet to self ►Be courteous to others ►Walk to lunch	►Keep area clean ►Put trays, silverware, chairs, etc. in their proper place ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►Remain in Commons ►Stay in your place in line
Bathroom	►Be considerate of others privacy ►Use facilities appropriately ►Keep area clean ►Treat others' property with care	►Practice good hygiene ►Report problems to an adult	►Take care of needs quickly ►Use the assigned student restroom

General Rules of Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of school is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose, in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-

term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, contests, or performances.

1. No student shall:

   (a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.

   (b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.

   (c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.

   (d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18

   (e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

   (f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

   (g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

   (h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

   (i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

   (j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member**,** or voice disrespect to those in authority (Willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

   (k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct

includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.

(l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.

(m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

(n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

(o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

(p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.

(q) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal Injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or the knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

(r) Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-a-likes shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use.

Parents of students found to possess weapons or dangerous objects or look-a-likes on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921 to school or knowingly possessing firearms at school may be expelled for a period of not less than one year. Students bringing to school or possessing dangerous weapons, including firearms, will be referred to law enforcement authorities. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons or dangerous objects under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. Firearms kept in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle or that are contained within a private vehicle operated by a nonstudent adult that are not loaded are also exempt. Firearms also may be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects or look-a-likes for educational purposes and must be kept in a designated location during the school day. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy.

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession and/or supervision of an adult staff member at all times
d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

B. Consequence Guidelines

Infraction	**Definition**	**Minimum**	**Maximum**	**Possible Action**
Pushing and Shoving	(non-injurious)	Admin. Conf.	Sat. School	
Fighting	Mutual attempt to physically harm another person through mutual physical contact (potential for continued fighting can be considered in consequences administered)			
1st offense		Sat. School	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Additional offenses		Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Physical Assault	(Injury)Initiation of a violent act against another person through aggressive physical contact.	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	(Non -Injury) committing actions that place another person in reasonable harms way	Admin. Conf.	Short Term	
Physical Injury to Employees, Volunteers,	Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to an employee, a school volunteer, or any student	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Use of Threat (verbal & written)				
Level One Threat	Using a threat as a common expression or in a context the recipient does not feel threatened, frightened, or coerced (e.g., “I could just kill you for that.”).	Admin. Conf	Short Term	
Level Two Threat	Using an expression or an implied or veiled threat with the intent of threatening, frightening, or coercing another and the recipient feels threatened, frightened, or coerced (“I will kill you.”)	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Level Three Threat	Threatening to kill or injure another person or threatening to damage property with potential for injury	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Repeated Threats	Threatening another student or staff member more than one time	Admin. Conf	Expulsion	
Threatening with an Object	Threatening with an object which can be used as a weapon (Must resemble a real weapon)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Bomb Threat	Threatening to use any type of explosive device to injure a person(s) or destroy property	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Firearms	Knowingly possessing, handling, transmitting, using, intimidating with or threatening with any firearm, explosive, destructive device (any weapon that will expel a projectile by the action of explosion)	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Other Guns	Using, intimidating with, threatening with or possessing on one’s person, handling or transmitting any paint ball gun, soft air gun, bb gun, or pellet gun	Long Term	1 yr. Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Other guns in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities

Other weapons in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Other Weapons	Possessing, using, or threatening with any weapon that might be used to injure a person (brass knuckles, knives, throwing stars, etc.)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Possession of prohibited objects	Knowingly possessing, handling or transmitting non-violent, disruptive objects	Saturday School	Long Term	
Extortion	Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or intent of obtaining money or anything of value	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual assault or attempted sexual assault	Any sexual assault or attempt to sexually assault any person (on and off school grounds) as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat.	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Sexual contact	Intentional touching of another person's sexual or intimate parts or the clothing above those parts without consent	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual Engagement	All consensual physical sexual activity	Short Term Suspension	Long Term Suspension	
Sexual Harassment	Unwanted activity of a sexual nature which interferes with the educational process (touching, pinching, patting, verbal, sexual name calling, pressure to engage in sexual activity, propositions, messages, notes and unwanted body contact)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Harassment	Intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words symbolic representations or behavior that is disruptive to the educational process in the form of (verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name calling, taunting, mocking, slander, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering, derogatory remarks, jokes, or drawings) Harassment prohibited by the school district includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed,	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

	color, national origin, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, or disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status			
Bullying	Intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, electronic, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, oppressing, or controlling another student. Includes an imbalance of power and is ongoing.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Hazing	When a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation or continued membership of a group. Consent by the student being hazed shall not be a defense to hazing	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	
Possession of tobacco or tobacco products	Including look alike ~~and~~ e-cigarettes, CBD Oil, and inhalants	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Distribution of tobacco or tobacco products	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person of tobacco or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, CBD Oil, and inhalants)	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Possession of alcohol or other drugs	Possession or use of illegal drugs or look-a- like drugs, or possession of a prescribed medication by a student for whom the medication was not prescribed; or possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Possession or use of alcohol	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
2nd Offense		Long Term Suspension	Expulsion	Suspension Reduction
Distribution of Alcohol or Drugs	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person, of illegal narcotic drug, controlled substance,	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	look-a-like substance, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol			
Possession, Use or Transportation of Medication	Possession of prescribed medications is prohibited. Students may possess non-prescribed medications, but may not possess prescribed meds except in transport to and from school. All prescribed medication must be turned in to the nurse. (students may possess inhalers and glucose tablets tablet in original containers	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
Distribution of Prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Distribution of non-prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Administrative Conference	Short Term Suspension	
Exposure to Bodily Fluids	Intentionally spitting, throwing, wimping, or dispersing bodily fluids on or to another student or staff member	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	
Profanity and Obscenity	Written or oral language that is reasonably offensive and disruptive	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Disparaging Language or Symbolism	Disparaging or demeaning language or symbolic actions (including writing)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Damage to Property	Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Theft/Larceny	Stealing or attempting to steal	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Arson or False Fire Alarm	Intentionally starting a fire or pulling the fire alarm (excluding approved spirit/activities)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if believed to be criminal
Inappropriate use of Technology	Use of any electronic device or program that disrupts the educational environment See School Board Policy 606.06	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Truancy	Unauthorized absence from school	Administrative Conference	Reassignment	
Dishonesty	Being dishonest in a way that interferes with the educational process.	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Academic Dishonesty	Cheating on examinations or plagiarism	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	

Insubordination	Refusal to cooperate and comply with staff instructions.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Disruptive Behavior	Behavior or possession of a material that disrupts the educational environment	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Nuisance Item	Any item that interferes with the educational process	Detention	Short Term	
Repeated Violations	Repeated violations of the code of conduct	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

C. Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of student discipline for violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act to the Bennington Police Department.

D. Sanctions

1) **Short-term Suspensions -** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator investigated the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2) **Emergency Exclusions -** Any student may be excluded from school under the following circumstances:
   a) If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
   b) If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.
   c) Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.
   d) If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

E. Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, State Statute 79-4, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

F. Procedures to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the superintendent. The school shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

    (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
    (b) The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
    (c) A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;
    (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

(e) A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and

(f) A form on which the student, student's parents, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and

(g) Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student, the student's parents or guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to. (See Section of State Statutes 79-254 to 79-291, R.R.S., et seq.)

G. Other Disciplinary Action

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary action regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but is not limited to, counseling, parent/guardian conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

H. Saturday School:

1. Saturday School assignments will consist of three hours. The students will serve from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The doors to the school will open at 7:15 a.m. and be closed at 7:45 a.m. Students will be given a ten-minute break at 9:00 a.m.

2. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:
    a. Students must be on time and prepared to work at 7:30 a.m.
    b. Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
    c. Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School Supervisors instructions.

d. Any activity the supervisor sees as unacceptable such as (sleeping, have gum/candy, arguing, or bring nuisance devices) will result in dismissal from Saturday School and will result in a suspension.
e. A parent/guardian must notify the principal, if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 7:30 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.
f. Parents/guardians will be notified by phone or email of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive written notice from the Principal or designee on the Thursday or Friday prior to any Saturday School assignment.

3. Students who have inappropriate behavior during Saturday School will earn the following consequences:
    a. Students who show up late to or skip a Saturday School will be assigned a one day suspension the following week. Parents will be notified by the administration of the suspension Monday morning.
    b. Students who skip a second time will be suspended for three days the following week. Parents/guardians must also meet with the building administrator.

I. Discipline Procedures

1. In the case of activity rules a student or their parents/guardians can appeal the Activity Director's decision to the building principal. The Activity Director will present all information regarding their decision to the principal. After the school's case has been presented the parents/guardians and student will be given the opportunity to present reasons for appealing the Activity Director's decision. After both sides have been presented the principal will to render a decision. If a hearing is required, the parents/guardians and student will be notified of their right for a hearing.

XVII. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A. Extra-Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the extra-curricular activities offered by Bennington Middle School. A student has the opportunity to display leadership talents and gain valuable experiences by taking part in the activity program. Rule 10 by the State of Nebraska states that interscholastic sports at the middle school level are for 7th and 8th grade students only. The activities available are:

Student Senate (members are elected)
Volleyball
Football
Girls and Boys Basketball
Wrestling
Girls' and Boys' Track & Field
Girls' and Boys' Cross Country
Band and Special Music groups
Engineering Club
Math Club
Art Club
Yearbook
Cooking Club
Service Club

Game Club
Fitness Club
Reading Club
Writing Club
Robotics
Ukulele Club
Jazz Band
Diversity Club

All students participating in these activities must follow the Activity Rules for Bennington Middle School.

B. Activity Rules for Bennington Middle School

Understanding the activity rule is vital to your participation in school activities. Both parents/guardians and students need to understand that honesty and cooperation with school officials concerning this policy are of vital importance. Parents/guardians and athletes please take time to read and discuss all items in the Activity Rules.

PHILOSOPHY: The Bennington Middle School activity program is an important part of the total school program. Those students who participate in this program reflect the image of the school and the community of Bennington.

This philosophy is firmly based on the belief that there is more to the activity program than playing the game or participating. During the season, participants must maintain a high standard of conduct, which will enable them to function and perform to the best of their abilities. Therefore, the sponsors and the administration of Bennington Middle School will not tolerate the use of, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs by student athletes and all other activity participants.

The philosophy of the Bennington Middle School activity program is also based on the belief that student participants are representatives of Bennington Middle School and the community of Bennington for as long as they participate in the activity program. As such, their actions, both on and off the playing field, must be above reproach. Participant-related incidents, as well as the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, are considered improper behavior for student participants and are subject to penalties.

This philosophy recognizes the fact that there must be close cooperation between the sponsors, the participants, and the parents/guardians if the activity rules are to be successful and effective. The activity rules are for the benefit of all the students involved in activities. The school and the parents/guardians must share the responsibility of making sure that the rules are followed. If the school and parents/guardians work together to enforce these rules, it will ensure a smooth-running activity program and eliminate any problems that may occur.

<u>All Activity Rules violations will be referred to the Activities Director</u>.

1. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVITIES: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if
    a. He/she has below a 70% average in two classes
    b. Each student must meet eligibility requirements by mid hexter and end of the hexter (report card). Grade checks will be done, and if the student is failing two or more courses, they will have seven calendar days to regain eligibility (students will still be eligible for all contests and practices during this seven day grace period). At the end of seven days and each subsequent Monday, reports will be run, and any student still failing two or more courses will be ineligible for all competition that week.

c. Eligibility is considered only for interscholastic activities, which are not requirements for a particular class.
d. Students will be required to attend before and after school practices unless the head coach or sponsor excuses them. Students who have medically verified illnesses will be provided time to make up work.

2. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS: There shall be no tolerance for drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or the use of illegal drugs. Student participants shall not remain in an area where alcoholic beverages are being used unless accompanied by their parents/guardians. Business establishments that also provide food and recreational activities are excluded.

    a. Penalty –FIRST OFFENSE–OPTION A: If a student self-reports a violation within 72 hours of the violation they will sit out one contest. OPTION B: Student participants will be suspended for 25% of the current season's competition. This will not exceed 4 games or two weeks in the activity in which they are participating or the next activity they will be involved in.

    b. Penalty –SECOND OFFENSE--Student will be suspended from all inter-scholastic activities for the remainder of the current school year.

    c. Before action can be taken, student must freely admit to a violation or be observed violating the training rules by a member of a school faculty, administrative staff, a law enforcement officer, or an adult willing to come into school and make a formal statement.

    d. A minor in possession conviction shall be regarded as a violation of Rule 2.

    e. The options above will apply to drinking, selling, or possessing alcohol or using, selling, or possessing other illegal substances while school is not in session during summer vacation (training rules are observed year round). The beginning of the athletic calendar year will start the first day, after the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. last day of school is May 22nd, then the first day of the new athletic calendar year would be May 23rd, or the conclusion of a spring sport that extends past the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. golf and track)

    f. The Activities Director's decision may be appealed to the Discipline Committee by the student or the student's parents/guardians.

3. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if

    a. A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a misdemeanor (could exclude traffic tickets) during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials or school personal, may result in a one week suspension from all games, practices, and activities. A second offense during the school year will result in suspensions from all activities for the remainder of the year.
    b. A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a felony during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials, may result in immediate suspension from all games, performances, events, practices, and activities until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Bennington Middle School administrative team.

4. PRACTICE SESSIONS: No participants shall miss a practice without first being excused by one of the coaching staff or sponsor of activity. If participants are not in school or are suddenly taken ill, they will bring their excuses when they return to school. If there is a conflict with another school activity, they must clear it with the sponsor before they miss the practice.

5. SUSPENSIONS: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR PRACTICE ON DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. Students will be allowed to practice or compete after school on the final day of suspension.

6. CONCUSSIONS – RETURN TO PLAY

    (a) **No Physical Activity**: this period of time should be a minimum of 24 hours rest.
    (b) **Light Aerobic Exercise**: Walking, swimming or stationary biking at less than 70% of the maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.
    (c) **Sport Specific Exercise:** NO head impact activities. Exercises are designed to the movements required for the specific sport and are done close to full speed.
    (d) **Non-contact Training:** Begin to incorporate resistance training and coordination (catching, rebounding, spiking, etc…) exercises. Begin preparing the athlete for return to full contact activities.
    (e) **Full-contact Practice:** Participate in normal training activities as directed by the coaching staff while being observed by the medical staff.
    (f) **Return to Play**: Cleared for normal game play.

    (1) Has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional and has received a written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from that professional;
    (2) Has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student, parent or guardian.

    ** Failure to successfully complete any one step returns the athlete to step #1 on the progression. Every athlete is different and every concussion is different. Recommendations for athletes are that the return to play progression is done on a daily basis that results in a week-long progression to return to the sport activity.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS

Training to recognize the symptoms of concussions and brain injuries and their proper medical treatment shall be made available to coaches of the district's athletic teams.

The district will provide information on concussions and brain injuries to athletes and their parents or guardians prior to the beginning of practice or competition including at least:

1. The signs and symptoms of concussions;
2. The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
3. The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion including the notification of coaches.

A student participating on a school athletic team shall be removed from a practice or game when reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in that activity after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the

school. Any parent or guardian who suspects a student has sustained a concussion is expected to immediately notify district coaches or administrators of the injury. Students who suspect they have sustained a concussion shall immediately make such notification.

The injured student shall not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices or games, until the student;

1. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
2. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional;
3. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity as required above, the parent or guardian of the student shall be notified by the school of the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student, the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and any actions taken to treat the student.

The district shall establish a return to learn protocol for students that have sustained a concussion. The return to learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

(a) **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.

(b) **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.

(c) **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.

(d) **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.

(e) **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.

(f) **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

7. GENERAL CONDUCT: Good sportsmanship shall be observed during practice sessions and contests. Activity participants are expected to be positive and respectful at all times. Being arrested for or charged with a misdemeanor or felony may result in a restriction of activity participation.

7. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL ON DAY OF CONTEST: Student athletes must attend school five class periods the day of a contest. Doctor's appointments, educational activities or funerals are exceptions. The Principal approves all exceptions. To receive credit in activities, students must take part in all public appearances of that activity unless excused by the sponsor.

8. EQUIPMENT: All equipment from one sport must be returned before the athlete can check out equipment for another sport.

9. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants are advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches/ sponsors will provide the students with training rules and practice procedures.

10. TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS: The training rules that are listed above have been kept to a minimum. We, at Bennington Middle School, realize that it is impossible to cover every situation that might develop in the future. Each case not covered in the activity policy will be decided on its own merit. We sincerely request your cooperation in this matter. Good sportsmanship begins with adults. We thank you in advance for modeling positive and respectful behavior as a Bennington spectator and fan throughout the school year.

Each organization's constitution or bylaws must include eligibility criteria at least as rigorous as that spelled out in this handbook. Foreign exchange students and option students must meet the same criteria for eligibility as resident students. Part-time students are not eligible for extra-curricular activities.

D. **Activity Passes**

All Bennington students (grades 6-8) are encouraged to purchase an Activity Pass. Student Activity ticket prices will be $35.00 for all students in grades K-12. Adult activity passes will be $70, and $160 for family activity passes (K-12 Bennington students and their legal parents and/or guardians.) These prices are for both middle school and senior high students. Students must have their activity pass to be admitted without being charged an entrance fee. Students who leave the activity before its conclusion will not be allowed back into the activity.

E. **Dance Policies**

1. Dances can be scheduled for grades 6-8. 9 -12 students will not be allowed to attend 6-8 grade dances and 6-8 students will not be allowed to attend 9 – 12 dances.

2. Students planning to attend any dance will be required to wear APPROPRIATE clothing for the particular event. Dances are for Bennington Middle School students only.

3. Should any Bennington student, however, attempt to bring any non-resident student to a dance who is not his/her date, the Bennington student will be indefinitely suspended from all further dances until the policy breach is resolved. Faculty dance sponsors shall decide the authenticity of a date.

4. Depending on sport events and other circumstances different dances will have different starting times. No dance shall extend later than 9pm. Students leaving a dance must sign-out and will not be permitted to return.

5. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other prohibited substance, or any damage to school property are subject to the same policies during dances as those that apply to the school day and activities.

F. **Music**

The Instrumental and Vocal Music programs offer a wide variety of musical activities. Band and Chorus is offered at the Middle School with some extra-curricular activity involved. Middle School general music is required for sixth and seventh graders. All other music classes are electives. Grades are given for each class. Private and small group instruction is also offered to students at no cost.

G. **Activities Transportation**

All teams attending a contest of any kind shall be accompanied by their sponsor, coach, or other faculty member designated to supervise. Athletic trips are made by school vehicle if at all possible. Therefore, all team members must travel with the team. Parents/guardians may transport only their student home from a contest or performance with clearance from the head coach, sponsor, or Principal.

H. **Sportsmanship and School Spirit**

1. The students of the Bennington Schools are consistently judged by the general public for moral and ethical conduct during school activities and for the control of their personal lives. Such judgments also reflect on the training received in the school, home, church, and community. Indeed, we want the public to praise and commend our students for their loyal support of school in all activities, but we also want the same public to be able to admire and extol them when victory is in the shadows of defeat. While no one admires a loss, the manner of its acceptance will create an image of respect, honor, and dignity for all Bennington students.

1. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his school and does his utmost to keep his activity standards at the highest possible level. School spirit will mean cheering for our team, not against our opposition. To these goals, all Badgers should be dedicated.

I. **Athletics**

1. All athletics will be centered in one department under the Director of Activities. It shall be the duty of the director to coordinate all athletics under one program to facilitate unity and cooperation.

2. All boys and girls out for inter-scholastic athletics are required to have a physical examination by a doctor (Article 1-a, Section 9, of the N.S.A.A. rules). Any boy or girl out for athletics must also have his/her parents'/guardians' consent and physical examination before he/she is issued any equipment or permitted to engage in the activity. This consent must be written on the official NSAA form that also includes the insurance information.

J. **District and State Contests**

1. Only team members or individuals qualifying for district and state contests will be under the direct supervision of the school district.

2. Students wishing to attend district or state contests must have permission from a parent or guardian to leave school. Students that wish to participate in an extra-curricular activity that afternoon or evening (practice, concert, game, etc.) must attend a minimum of five class periods during the day.

K. **Middle School Activities Philosophy**

1. Middle School activities place an emphasis on involvement and fundamentals. Athletes involved with teams at Bennington Middle School will have the opportunity to improve their knowledge and individual skills for their sport(s). Various skill levels are present at the junior high level and the programs in place at Bennington Middle School strive to provide a quality experience for each individual athlete regardless of their experience, knowledge or performance level.
2. Extra-curricular programs are created for Middle School students to get them involved outside of the school day. Research indicates that participation in activities contributes to a student's success in his/her future years. Participating in activities and on athletic teams develops self-discipline, cooperation, commitment, accountability and leadership skills. In addition, extra-curricular activities expose students to a competitive environment where they are challenged to exceed expectations placed upon them as a member of Bennington Middle School.

L. **Mounts and Pyramids**

No mounts or pyramids will be allowed during any school-sponsored activity, practice, or contest as dictated by the NSAA guidelines. This rule applies to both students and spectators.

XVIII. STUDENT GOVERNMENT

B. **Student Senate**

The students of Bennington Middle School execute their democratic responsibilities as citizens through Student Government. While the purpose of this organization may vary, the members develop leadership, positive attitudes, and practice the responsibilities of good citizenship. The Student Senate aims to promote good school spirit, assist in school functions, provide a forum of students' expression, build school morale, and promote student involvement. The Student Senate members will complete an application process. They will represent the class at the Student Senate meetings.

XIX. ADDENDUM

Parental/Community Involvement In Schools

It is the policy of this school district to foster and facilitate parental/guardians and community information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

A. Reasonable attempts by the district staff will be made to involve parents/guardians and community through frequent open communications, volunteer programs, progress reporting, and through the support of activities, which encourage involvement.

B. Parents/guardians and other interested citizens are welcome to visit the schools and/or confer with principals and teachers concerning the school's programs by setting up an appointment prior to their visit. (Children should not be visitors without adults.) Persons seeking to disrupt the educational environment shall face those penalties established by the law, board policies, and administrative rules.

C. Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be, available for review at school upon request.

D. Parents/guardians wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities are welcome. Prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, is requested.

E. Testing shall occur in this school district as determined appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement. Results of such testing are made available to parents/guardians.

F. The school district will excuse students from testing, surveys, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon written parental/guardian request, only under circumstances required by law. The proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent/guardian request shall approve a plan for an acceptable alternative.

G. Parents/guardians and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g., Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232 or Section 79-2,104, R.R.S., et seq.).

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Bennington Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Director of Student Services, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (wfagan@bennps.org).

Employees and Others: Dr. Terry L. Haack, Superintendent, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington Public School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The following procedures are established in order to assist in the fair resolution of student grievances. A grievance hereunder is a claim by a student that a violation of civil rights legislation has occurred (includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975). It is the policy of the Bennington Public Schools that a student may not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, marital status, age, or handicap in admission to school; access to enrollment in courses, access to and use of school facilities; counseling and guidance materials, tests and practices; vocational education; physical education; competitive athletics; graduation requirements; treatment as a married and/or pregnant student; and student rules and regulations. Whenever a grievance occurs, the following procedure will be followed and every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible.

Additional information concerning the Bennington Public School's policy of nondiscrimination can be obtained from Dr. Matt Blomenkamp, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington NE 68007, (402) 238-3044.

EXPLANATION - This grievance procedure is not intended to limit the option of the district and a grievant to resolve any grievance mutually and informally. Hearings and conferences under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place that will afford a fair and equitable opportunity for all persons involved.

The grievance procedure is not required if the grievant prefers other alternatives such as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or the courts. Due process shall exist throughout the procedure with the right to: 1) representation; 2) present witnesses and evidence; 3) confidentiality; 4) review relevant records; and 5) proceed without harassment and/or retaliation.

A grievance may be filed by an individual grievant or by a parent/guardian on behalf of a student grievant except that no grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance.

Days in this procedure shall refer to days when school is in session. During summer vacation days shall refer to Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

The inclusion of time limits in this procedure is for the purpose of insuring prompt action. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time period specified, unless there is a mutually agreed extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

PROCEDURES

Level One - A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level Two - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days of the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a

detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the grievance is based and an explanation of how such facts results in civil rights discrimination. The principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level Three - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the parties involved. A complete record of this meeting shall be kept and signed by both parties for possible future reference. The Superintendent will respond to the written grievance within five (5) days of the receipt of the written grievance.

Level Four **-** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the School Board within five (5) days of the receipt of the written response from the Superintendent. The School Board shall consider the grievance at the next regular meeting and issue a written response within five (5) days of the meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves approximately 100 students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities. School age special education students are served in the least restrictive environment. For further information contact Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Service Coordinator at the Bennington Schools Central Office (402-238-3044).

PERMITTED PRESENCE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presences of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2019-2020 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Middle School Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary.
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - $5 (if lost)
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles.
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary.
School Meals		Breakfast - $1.75 Adult Breakfast - $2.50 Lunch - $2.90 Adult Lunch - $4.05 Milk - $0.50

		Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year lost or damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to $25.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined books are charged the replacement cost up to $100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Yearbook - optional	School Book	Not to exceed $60 per book.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
1 to 1 Technology	Damage or replacement costs	Costs will vary between $5 and $20 with cooperative loss program, and between $40 and $100 without cooperative loss program. Total replacement will be $200.
Extracurricular and other programs	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for $35 per year. District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA.
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary

All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables, Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary according to instrument
Vocal Music	Shoes and performance outfits	Costs will vary
Student Senate	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Clubs	Clubs are considered extra-curricular and may require supplies, clothing or fees for special events	Cost will vary according to activity
Social & Recognition Activities		
School dances	School/Grade Level	Not to exceed $15 per dance
Speech/Drama	Admission to events	Not to exceed $15 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips; School Sponsored and Non-School Sponsored	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students. Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be $2,000 per student.

		If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

XX. ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET 606.06

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of the Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, including electronic mail ("e-mail') and the Internet. To gain access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the internet, all staff must sign and return the "Staff Agreement' form to the central office. Likewise, to gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents must sign a "Parents Agreement", which will be kept on file.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable staff and students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards, while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents should be warned that some material accessible by the internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media arid information resources. To that end, the Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

A. E-Mail and Internet Rules:

1. General Rules

(a) The e-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff arid students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental permission is required for student use. Access to e-mail and the Internet is a privilege, not a right.

(b) Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

(c) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise retained

(d) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

(e) The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

2. Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

(a) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

(b) Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members.)

(c) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

(d) Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

(e) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

(f) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

(g) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the

performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

(h) Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

(i) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

3. Penalties for Violation of Rules

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the networks so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

4. Use of Computer Access to Telecommunications Resources is a Privilege and Not a Right.

Violations of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

B. Staff, Student and Parent Agreements.

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff Agreement, Students Agreement and Parents Agreement, in the forms attached hereto as Appendix "1". Appendix "2", and Appendix "3" respectively, are incorporated herein by this reference. They are also available through the online Nebsis family accounts. Signatures are completed electronically.

Handbook Addendum - Bennington Public Schools 1:1 Initiative

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Introduction

Bennington Public Schools is proud to offer our students in grades 6-12 Chromebooks for use at school and at home. The 1:1 Learning Initiative, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all students in these grades, has been designed to provide students with the skills and tools they need in school and for lifelong learning and success.

Computer Specifications

All students are issued one Chromebook, one Chromebook power supply, and one protective laptop case. The laptop and the power adapter have been assigned serial numbers and asset tags by the District.
Please note that these devices require a Wi-Fi connection in order to be able to access the Internet. Chromebooks have limited offline functionality, but the full power of the device will be realized with an Internet connection.

Laptop Take-home Privileges

While all students will be issued a laptop for use at school, it will be up to individual families to decide whether or not they would like their students to bring their laptops home at the end of the school day. Before take-home privileges will be granted, parents/guardians and students must attend an orientation. At this orientation, parents/guardians may pay the cooperative loss fee and sign all the necessary agreements. Parents/guardians who do not attend the orientation will be required to receive a certificate of completion of a district-assigned 30-minute e-learning module before take-home privileges will be assigned.
The laptop, power supply, and case will all be collected at the end of the academic year or upon termination of the student's enrollment for maintenance, cleaning, and repair.
Any laptops not returned when requested will be reported to local law enforcement as stolen property.

Fees and Cooperative Loss Agreement

Families who would like to have take-home privileges for their students' Chromebooks may pay an annual, non-refundable fee of $20. This fee provides for an 80% discount on up to four (4) repairs that must be conducted on the student's Chromebook during the school year.

After four (4) repairs in one school year, families will be responsible for 100% of the repair cost. Families who choose not to participate in the cooperative loss program will be responsible for the full cost of the repair each time.

With or without the cooperative loss agreement, damage that results in a complete loss of the Chromebook will result in a damage bill for the full replacement cost of the device.

The following table lists the costs for each event. Note that parts availability and pricing is subject to change. The information provided is accurate as of the most recent edition of this handbook.

Damage Type	With Cooperative Loss	Without Cooperative Loss
Broken Screen	$12	$60
Broken Bottom Cover	$15	$75
Broken Top Cover	$15	$75
Lost/broken Power Supply	$8	$40
Keyboard Replacement	$15	$75
Bezel	$7	$35
Total Loss	$200	$200

Repairs due to defects in workmanship or warranty service will be facilitated by the Technology Department.

Laptop Use at School

General

Laptops are intended to be used at school every day. Students are responsible for bringing their laptops to every class unless specifically advised by teachers not to bring them.

Laptops must be brought to school fully charged every day. Only use the provided charger to charge your laptop.

Students must comply with individual classroom teachers' rules.

No laptops will be allowed in the locker rooms at any time.

Laptops will not be permitted at the tables during lunch.

Laptop Software, Apps, and Settings

The presence of inappropriate material including (but not limited to) guns and weapons-related content, pornographic content, alcohol-, drug-, or gang-related symbols or pictures, or any other material deemed unacceptable by the school administration on the laptop or in the student's online storage will result in disciplinary action (see Computer Violations) and, where appropriate, referral to law enforcement.

Sound

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. All students are advised to acquire headphones or earbuds. All Chromebooks are equipped with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack similar to what is found in most portable devices and cell phones.

Printing

Students will not be granted access to printers with their Chromebooks. They are able to print from release stations located in the school libraries.

Lunch

Students will not be permitted to use their Chromebooks during lunch.

Extracurricular Activities

Students will be allowed to take their laptops to extracurricular events at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

If students bring their Chromebooks to an event, students and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any loss, damage, or theft that may occur during the event.

Laptop Care

General

No food or drink is allowed next to your laptop.
Students may not carry the laptop with the screen open.
Under no circumstances should laptops or other technology be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include, but are not limited to: the school grounds and campus, common areas, unlocked classrooms or lockers, bathrooms, busses, cars, and hallways. Any computers left in these areas are in danger of being lost or stolen.
Students are not permitted to write, draw, or place stickers or labels on the laptop.
The laptop must be transported to and from school in the district-provided case or in a student-purchased bag or case approved by the district.
Students may install covers or cases on their laptops as long as the cases are removable and do not cause physical damage to the Chromebook.
Students should not under any circumstances repair, alter, or make changes to their laptops. When students encounter a problem, they or a teacher should contact the Technology Help Desk.
Loaner laptops will be made available for students whose laptops are awaiting repair by the Technology Department. Students will be expected to return the loaner laptop by the end of the school day.
Student laptops will be labeled in the manner specified by the school district. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels and markings.

Display Care

The laptop display can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The display is particularly vulnerable to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not lean on the lid of your Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not place anything in the laptop bag that will press against the case.
- Do not poke the screen.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pencils, pens, fingers, or headphones).
- Do not place your Chromebook in your backpack unless it is in a separate padded slot designed for laptops.

Misbehaviors and Consequences

Computer Violations

Bennington Public Schools has a zero tolerance policy on computer violations. Students who are not responsible users of technology will receive the following consequences:

- First Offense – Minimum: Admin Conference, Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Second Offense – Minimum: Detention(s), Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Third Offense – Minimum: Required attendance at Saturday Digital Citizenship class, take-home privileges revoked until the class is attended and passed, Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Fourth Offense – Determined by Administration

Forgotten or Uncharged Laptops

Teachers will expect that students come to school ready to learn and with their laptops in appropriate working order (charged, undamaged, and fully functioning). Students who forget to bring or charge their laptops will receive consequences at the teacher's discretion.

Unsupervised laptops will be confiscated by the staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action will be taken for leaving a laptop unattended.

IT Controls

The Technology Department has the right at any time to access student computers and school issued accounts, add or remove software, change settings, and/or remove local data on the Chromebook. It is up to students to make sure their data is safely stored.

Family Computing Tips

Computers are a resource tool. Bennington Public Schools strives to provide students with the skills and tools needed to support lifelong learning and success. While it is great to have your children learn to use the latest technology, spending too much time with video games and surfing the web can be unproductive. Due to federal regulations, Bennington Public Schools will filter and document usage on District-owned equipment at all times. Measures have been put in place to limit student access to harmful or inappropriate material both on and off school grounds. **No technology measure is perfect or will serve as an adequate substitute for parent/guardian involvement, communication, and supervision.** It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to supervise, manage, and monitor their children while they are not at school.

Parents and guardians should communicate with their children and set computer limits. Here are some examples:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, phone number, parents' or guardians' work addresses/phone numbers, or the name and location of my school without parent or guardian permission.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. I will report mean or uncomfortable messages to a trusted adult or teacher.
- I will talk with my children so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.
- Limit the hours during the day that your child is on the computer.

One of the District's goals with this initiative is to provide equitable technology access to families. Family members of the student with a school-issued laptop are permitted to use the laptop to check the school website, child's grades, etc. The student's use for school work should take priority over other family use. All users of the student's Chromebook are required to follow the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook as well as the District's Acceptable Use of Computers and Internet Policy.

When students are off-campus, a Wi-Fi Internet connection should be made available to enable access to all learning materials made available through the District. It is possible to complete some tasks (composing documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations, using offline apps) without an Internet connection. The District can provide contacts in the community to help qualifying families subscribe to affordable Internet services.

BENNINGTON SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2022- 2023

The Mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

www.benningtonschools.org
Phone # 402-238-3079
Fax # 402-243-0712

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PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington South Middle School. It presents guidelines and directions which will help answer questions regarding school polices. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of Bennington South Middle School. These pages are devoted to the rules that govern Bennington South Middle School. However, it is impossible to list the unique circumstances covered by every rule. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. We encourage parents and guardians to visit the school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington South Middle School, and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we can provide the best educational experience possible for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please feel free to contact us.

SCHOOL COLORS -- *Royal Blue and White*

SCHOOL MASCOT -- *Badger*

SCHOOL MISSON STATEMENT – *The mission of Bennington Middle School is to promote learning experiences that challenge and empower students and faculty while developing the whole child and preparing them to be engaged citizens in a new and changing world.*

SCHOOL VISION -- *LEARN. GROW. LEAD*

SCHOOL PHONE – 402-238-3079
FAX – 402-243-0712

SCHOOL CONFERENCE – Eastern Midlands Conference

N.S.A.A. -- Class B

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.benningtonschools.org

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

A. The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Board duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

B. The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He/She is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He/She advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's sanction.

C. The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

II. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary school training (K-5), three years of Middle School training (6-8), and four years of high school (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the Nebraska State Department and the North Central Accreditation of Schools.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Middle School Principal, Assistant Principal/Activities Director, and Counselor's offices are located on your right as you enter the main entrance of the building.

Principal – Shawn Hoppes
Assistant Principal/Activities Director – Lucas Apfelbeck
School Resource Officer – Gary Baker

IV. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The primary concern of the counselor is to aid students who have questions concerning academic, personal, or social life. This is accomplished through private conferences and group discussion. The counselor discusses questions with students concerning future courses and possible vocations and careers.

The goal of the guidance program is to help students develop an understanding and acceptance of themselves so they may make intelligent vocational, educational and social choices. Students are assisted in formulating goals, which are unique to their personal talents, capacities, and interests. Guidance can help the students believe in themselves, to respect themselves and others, and to recognize that achievement can be a personally satisfying experience when goals are clarified. Counseling is the heart of the guidance service. It is defined as the process of an experienced and qualified individual helping a second person to understand oneself.

The following services are provided through the Counseling Office: self-evaluation, transitions to middle school and transitions to middle school programs, college and career readiness, studying vocational and career options, counseling students individually and in groups, administering individual and group tests, conferring with parents regarding student progress and concerns, making referrals to various agencies, scheduling classes and assisting with curriculum planning, and conducting follow-up studies with various groups.

6-8 Guidance Counselor – Jackie Muller and Amy Sather

STAFF		
Mr. Shawn Hoppes	Principal	shoppes@bennps.org
Mr. Lucas Apfelbeck	Assistant Principal/Activities Director	lapfelbeck@bennps.org
Mrs. Jackie Muller	6-8 Guidance Counselor	jmuller@bennps.org
Mrs. Amy Sather	6-8 Guidance Counselor	asather@bennps.org
Mrs. Janel Taylor	6-8 Academic/Behavior Interventionist	jtaylor@bennps.org
Mrs. Heather Cormier	School Nurse	hcormier@bennps.org
Mrs. Amy Cheek	Administrative and Activities Assistant	acheek@bennps.org
???	Attendance/Office and Health Room Assistant	
Mr. Gary Baker	School Resource Officer	gbaker@bennps.org

Ms. Angie Mitchell	Head Cook	amitchell@bennps.org
Mr. Rob Loptin	Head Maintenance	rloptin@bennps.org

6th Grade Teachers	6A	6B
Science	Mrs. Angie Lowe	Mr. Trent Stryker
Math	Mrs. Doni Coulter	Mr. Scott Heese
Reading	Mrs. Emily Dangel	Mrs. Cheri Nixon
English	Mr. Chris Showman	Mrs. Nixon and Mr. Stryker
Social Studies	Mr. Craig Nichols	Mr. Heese and Mr. Stryker
Resource	Ms. Mindy Andrus	

7th Grade Teachers	7A	7B
Science	Mr. Jeremy Bohaboj	Mrs. Marissa Hoff and Ms. Maddy Kraft
Math	Mr. Cole Gray	Ms. Kraft
Reading	Ms. Andrea Lurski	Ms. Hoff
English	Mrs. Christine Denker	Ms. Hoff and Mr. Scott Cerny
Social Studies	Mrs. Allie Palmer	Mr. Cerny
Resource	Ms. Sarah Serrano	

8th Grade Teachers	8A	8B
Science	Mr. Andy Scott	Mrs. Bri Dacy
Math	Mrs. Michelle Schafersman	Mrs. Dacy
Reading	Mrs. Halie Williams	Mrs. Danielle Adams
English	Mrs. Kelly Taylor	Mrs. Adams
Social Studies	Mrs. Williams and Mr. Scott	Mr. Krambeck
Resource	Ms. Allison Snurr	

EXPLORATORY	Teacher(s)
Art	Ms. Kim Stroberg
Band	Mr. Landon Barada
Chorus	Mrs. Tabetha Vogt
Computers	Mrs. Arielle Levine
General Music	Mrs. Angie Nabower
Health	Ms. Machaela Puck
Media Center	Mrs. Konni In den Bosch
P.E.	Ms. Victoria Schab and Mr. Blaze Glinski
Speech/Drama	Ms. Deidre Dewald
Tech and Living	Mrs. Jane Becker and Mr. Jacob Mattes
World Language	Mrs. Janel Taylor and Mrs. Brenda Rieck

IV. RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

A. It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the

parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the agency provides this verification, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental/guardian signature is necessary to release the student data.

B. Information

- School officials may have access to only records in which there is a legitimate educational interest, unless a parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if an official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

- When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the superintendent or designee.

- Students and parents/guardian of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

- Bennington Public Schools may provide address and telephone listings through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

- Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student intends to enroll. This is only if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

    - The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

    - A copy of the Bennington Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

VI. MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

Mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: The mandatory ages of attendance are age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not

mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a middle school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached 18 years of age; (4) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office). In addition to a signed notarized release form, the superintendent's designee (Principal) shall conduct an exit interview if the child is (a) enrolled in Bennington Middle school, or (b) resides in the school district and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to obtain maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center. The administration will follow Nebraska Statute 79-208 and 209 when dealing with attendance issues.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate the principal as the attendance officer. The principal will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status. The principal may assemble an attendance team that will facilitate implementation of the attendance plan and will be responsible for oversight of attendance strategies.

If any student has accumulated a total of, eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the school shall render all services to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
2. A meeting or meetings between a school attendance officer, school social worker a school administrator or designee, the person who has legal or actual control of the child, and the student (when appropriate) to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
    - Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child
    - Educational counseling
    - Educational evaluation
    - Referral to community agencies for economic services
    - Family or individual counseling
    - Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting or services offers as part of the attendance plan, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

<u>Notification:</u>

1. If a student has accumulated eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

2. If a student has accumulated fifteen (15) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

3. If a student is absent more than twenty (20) days in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. The District shall notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the student to the county attorney. The report shall state that the District has made the efforts required by this policy and that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful and the District recommends county attorney intervention. The report shall include all relevant information regarding the student's attendance and excessive absenteeism. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.

4. If a student has a history of being chronically absent from school, the District shall render any and all services in the District's power to compel the student to attend school at any time the attendance officer deems necessary. This may include filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides prior to twenty (20) days, or the hour equivalent, of absence in a school year.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

If a student is unexcused absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the County Attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical. This may be done by informing the County Attorney of either the number of absence due to such illnesses or that the attendance officer is of the opinion that prosecution is not warranted. This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.
2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.
3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.
4. A copy of the final certified letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.
5. A copy of the attendance requirement.
6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include past actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Attendance is coded at Bennington Public Schools as listed below.

E - Excused - family emergencies, events (examples could include a family wedding, funeral, or a family member being deployed with the military, or 50th wedding anniversary) - students can make up work for full credit

U - Unexcused - Parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit

MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit

MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit

T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day.

R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence.

SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity.

AE – Alternative Education – Student who is placed in a special program or facility for a short period of time. Usually, there is some education occurring at this program or facility. Use this attendance code only after consultation with the principal.

Below are a list of district procedures when recording excused and unexcused absences for all students.

1. Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused."
2. When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."
3. The school district will only recognize school sponsored activities as excused absences. Any club activity (volleyball, softball, basketball, hockey, etc.) where a students is absent will be coded as a "U" and considered unexcused.

VII. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

A. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be duplicated. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

B. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.

C. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, students must bring a note of parental/guardian request to the school office at least one day before the student leaves school for the appointment. Parent may also email the attendance secretary regarding the student's absence. In cases of emergency, the principal may waive this procedure. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the

student's study period or during different periods throughout the school day. All students must report to the office after they have been absent.

D. Each absence must be covered by a signed note or email from a parent or guardian, stating the date and reason for the absence.

E. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work. Students and parents/guardians should avoid scheduling vacations during the days of final examinations.

F. Any student missing more than ten (10) days per semester (this includes both excused and unexcused absences) will have his/her record reviewed by an Attendance Committee with the possibility of credit loss for that semester. Meaning a student may not miss the same period more than ten (10) times. Any student with five absences (excused or unexcused absences) during any quarter will also have his/her attendance record reviewed by a school administrator, parent/guardian, and student (if necessary) to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. Parents/guardians will also be notified by mail when a student reaches their eighth absences for a semester. Parents/guardians will be notified when the tenth absence occurs. They will have seven school days to meet with the Attendance Committee. They will have an opportunity to explain if the child's absences were due to: 1) Illness with doctor verification; or 2) Absences due to family emergency and/or special family/student need. If the parent/guardian cannot provide clear proof to substantiate items 1 and 2, students will lose credit for all classes missed ten (10) or more times. Failure to comply with this meeting will result in automatic loss of credit.

F. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring. If a student is tardy for his/her first period class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class and will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. Tardies for periods Homeroom-9th will be recorded by the classroom teacher.

Emergencies will periodically occur causing a student to be late to school. Consequently, a student may be tardy two times without disciplinary consequences. Further tardiness (for all class periods 1-8) will result in the following disciplinary action:

3 tardies – Administrative Conference
6 tardies – one detention
9 tardies – two detentions
12 tardies – Saturday school
15 tardies – two Saturday schools
18 tardies – one day suspension
19 or more tardies – parent meeting, Attendance/Behavior Contract initiated, and administrative assigned consequence

Each tardy is accumulated for periods Homeroom through 9th throughout semester. The principal will deal with excessive unexcused tardies on an individual basis. When a student arrives more than 15 minutes late to any class period, it will be considered an unexcused absence and the student will be required to serve a detention.

H. Students who skip classes are in violation of BMS conduct rules. A skip (truancy) is defined as any absence that the school and parents/guardians do not approve or an absence that

the principal will not accept as a reasonable absence: for example, oversleeping, hair appointments, shopping, and other absences when the school is not properly notified.

I. Students shall be present 5 of the 9 periods of the school day in order to participate in any school event, including practices, performances, or games. If the activity occurs before 5th period, the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

J. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities. Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant or parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and following unless administrators determine such participation poses a significant risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant or parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed health care provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification may be required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed health care provider. Pregnant or parenting students are here notified that they may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school.

Lactation:

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

VIII. MAKE-UP WORK

1. No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. Students can be required to take tests and quizzes as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence. School Board policy #503.03 states that “students absences approved shall make up work missed and receive full credit”. Ordinarily, students will be given one-day for each day absent to make-up work (five day or less). In the case of long-term absences (six days or more), the instructor and grade level administer will determine when make-up work is due based on the difficulty of content and length of absence.

2. When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work at the end of the day on the day they return to school.

3. If a student is going to be absent from school for an athletic event, field trip, or other school-sponsored activity, he/she is required to turn in all assignments requested by teachers prior to the absence, or in a manner acceptable by the teacher. If the student does not meet this requirement, the teacher will inform the sponsor of the event or the principal and the student will not be dismissed from school. Staff members can be informed of the students who will be absent in two ways: by activity sheets or by a list provided to staff members by the sponsor at least two days prior to the event. If the sponsor chooses to use activity sheets, the sponsor

will provide them to the student. This sheet is to be returned to the sponsor, who turns them into the office. Students are not counted absent on school-sponsored trips.

IX. THE SCHOOL DAY

A. Visiting Bennington Middle School

Visitors at Bennington Middle School: Visitors will be admitted into the school through the request entry system located at the main entrance of the building. Upon entering the building, all visitors must immediately report to the main office to sign in and show identification. All guests will be given a visitor's badge to wear during your time at BMS and will be escorted to and from your desired location. If you are here to pick up a student, the student will be called to the office to meet you. Upon completion of your visit, all visitors must check out in the main office and return the visitor badge. Additional questions concerning visitation can be directed to office staff or administration.
Meeting with a Staff Member: All visitors wishing to speak with a staff member must schedule an appointment prior to his/her visit.

1. Only visitors who have appointments will be allowed to visit classrooms.
2. Visits to classrooms, during the school day when students are present, will be granted through the principal by appointment only.

B. Interdisciplinary Teams

An interdisciplinary team is a group of teachers, usually from two to five persons who teach the core academic subjects, who share the same students, the same space, and the same schedule. Team teachers strive to integrate the academic program in which their common students are involved. Honoring a middle school philosophy, our Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades will each be divided into teams for the purpose of teaching social studies, math, science, English, and reading.
Teaming allows teachers to work together, integrate curriculum, focus on student strengths/challenges, and provide assistance. Networking among teachers, parents/guardians, counselors, administrators, and special education is facilitated through the regularly scheduled team meetings. Teaming also fosters students' sense of belonging and builds on our positive school climate. *We are proudly a student-centered school, following a middle school philosophy.*

C. Exploratory Program

The exploratory program consists of all courses not a part of the interdisciplinary core structure. It is important middle level students are exposed to a wide variety of educational experiences that will assist them in making important future educational decisions.
Exploratory courses are short term (usually 6 weeks or alternate day schedules), project-oriented, hands-on, and promote a high level of student engagement/success. The learning activities are often, but not always, completed within the class period.

D. Homeroom Advisor-Advisee Program

The Bennington Middle School advisor/advisee program is called Badger Time. This model is designed to meet the affective needs of the student and to promote positive peer relationships, a positive school climate, covers some of the Counseling Curriculum, and 21st Century Skills. All students are assigned to a Homeroom group. Homerooms meet from 8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. daily.

E. Assignment Notebook (Student Planners)

The student assignment notebook (Student Planner) is designed to provide the student with a simple method for recording daily assignments, long-term projects, quizzes and tests and for corridor passes to

pass to another area of the building. Regular use of the assignment notebook will help the student manage his/her time more efficiently and will aid his/her overall organization.

The purpose of the assignment notebook is to provide an opportunity for students, with the help of parents/guardians and teachers, to focus on specific goals aimed at improving their academic performance. The notebook will also enable parents/guardians to monitor and support the classroom assignments given by the teachers.
How to use the assignment notebook:

- Students record class work assignments every day.
- Students record all future dates for major tests and projects as soon as they are assigned.
- The assignment notebook may also be used as a daily progress report for parents/guardians by teachers and parents/guardians signing the daily entries.

F. Leaving and/or Returning to School During The Day

Any student leaving school during the day must submit a written parent/guardian permission slip or e-mail to the office prior to a parent/guardian request to pick up a student. Students will be given a pass to report to the office at the specified dismissal time.

Any student who is leaving during the school day must be signed out in the office by an adult listed in SIMS or as an emergency contact. If a parent/guardian requests that a non-listed adult sign out their student, the school must receive notice by the parent/guardian **prior** to the student signing out. **Anyone** signing a student out must show proof of identity to the office. Students must sign out in the office and wait in the office for their approved adult to arrive. If the student returns to school that same day, students must sign back in at the office and receive a pass back to class. Students who leave without proper permission will be considered truant. Failure to comply with this standard will be considered a major rule violation resulting in an administrative conference and potentially disciplinary action

G. Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are to report to the office. If the school nurse is present, he/she will help assess the situation. In his/her absence, the office staff will work with the student. Students will not be sent home until parents/guardians or emergency contacts have been notified.

H. School Lunch Program

Bennington Nutrition Services Meal Charges Procedures Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program. Payment Methods Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following: 1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com. 2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of the following methods: a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria. b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Please include individual's name and ID number with payment. Account Balances Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria. When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account. Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servings of meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only. Households may

apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will work with the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law. Communication of Meal Charges Procedures The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to: 1. All households at or before the start of each school year. 2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer. 3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

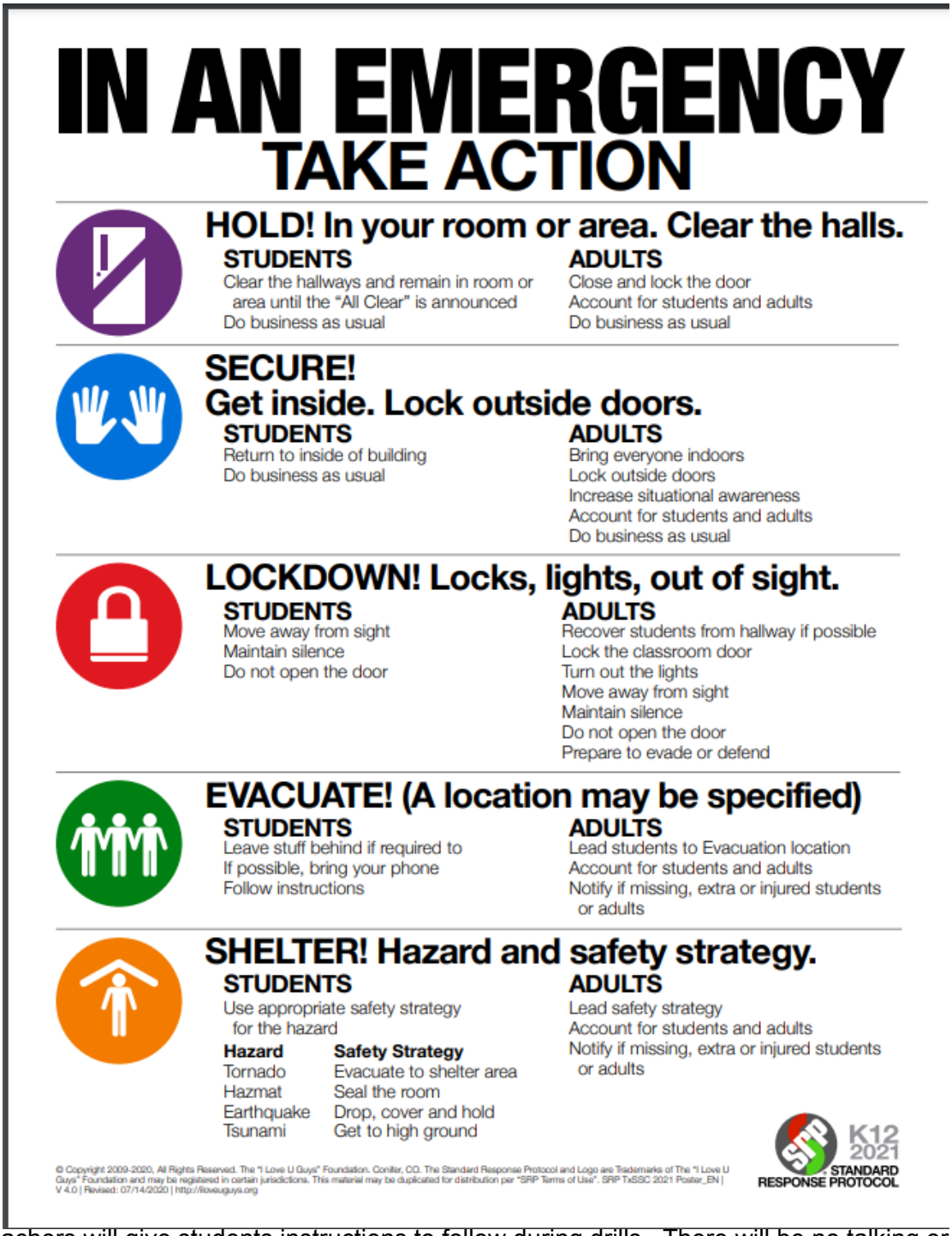
Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Students must remain on the campus during lunchtime. <u>Please note that the federal lunch program prohibits bringing in outside fast food items during the lunch period (McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, Runza, etc).</u> All students must report to the Commons area during their entire assigned lunch period (students may be excused with a prearranged pass from a teacher).

A. Fire Drill, Severe Weather Drills, and Safety Drills



IN AN EMERGENCY
TAKE ACTION

HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS
Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS
Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual

SECURE!
Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS
Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS
Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual

LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS
Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend

EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS
Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS
Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS
Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

ADULTS
Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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K12 2021 STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Teachers will give students instructions to follow during drills. There will be no talking or running during the drills. Everyone must leave the building when the fire alarm rings. In the event of a school-wide emergency, school officials will communicate with parents in every form possible. In the event of an off-campus evacuation, please do not immediately proceed to the school, a re-unification site will be established by the school or first responders and the location will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

B. School Closing

State law requires school to be in session a minimum of 175 days. Our calendar ranges from 175-177 days each year. In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. The School Messenger System will also provide school closing information to all patrons who have subscribed to the service. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If more days are used for inclement weather than the number scheduled, time will be made up Saturdays or at the end of the school year.

C. Daily Bulletin and Monthly Newsletter

School information will be read to students at the beginning of home room. A copy of the bulletin will be placed outside the office or emailed to staff each day. The daily bulletin will also be posted on the school website. Information for the bulletin should be given to the middle school secretary by 7:45 a.m. The monthly newsletter will be mailed out the first of each month. A copy of it will be posted on the school website.

D. Campus Hours

School hours are 8:00 A.M. to 3:10 P.M. Monday through Friday. The building is unlocked for student arrival at 7:40 A.M. Prior to that time, students must use the door buzzer entry system located at the main entry on the North side of the building to gain admittance.

The campus will close daily at 3:45 for all students not involved in a supervised activity such as athletics, clubs or individual work with a teacher. **All students not involved in an afterschool activity must be off campus by 3:45 P.M. Students' safety is our top priority and supervision cannot be guaranteed beyond organized activities after 3:45 P.M.** Counseling Team members and/or administrators will contact parents/guardians of students who habitually remain on campus/unsupervised.

E. Student Passes

If a student wishes to confer with a teacher or counselor during a guided study period, he/she should have that teacher issue a pass from their planner prior to the guided study period to present to the guided study teacher.

Students may be issued passes to leave a classroom or guided study for necessary reasons. Students in halls or restrooms during class time must have their signed planner with them. Students are limited to four passes per school day. Privileges will be taken away from students for not following appropriate pass procedures.

F. Passing Periods

Passing periods will be three minutes in length. This will allow ample time to get from one classroom to the next.

G. Class Period Schedule –

8TH GRADE		7TH GRADE		6TH GRADE	
BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10	BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10	BADGERTIME	8:00-8:10
PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 1	8:13-8:55 ACADEMIC (BAND AND CHORUS PLAN)
PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 2	8:58-9:40 GUIDED STUDY
PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 GUIDED STUDY	PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 3	9:43-10:25 ACADEMIC (Exploratory Personal Plan)
PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 GUIDED STUDY	PERIOD 4	10:28-11:10 EXPLORATORY (Core Team Plan)
PERIOD 5*	8th Lunch: 11:13-11:43 Class: 11:44-12:27	PERIOD 5*	7B Class 11:13-11:43 Lunch: 11:44-12:14 Class 12:15-12:28(43) 7A Class 11:13-11:57(44) Lunch: 11:58:-12:28	PERIOD 5	11:13- 11:37 STUDENT SUPPORT
PERIOD 6	12:30-12:54 STUDENT SUPPORT	PERIOD 6	12:30 - 12:54 STUDENT SUPPORT	PERIOD 6*	6B Class 11:40-12:12 Lunch: 12:13-12:43 Class: 12:44-12:55(43) 6A Class 11:40-12:24(43) Lunch 12:25-12:55
PERIOD 7	12:57-1:40 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 7	12:57 - 1:40 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 7	12:58-1:40 EXPLORATORY (Core Personal Plan)
PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 8	1:43-2:25 ACADEMIC
PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 EXPLORATORY	PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 ACADEMIC	PERIOD 9	2:28-3:10 ACADEMIC

H. Late Assignments

It is the responsibility of all students to turn in their assignments in a timely manner. Teachers may require students to stay after school for 30 minutes or come 30 minutes before school to make up late work. Teachers will notify parents/ guardians by phone or email. If a student does not report, parents will be notified by the principal or designee. Students who are chronically missing work may be required to stay after school regularly, Monday-Thursday. If this becomes necessary, parents will be informed by the principal. The goal of the school is to provide middle school students opportunities to turn in their late homework. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of each individual teacher and will be covered in their syllabi.

Students, who come to class without assignments adequately completed may be required to attend an after school detention that day or a detention the next day. The after school detention center will be open Monday – Thursday from 3:15pm to 3:45pm. The individual teacher will determine whether the assignment is "adequately completed." Failure to serve a detention will result in parental notification and additional consequences assigned by the grade level administrator. All students who are involved in extra-curricular activities must serve their detentions at the regularly scheduled time and they must report to their practices immediately after their detention is finished. Rescheduling requests will be considered by the principal on an individual basis. Students will be required to complete the school assigned activities; they may not use cell phones or other electronic devices unless it's needed to complete homework.

Q. Bus Service

The Bennington Public Schools provides free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools for resident students who live more than four miles from the school they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School.

Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the schoolhouse. They may use this service at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be paid by the month, by the semester, or annually. A $5.00 per-day per-student fee will be charged to occasional riders when and as determined appropriate by the Bennington Public Schools. Each of these situations will be handled on an individual basis depending on distance from the schoolhouse they attend and the established bus routes.

Transportation fees assessed by Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon request. If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts. Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in the school's best interests.

Parents/guardians must notify the school when a child is planning to ride a different bus or needs to be dropped off at a location different from his regular stop. If a student requests the change without parental/guardian notification, the driver will not allow the change to be made.

Parents/guardians and students should review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

- School transportation is a privilege.
- Students may be assigned seats on the bus.
- Students need to be ready and in place when the bus arrives. At the end of the school day busses will leave five minutes after middle school dismissal. All students riding the bus must report promptly after dismissal.
- Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus windows.
- Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus.
- Disruptions by students will not be tolerated. This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of the other students.
- Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic.
- Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.
- The back door is to be used only in case of emergency; <u>always</u> use the front door for entering and leaving the bus.

All bus behavior rules apply to activities and field trips as well as transportation to and from school.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

A. Hall & Locker Room Lockers

The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students will be provided a locker with attached lock. It is the responsibility of the student to properly lock their locker. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to share their locker combinations. Students are not to change lockers without permission. Only school locks can be used on all school lockers. Lockers will not have any decorations posted unless approved by the building administration.

B. Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions, and automobiles may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The principal or his designee may confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the middle school safe and free from illegal drugs, the middle school principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found, as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. Items of contraband may include, but are not limited to, nonprescription controlled substances, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, apparatus used for controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons, stolen property and dangerous objects as defined in Policy 504.11. Such items are not to be possessed by a student without specific permission of the building principal while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated transportation; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

C. Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

D. Public Displays of Affection/Aggression

Students are not allowed to display affection for each other at school. Such things as holding hands, embracing, and kissing are inappropriate behavior during school hours. Students are expected to conduct themselves with maturity.

Aggressive play or intimidating/bullying behavior is prohibited. Students who intimidate/bully or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of board policy #504.51.

E. Telephone

1. The school's phones are business phones and are not to be used by students during the school day unless they have received permission.

2. If messages are of an emergency nature, they will be delivered directly to the student in the classroom.

3. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used before 8am and after 3:10pm. Usage in classrooms is up to the discretion of each individual teacher. Students need to be aware of their teacher's expectations regarding these electronic devices. Failure to comply with appropriate electronic device etiquette may result in disciplinary action**. If a student is using a cell phone or electronic device in violation of school or classroom rules, the student will have the item confiscated and turned in to the administration.** Confiscated cell phones and other electronic devices may be picked up at the end of the day by students in the administration office unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law or school policy, or has been turned over to legal authorities. On the second offense, the student's parent/guardian may retrieve the device at the end of the school day in the administrative office. Failure to give the cell phone or other electronic device to a staff member upon request will be considered insubordination resulting in disciplinary action. Repeated infractions of the Bennington cellular phone or other electronic device guidelines will result in escalated consequences.

4. Any student caught using their cell phone to bully or harass another student will be subject to disciplinary action.

F. Possession of Nuisance Devices

Students are encouraged to bring only necessary materials to school in order to maintain a school environment where all students may reach their potential. Unnecessary items can be a distraction to the learning environment and create unnecessary opportunities for theft in which the school cannot be held responsible. Any item that is disruptive to the educational environment will be considered nuisance items and will not be allowed in classrooms, except at the discretion of an individual teacher. Students can expect to have these items confiscated by staff and administration; the items will be turned into the office.

G. Parking

Students are to park in designated student parking areas. There are no reserved parking areas for students. All parking is first come first serve. Parking in an unauthorized area may result in a fine, a car boot, or loss of parking privileges. Students are to use only the parking lot on the west side of the building. All parking/drop off traffic will take place on the main entrance side of the building which faces west. There is no parking in the drop-off loop. Students may not park in the teacher parking section during school hours. Students are not allowed to park in the loading dock area or teacher parking lot at any time. Students need to fill out a form in the office if they plan on driving to school.

- By parking on school grounds, students give consent to have their car searched by school officials when reasonable suspicion exists.
- All Vehicles must be street legal and only take up one parking stall in the lot. Farm equipment, ATVs, go karts, etc. will not be allowed.

H. Posters

Any student, group, or organization needs to have the approval of the sponsor and the principal before hanging any poster or sign. You must utilize the tack strips in the hallways to display posters, no taping up of posters, and those who put posters up must also remove them in a timely manner.

I. Food and Beverage

Students may have a water bottle with them during the day. No other beverages will be allowed during the school day. Students must adhere to individual teacher's procedures for beverages and food in the classroom. Teachers have the discretion in what is allowed in their classroom. Failure to comply with teacher procedures may result in teacher/administrator consequences.

J. Fund-Raising Activities

School organizations are regularly involved in revenue-producing projects to support planned activities. Since School District tax money cannot be used to finance these activities, each organization must decide which activities it wishes to conduct and is responsible for the costs involved. Each student involved in any of these projects must assume full responsibility for the products issued to him/her for selling. The student will be held accountable for returning the product or money or both to the office depending upon the sales. Each organization shall have the right to establish policies related to the projects. Refer to Board Policy 506.08 All fundraising must be approved by administration prior to any selling activity.

K. Lost and Found

The office maintains a small lost and found area. Any article left in the classroom or found in the building should be turned in to one of the secretaries. Articles may be claimed with proper identification. Appropriate safeguards should always prevail. Large amounts of money or valuables should not be brought to school. If brought to school by necessity, such items should be checked in at the office for safe keeping until after school hours.

L. Text books

All basic texts are provided to students during the school year. Texts are to be kept clean and in good condition. Fines are assessed for damaged texts. The teacher will handle end of the year textbook fines and as the fines are collected they will be turned into the office:

1. Books lost or damaged beyond repair – full value of replacement.
2. Backs or covers broken -- $12.50 per book (over 2 years old) $25.00 per book (less than 2 years old).
3. Pages torn and un-mended -- $.50 per page (not to exceed the value).
4. Ink writing, spots, etc-- $.25 per page.
5. Pencil marks – students must erase these marks.

M. Financial Indebtedness

Financial indebtedness is something that cannot be ignored or put off. School policy states that all course credit will be frozen and transcripts will be withheld until all financial obligations have been cleared with the school. Students or parents/guardians must also reimburse the school district the actual cost of replacing books or materials, the rebinding of books, or the value of replacing school property.

Students who willfully cause damage to school property will be responsible for the cost of the damage including labor. They will also receive disciplinary consequences for their actions.

N. School Assemblies

All students should express their school spirit through hand clapping (no whistling or shouting) during any assemblies held during the year. Performers are our guests; and students must respect them and their peers at all times during these performances. These programs, which quite often include our own students, are provided for our educational benefit. Therefore, we should show interest and consideration toward all presenters and performers. The same courtesy should be extended to students and teachers from other schools.

O. **Student Spectators**

Students are encouraged to attend all of the school activities offered by Bennington Schools. School spirit is encouraged at all times. School spirit means loyalty to all Bennington Middle school and high school activities and their participants while demonstrating respect for the opposing team's participants, coaches, and fans as well as the game officials. If a student chooses to leave during an event, he/she will not be allowed to return. [Exceptions: 1) Students may attend two different events being hosted at Bennington on the same night; and 2) Students may return during a day-long tournament.] BMS students are not allowed to bring outside containers into the gym during school activities. Students will need to pay to get into events. You can pay by cash or purchase an activity card.

P. **Visitors**

All visitors are required to first stop in the office, show proper ID, sign in to logbook and receive a visitor's badge before being escorted by a staff member to other parts of the building. Friends or siblings of students will not be allowed to visit classrooms or join students for lunch without administrative approval.

Q. **Asbestos Notification**

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by the Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at 402-238-3044.

R. **Media Center Rules**

The Library Media Center is available for your information needs and reading enjoyment from 7:35 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Students should come to use the library resources to help the library serve you better and make your library time more productive, please follow these rules:

1. Upon entering the library, students must log in the electronic log. You must have a pass. Please make sure to sign out when you leave.

2. Work quietly. If you need to talk, talk quietly. If you need to leave the library for any reason during the class period, notify the librarian.

3. Books may be checked out for two-week intervals. The due date is stamped on the inside cover of the book. Books may be renewed unless another patron has the book on hold.

4. Books should be returned to the circulation desk on or before the stamped due date. Students returning books after the due date has expired will be assessed a fine of 5 cents per day. Once a fine of $1.00 has been accrued, the student will no longer be able to check out books until the fine is paid in full.

5. Do not put checked-out books back on the shelves. You will be held accountable for any overdue fines that these books incur.

6. Replacement of ruined or lost books is the responsibility of the student to whom the book is checked out. A fine may also be charged for books that are damaged.

7. ~~Computer use is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Computers should be used for school related tasks only. Inappropriate use of the computer may cause you to forfeit use of the computer. The signing of the student handbook acknowledgement page includes the understanding of the computer usage rules.~~

T. Option Enrollment Program

Any student wishing to enroll in the option enrollment program must meet the deadlines prior to March 15 and all other guidelines set forth in the School Board policies.

U. Internet Use

Bennington Middle School Internet use is granted to students, and is monitored by staff and a software filtering service. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action and loss of Internet privileges. Parents /guardians who wish to have their student(s) not allowed usage of the Internet should contact their grade-level administrator. (See addendum XX).

V. School Ceremonies and Observances and Memorials

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reason in compliance with board policy. Requests for remembering or memorializing a person or event shall be approved by the Superintendent and/or building principal. Major school ceremonies such as graduation, awards, and scholarship events are not appropriate for significant memorial activities. School-wide recognition of anniversary dates will not occur. District counseling services may be made available to provide support. Temporary memorial symbols displayed on school grounds will be limited to a maximum of one month past the occurrence being memorialized. Requests may be made to memorialize an individual or event in the school yearbook or one edition of the school newspaper/newsletter. Information may be included on a "Memorial Page," but should be limited to the name, photo, dates of birth/death, and school activities in which the student or staff member participated.

W. Recording of Others

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. This prohibition applies

to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

X. **Regulated Electronic Devices**

Any prohibited items or devices brought to school or school events may be confiscated by district staff. Prohibited items will be turned over to the student's parents or guardian on request unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law, or has been turned over to legal authorities.

Prohibited devices shall include any item which is sufficiently annoying, offensive, unpleasant, or obnoxious that it substantially interferes with or materially disrupts the educational process.

In addition to any prohibitions on electronic devices defined in the student handbook, students shall not use electronic devices for recording or transmitting photographs, images or sounds of other persons without direct administrative approval and consent of all person(s) being recorded, other than the recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time where there is an expectation of privacy. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

XII. **STUDENT DRESS**

a. Students are required to dress appropriately and in good taste. We believe parents/guardians should be responsible for their children's attire, and we enlist their cooperation in this endeavor. However, no student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students (dress which might cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the individual student or the student body).

b. It is inappropriate for students to wear any top that does not cover the back and abdomen or any backless top that ties at the neck or back. Tops with thin or "spaghetti" straps or clothing that leaves undergarments visible is prohibited. Should such attire be worn, the student will be required to return home and change. The time spent en-route will be unexcused. Wearing shorts is considered a privilege. Both girls and boys will be allowed to wear shorts as long as they are an appropriate length. (Appropriate short length will be fingertip length when the student extends their arm at the sides.) Shorts with pockets exposed below the hem are not appropriate for school attire.

c. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, or drugs; uses profanity; makes reference to sexuality; or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Long chains will not be permitted. Backpacks and book bags will stay in lockers throughout the school day. Purses are also to be left in lockers throughout the school day.

d. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline. Any student wearing pants with undergarments visible will be required to raise the pants to the waist or they will be sent home to change and the time gone will be considered unexcused. Pants and skirts with holes are inappropriate student dress.

e. It is not appropriate to wear hats in the building during school hours. Therefore, all students wearing hats to school must keep them in their lockers during the day. Bandanas may not be worn to school or school activities.

f. Athletic (practice) clothing should not be worn in class.

g. Students should not wear clothing or hairstyles that are hazardous in school activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, or art; or block their vision; or restrict their movement. Teachers in lab areas may have grooming or dress rules to assure a safe environment. Students are required to adhere to such rules.

h. Coats and jackets of any kind shall not be worn in school. Hooded sweatshirts are allowed as long as the hoods are not used. Students who do not comply with this reasonable standard will be required to put the sweatshirt in their locker for the remainder of the school day. No blankets will be allowed.

i. Special eye protection may be required in some classes. Students are expected to comply with these rules for their own safety.

j. Shoes must be worn at all times on school grounds.

k. Students should not wear chains, collars, leashes, or anything that could be considered a choking hazard.

XIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. School Nurse

1. The School Nurse is an integral part of the total education program. The Visiting Nurses Association is funded by private contract. The Bennington Schools typically receive nurse's services three full days a week.

2. The location of the nurse's office varies. The Nurse will not treat walk-ins when she is on site. In an emergency, students must report to the office.

3. Medication should be given at home whenever possible. When it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, the parents/guardians must complete the Medication Authorization Form in the school office or on the school website. **It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide any medication given at school and ensures its safe travel to and from school. All medication must be sent to school in the original container and will be stored securely on arrival at school.**

4. Temperatures of 100 degrees or above, diarrhea, and/or vomiting are signals warranting immediate dismissal conditions. Children who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever of 100 degrees or above during the night or prior to school need to remain at home, fever free for 24 hours. Most viruses are highly contagious for 24 hours after the vomiting/diarrhea has occurred.

5. Students in 7th grade will be screened for height, weight, audio, and dental as well as new students to the district in 6th and 8th grade.

6. Students identified with nits attached less than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft or identified with live lice will be referred to parents for treatment and receive further monitoring to avoid re-infestation.

7. Exclusion Period for Contagious Diseases

● Mumps	9 days or until swelling disappears
● Scarlet fever	7 days from onset or 24 hours after antibiotics
● Chicken pox	7 days from onset
● Measles	7 days from onset
● 3 Day Measles	5 days
● Whooping Cough	21 days
● Impetigo	Until completely healed/physician permission
● Pink Eye	Until treated by a doctor and eyes are clear
● Scabies	Until first treatment by doctor
● Hepatitis	Until physician approves return
● Lice	1 day after treatment/no visible nits

B. **Medication Regulation**

1. Bennington Public Schools is not to administer any prescribed medication without the approval of parents/guardians and doctor. No unauthorized medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) shall be administered by the school nurse or any school staff member. No personnel of Bennington Public Schools will prescribe medication at any time. The staff is not allowed to give students any prescription or non-prescription medication. Students may use non-prescribed medication, but may not distribute non-prescribed (over the counter) medication to peers. Distribution of any type of medication will be in violation of the Code of Conduct.

2. When a student must take medication, which has been prescribed by a doctor during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

    a. All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. Parents are required to conduct an exact count of the medication, if the medicine is controlled, and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.
    b. Only one-month supply shall be brought at a time unless otherwise indicated by the parent/guardian and attending physician.
    c. The label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label.
    d. All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication with them or in the lockers.
    e. Medication will only be used by the student in the office and in front of the office staff or the principal.
    f. Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

C. **Student Self-Management of Medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

Parents/Guardians may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis (both Diabetes and Anaphylaxis must be self- administered in the nurse's office under the care of the health para or nurse). The parent will need to follow the following procedures.

1. The parent/guardian will be required to request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent/guardian will need written verification from a physician or other health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment indicating the condition and specific medications including: name and purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

Once the request has been approved the school and parent/guardian in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items.

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at the school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional; and
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;
5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication;
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies, as well notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

A. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
B. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition.
C. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

XIV. PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICIES

A. The physical education dress for girls and boys is gym shorts, T-shirt, and socks. All students must wear tennis shoes for safety reasons while using the gym. Students must furnish their own towels.

B. All gym clothes and shoes should be marked with the owner's name.

C. When going to and from gym class, please use the hall door nearest your dressing room. No one is allowed in the gym before or after school without permission of the athletic director. If a coach or teacher is using the gym at any time, they are responsible for all students and equipment. Students must leave when the supervisor does. The gym should not be used as a play area during practice for non-athletic activities. Students will not be able to use the weight room or gym area without a teacher supervising. Students cannot be in these areas without a teacher present.

XV. SCHOLASTIC POLICIES

1. Grading System: Please see our district website for access to our district grading framework, or click the link below.
    a. http://www.benningtonschools.org/documents/Grading%20Framework%2007-2018.pdf

2. Grading is based on all facets of classroom performance.

Grading Scale:

Regular Courses
A = 100-93
B = 92-86
C = 85-77
D = 76-70
F = Below 70

Grade Reports

A. Bennington Public Schools' students will receive their hexter report once every 6 weeks. Student grades will start new each Hexter. We will not be averaging the Hexters together to come up with semester grades. Report cards will not be sent home, but you can access them online through the school's website (www.benningtonschools.org) on the Nebsis Family Account.

B. Parent/Guardian conferences may be scheduled at any time, although we will continue to have them in twice a year (ex: October and February).

C. On-line grades will be available to all parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians may view their child/children's grades by using the Nebsis accessed from Bennington School's website (www.benningtonschools.org). Parents and students will each receive log-in information to access this secure website. The information provided is secure. Parents/Guardians will be able to access their child/children's grades, attendance and discipline records. All information provided will be updated on a weekly basis.

D. **Extra Help**
Students are encouraged to seek extra help from teachers if an assignment is not understood, if the work is difficult, or if he/she has been absent and missed assignments or class instruction. Students should arrange a conference with their teacher before or after school or at a time convenient to both during the day. A teacher may request a student stay after school if it is apparent he/she is having difficulty with work.

E. Academic Dishonesty

Students who are academically dishonest (cheating) must meet with their teacher and grade level administrator, and parents will be notified as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Consequences could range from and administrative conference to short term suspension for cheating. At the conclusion of the meeting with teacher(s) and administrator(s), students may be allowed to make up work on their own time.

F. New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress complete the enroll new students process online through www.benningtonschools.org:

i. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time. Shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
ii. Evidence of a physical examination if they are entering the 7th grade or, in the case of a transfer from out-of-state; 7th grade physical may not meet sports' physical criteria unless it says – eligible for sports, without restrictions.
iii. Updated Immunization records.
iv. A transcript/release of records from the previous school or current/proposed class schedule
v. Online enrollment approval through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, of if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given. New students and parents/guardians will register in the Counselor's office. New students will not start classes the same day they complete the online enrollment process.

G. Failing a Course

Middle School students must pass their courses before moving on to the next grade level. In a case where the student has failed a course the teacher, parent(s), administration, and counselor will work together to determine the next step for that student.

H. Music Courses Drop/Add

At end of term or by special circumstances and are approved by the administration

I. Part-time Students

Bennington Middle School students interested wanting part-time status are to see the counselor for eligibility. Parents/guardian will meet with the principal before approval is granted. LB 821 allows students who are residents of the Bennington District, but attend another public, private, denominational, parochial school, or home school to attend Bennington Middle school on a part-time basis. Parents need to complete the Enroll new student online process through www.benningtonschools.org to confirm residency in the district. Both the student and parents/guardians will be required to meet with the counselor and principal to provide proof of residence and to determine a class schedule. While the student is attending they will be required to follow all rules in the student handbook.

J. Hazing

Hazing or initiation by a school organization, groups, clubs, teams or individuals are prohibited. Anyone engaging in hazing or initiation behavior will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Hazing is any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. The school will follow Neb. Statute 79-2, 101 to 2, 102 when dealing with hazing.

XVI. STUDENT CONDUCT

PBS: Positive Behavior Support is a school-wide system of acknowledging positive student behavior. When programs and initiatives focus on building respectful and trusting relationships among school staff, families, and community members they are more effective in creating and sustaining connections that support student achievement. The PBS introduces Bennington's school wide expectations. These expectations are taught to all students for specific areas in the building as explained below in the chart. Students will be acknowledged for consistently meeting these expectations

	Be Respectful	**Be Responsible**	**Be SAFE**
Classroom	►Listen to teacher ►Follow instructions ►Be courteous to others in words and actions ►Treat others' property with care	►Treat school property with care ►Come to class prepared ►Be safe ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►On Time ►On Task ►Do your BEST
Hallway	►Pace and Space ►Hands and feet to self ►Use an acceptable volume ►Treat others' property with care	►Keep hallways clean ►Move with a purpose ►Have your agenda book ►Keep your locker locked & organized ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►Keep your pace during passing periods ►Be aware of the time
Locker Room	►Knock and be acknowledged before entering office ►Hands and feet to self ►Treat others' property with care ►Be considerate of others privacy	►Keep your locker locked & organized ►Pick up after yourself ►Have the proper attire	►Be dressed on time
Commons/ Lunchroom	►Follow directions ►Hands and feet to self ►Be courteous to others ►Walk to lunch	►Keep area clean ►Put trays, silverware, chairs, etc. in their proper place ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►Remain in Commons ►Stay in your place in line
Bathroom	►Be considerate of others privacy ►Use facilities appropriately ►Keep area clean ►Treat others' property with care	►Practice good hygiene ►Report problems to an adult	►Take care of needs quickly ►Use the assigned student restroom

General Rules of Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of school is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose, in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's

designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, contests, or performances.

1. No student shall:

   (a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.

   (b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.

   (c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.

   (d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18

   (e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

   (f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

   (g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

   (h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

   (i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

   (j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member**,** or voice disrespect to those in authority (Willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

(k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.

(l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.

(m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

(n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

(o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

(p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.

(q) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal Injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or the knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

(r) Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-a-likes shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use.

Parents of students found to possess weapons or dangerous objects or look-a-likes on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous

objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921 to school or knowingly possessing firearms at school may be expelled for a period of not less than one year. Students bringing to school or possessing dangerous weapons, including firearms, will be referred to law enforcement authorities. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons or dangerous objects under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. Firearms kept in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle or that are contained within a private vehicle operated by a nonstudent adult that are not loaded are also exempt. Firearms also may be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects or look-a-likes for educational purposes and must be kept in a designated location during the school day. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy.

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession and/or supervision of an adult staff member at all times
d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Consequence Guidelines

Infraction	**Definition**	**Minimum**	**Maximum**	**Possible Action**
Pushing and Shoving	(non-injurious)	Admin. Conf.	Sat. School	
Fighting	Mutual attempt to physically harm another person through mutual physical contact (potential for continued fighting can be considered in consequences administered)			
1st offense		Sat. School	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Additional offenses		Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Physical Assault	(Injury)Initiation of a violent act against another person	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	through aggressive physical contact.			
	(Non -Injury) committing actions that place another person in reasonable harms way	Admin. Conf.	Short Term	
Physical Injury to Employees, Volunteers,	Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to an employee, a school volunteer, or any student	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Use of Threat (verbal & written)				
Level One Threat	Using a threat as a common expression or in a context the recipient does not feel threatened, frightened, or coerced (e.g., “I could just kill you for that.”).	Admin. Conf	Short Term	
Level Two Threat	Using an expression or an implied or veiled threat with the intent of threatening, frightening, or coercing another and the recipient feels threatened, frightened, or coerced (“I will kill you.”)	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Level Three Threat	Threatening to kill or injure another person or threatening to damage property with potential for injury	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Repeated Threats	Threatening another student or staff member more than one time	Admin. Conf	Expulsion	
Threatening with an Object	Threatening with an object which can be used as a weapon (Must resemble a real weapon)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Bomb Threat	Threatening to use any type of explosive device to injure a person(s) or destroy property	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Firearms	Knowingly possessing, handling, transmitting, using, intimidating with or threatening with any firearm, explosive, destructive device (any weapon that will expel a projectile by the action of explosion)	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Other Guns	Using, intimidating with, threatening with or possessing on one’s person, handling or transmitting any	Long Term	1 yr. Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	paint ball gun, soft air gun, bb gun, or pellet gun			
Other guns in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Other weapons in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Other Weapons	Possessing, using, or threatening with any weapon that might be used to injure a person (brass knuckles, knives, throwing stars, etc.)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Possession of prohibited objects	Knowingly possessing, handling or transmitting non-violent, disruptive objects	Saturday School	Long Term	
Extortion	Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or intent of obtaining money or anything of value	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual assault or attempted sexual assault	Any sexual assault or attempt to sexually assault any person (on and off school grounds) as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat.	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Sexual contact	Intentional touching of another person's sexual or intimate parts or the clothing above those parts without consent	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual Engagement	All consensual physical sexual activity	Short Term Suspension	Long Term Suspension	
Sexual Harassment	Unwanted activity of a sexual nature which interferes with the educational process (touching, pinching, patting, verbal, sexual name calling, pressure to engage in sexual activity, propositions, messages, notes and unwanted body contact)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Harassment	Intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words symbolic representations or behavior that is disruptive to the educational process in the form of (verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name calling, taunting, mocking, slander, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering, derogatory remarks, jokes, or drawings) Harassment prohibited by the school	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

	district includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, or disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status			
Bullying	Intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, electronic, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, oppressing, or controlling another student. Includes an imbalance of power and is ongoing.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Hazing	When a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation or continued membership of a group. Consent by the student being hazed shall not be a defense to hazing	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	
Possession of tobacco or tobacco products	Including look alike ~~and~~ e-cigarettes, CBD Oil, and inhalants	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Distribution of tobacco or tobacco products	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person of tobacco or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, CBD Oil, and inhalants)	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Possession of alcohol or other drugs	Possession or use of illegal drugs or look-a- like drugs, or possession of a prescribed medication by a student for whom the medication was not prescribed; or possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Possession or use of alcohol	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
2nd Offense		Long Term Suspension	Expulsion	Suspension Reduction

Distribution of Alcohol or Drugs	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person, of illegal narcotic drug, controlled substance, look-a-like substance, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Possession, Use or Transportation of Medication	Possession of prescribed medications is prohibited. Students may possess non-prescribed medications, but may not possess prescribed meds except in transport to and from school. All prescribed medication must be turned in to the nurse. (students may possess inhalers and glucose tablets tablet in original containers	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
Distribution of Prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Distribution of non-prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Administrative Conference	Short Term Suspension	
Exposure to Bodily Fluids	Intentionally spitting, throwing, wimping, or dispersing bodily fluids on or to another student or staff member	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	
Profanity and Obscenity	Written or oral language that is reasonably offensive and disruptive	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Disparaging Language or Symbolism	Disparaging or demeaning language or symbolic actions (including writing)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Damage to Property	Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Theft/Larceny	Stealing or attempting to steal	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Arson or False Fire Alarm	Intentionally starting a fire or pulling the fire alarm (excluding approved spirit/activities)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if believed to be criminal
Inappropriate use of Technology	Use of any electronic device or program that disrupts the educational environment See School Board Policy 606.06	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Truancy	Unauthorized absence from school	Administrative Conference	Reassignment	

Dishonesty	Being dishonest in a way that interferes with the educational process.	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Academic Dishonesty	Cheating on examinations or plagiarism	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Insubordination	Refusal to cooperate and comply with staff instructions.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Disruptive Behavior	Behavior or possession of a material that disrupts the educational environment	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Nuisance Item	Any item that interferes with the educational process	Detention	Short Term	
Repeated Violations	Repeated violations of the code of conduct	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

Reporting Law Violations

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of student discipline for violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act to the Bennington Police Department.

D. **Sanctions**

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal.

1. **Short-term Suspensions -** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator investigated the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusions -** Any student may be excluded from school under the following circumstances:

   a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

E. **Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment**

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, State Statute 79-4, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

F. **Procedures** to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the superintendent. The school shall,

within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

(a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
(b) The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
(c) A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;
(d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
(e) A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
(f) A form on which the student, student's parents, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and
(g) Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student, the student's parents or guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to. (See Section of State Statutes 79-254 to 79-291, R.R.S., et seq.)

G. **Other Disciplinary Action**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary action regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but is not limited to, counseling, parent/guardian conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

H. **Saturday School –**

1. Saturday School assignments will consist of three hours. The students will serve from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The doors to the school will open at 7:15 a.m. and be closed at 7:45 a.m. Students will be given a ten-minute break at 9:00 a.m.

2. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:

   (a) Students must be on time and prepared to work at 7:30 a.m.
   (b) Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
   (c) Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School Supervisors instructions.
   (d) Any activity the supervisor sees as unacceptable such as (sleeping, have gum/candy, arguing, or bring nuisance devices) will result in dismissal from Saturday School and will result in a suspension.
   (e) A parent/guardian must notify the principal, if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 7:30 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.
   (f) Parents/guardians will be notified by phone or email of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive written notice from the Principal or designee on the Thursday or Friday prior to any Saturday School assignment.

3. Students who have inappropriate behavior during Saturday School will earn the following consequences:

   (a) Students who show up late to or skip a Saturday School will be assigned a one day suspension the following week. Parents will be notified by the administration of the suspension Monday morning.
   (b) Students who skip a second time will be suspended for three days the following week. Parents/guardians must also meet with the building administrator.

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I. Discipline Procedures

2. In the case of activity rules a student or their parents/guardians can appeal the Activity Director's decision to the building principal. The Activity Director will present all information regarding their decision to the principal. After the school's case has been presented the parents/guardians and student will be given the opportunity to present reasons for appealing the Activity Director's decision. After both sides have been presented the principal will to render a decision. If a hearing is required, the parents/guardians and student will be notified of their right for a hearing.

XVII. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A. Extra-Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the extra-curricular activities offered by Bennington Middle School. A student has the opportunity to display leadership talents and gain valuable

experiences by taking part in the activity program. Rule 10 by the State of Nebraska states that interscholastic sports at the middle school level are for 7th and 8th grade students only. The activities available are:

Student Senate (members are elected)
Volleyball
Football
Girls and Boys Basketball
Wrestling
Girls' and Boys' Track & Field
Girls' and Boys' Cross Country
Band and Special Music groups
Engineering Club
Math Club
Art Club
Yearbook
Cooking Club
Service Club
Game Club
Fitness Club
Reading Club
Writing Club
Robotics
Ukulele Club
Jazz Band
Diversity Club

All students participating in these activities must follow the Activity Rules for Bennington Middle School.

C. **Activity Rules for Bennington Middle School**

Understanding the activity rule is vital to your participation in school activities. Both parents/guardians and students need to understand that honesty and cooperation with school officials concerning this policy are of vital importance. Parents/guardians and athletes please take time to read and discuss all items in the Activity Rules.

PHILOSOPHY: The Bennington Middle School activity program is an important part of the total school program. Those students who participate in this program reflect the image of the school and the community of Bennington.

This philosophy is firmly based on the belief that there is more to the activity program than playing the game or participating. During the season, participants must maintain a high standard of conduct, which will enable them to function and perform to the best of their abilities. Therefore, the sponsors and the administration of Bennington Middle School will not tolerate the use of, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs by student athletes and all other activity participants.

The philosophy of the Bennington Middle School activity program is also based on the belief that student participants are representatives of Bennington Middle School and the community of Bennington for as long as they participate in the activity program. As such, their actions, both on and off the playing field, must be above reproach. Participant-related incidents, as well as the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, are considered improper behavior for student participants and are subject to penalties.

This philosophy recognizes the fact that there must be close cooperation between the sponsors, the participants, and the parents/guardians if the activity rules are to be successful and effective. The

activity rules are for the benefit of all the students involved in activities. The school and the parents/guardians must share the responsibility of making sure that the rules are followed. If the school and parents/guardians work together to enforce these rules, it will ensure a smooth-running activity program and eliminate any problems that may occur.

All Activity Rules violations will be referred to the Activities Director.

1. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVITIES: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if

   (a) He/she has below a 70% average in two classes

   Each student must meet eligibility requirements by mid hexter and end of the hexter (report card). Grade checks will be done, and if the student is failing two or more courses, they will have seven calendar days to regain eligibility (students will still be eligible for all contests and practices during this seven day grace period). At the end of seven days and each subsequent Monday, reports will be run, and any student still failing two or more courses will be ineligible for all competition that week.

   Eligibility is considered only for interscholastic activities, which are not requirements for a particular class.

   Students will be required to attend before and after school practices unless the head coach or sponsor excuses them. Students who have medically verified illnesses will be provided time to make up work.

2. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS: There shall be no tolerance for drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or the use of illegal drugs. Student participants shall not remain in an area where alcoholic beverages are being used unless accompanied by their parents/guardians. Business establishments that also provide food and recreational activities are excluded.

   (a) Penalty –FIRST OFFENSE–OPTION A: If a student self-reports a violation within 72 hours of the violation they will sit out one contest. OPTION B: Student participants will be suspended for 25% of the current season's competition. This will not exceed 4 games or two weeks in the activity in which they are participating or the next activity they will be involved in. (b) Penalty –SECOND OFFENSE--Student will be suspended from all inter-scholastic activities for the remainder of the current school year.

   (c) Before action can be taken, student must freely admit to a violation or be observed violating the training rules by a member of a school faculty, administrative staff, a law enforcement officer, or an adult willing to come into school and make a formal statement.

   (d) A minor in possession conviction shall be regarded as a violation of Rule 2.

   (e) The options above will apply to drinking, selling, or possessing alcohol or using, selling, or possessing other illegal substances while school is not in session during summer vacation (training rules are observed year round). The beginning of the athletic calendar year will start the first day, after the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. last day of school is May 22nd, then the first day of the new athletic calendar year would be May 23rd, or the conclusion of a spring sport that extends past the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. golf and track)

   (f) The Activities Director's decision may be appealed to the Discipline Committee by the student or the student's parents/guardians.

3. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if

   (a) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a misdemeanor (could exclude traffic tickets) during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials or school personal, may result in a one week suspension from all games, practices, and activities. A second offense during the school year will result in suspensions from all activities for the remainder of the year.
   (b) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a felony during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials, may result in immediate suspension from all games, performances, events, practices, and activities until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Bennington Middle School administrative team.

4. PRACTICE SESSIONS: No participants shall miss a practice without first being excused by one of the coaching staff or sponsor of activity. If participants are not in school or are suddenly taken ill, they will bring their excuses when they return to school. If there is a conflict with another school activity, they must clear it with the sponsor before they miss the practice.
5. SUSPENSIONS: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR PRACTICE ON DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. Students will be allowed to practice or compete after school on the final day of suspension.

6. CONCUSSIONS – RETURN TO PLAY
   (a) **No Physical Activity**: this period of time should be a minimum of 24 hours rest.
   (b) **Light Aerobic Exercise**: Walking, swimming or stationary biking at less than 70% of the maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.
   (c) **Sport Specific Exercise:** NO head impact activities. Exercises are designed to the movements required for the specific sport and are done close to full speed.
   (d) **Non-contact Training:** Begin to incorporate resistance training and coordination (catching, rebounding, spiking, etc…) exercises. Begin preparing the athlete for return to full contact activities.
   (e) **Full-contact Practice:** Participate in normal training activities as directed by the coaching staff while being observed by the medical staff.
   (f) **Return to Play**: Cleared for normal game play.

(1) Has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional and has received a written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from that professional;
(2) Has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student, parent or guardian.

** Failure to successfully complete any one step returns the athlete to step #1 on the progression. Every athlete is different and every concussion is different. Recommendations for athletes are that the return to play progression is done on a daily basis that results in a week-long progression to return to the sport activity.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS

Training to recognize the symptoms of concussions and brain injuries and their proper medical treatment shall be made available to coaches of the district's athletic teams.

The district will provide information on concussions and brain injuries to athletes and their parents or guardians prior to the beginning of practice or competition including at least:

1. The signs and symptoms of concussions;
2. The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
3. The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion including the notification of coaches.

A student participating on a school athletic team shall be removed from a practice or game when reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in that activity after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. Any parent or guardian who suspects a student has sustained a concussion is expected to immediately notify district coaches or administrators of the injury. Students who suspect they have sustained a concussion shall immediately make such notification.

The injured student shall not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices or games, until the student;

1. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
2. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional;
3. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity as required above, the parent or guardian of the student shall be notified by the school of the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student, the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and any actions taken to treat the student.

The district shall establish a return to learn protocol for students that have sustained a concussion. The return to learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

(a) **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.

(b) **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.

(c) **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.

(d) **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.

(e) **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.

(f) **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

7. GENERAL CONDUCT: Good sportsmanship shall be observed during practice sessions and contests. Activity participants are expected to be positive and respectful at all times. Being arrested for or charged with a misdemeanor or felony may result in a restriction of activity participation.

8. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL ON DAY OF CONTEST: Student athletes must attend school five class periods the day of a contest. Doctor's appointments, educational activities or funerals are exceptions. The Principal approves all exceptions. To receive credit in activities, students must take part in <u>all</u> public appearances of that activity unless excused by the sponsor.

10. EQUIPMENT: All equipment from one sport must be returned before the athlete can check out equipment for another sport.

11. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants are advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches/ sponsors will provide the students with training rules and practice procedures.

12. TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS: The training rules that are listed above have been kept to a minimum. We, at Bennington Middle School, realize that it is impossible to cover every situation that might develop in the future. Each case not covered in the activity policy will be decided on its own merit. We sincerely request your cooperation in this matter. Good sportsmanship begins with adults. We thank you in advance for modeling positive and respectful behavior as a Bennington spectator and fan throughout the school year.

Each organization's constitution or bylaws must include eligibility criteria at least as rigorous as that spelled out in this handbook. Foreign exchange students and option students must meet the same criteria for eligibility as resident students. Part-time students are not eligible for extra-curricular activities.

D. **Activity Passes**

All Bennington students (grades 6-8) are encouraged to purchase an Activity Pass. Student Activity ticket prices will be $35.00 for all students in grades K-12. Adult activity passes will be $70, and $160 for family activity passes (K-12 Bennington students and their legal parents and/or guardians.) These prices are for both middle school and senior high students. Students must have their activity pass to be admitted without being charged an entrance fee. Students who leave the activity before its conclusion will not be allowed back into the activity.

E. **Dance Policies**

1. Dances can be scheduled for grades 6-8. 9 -12 students will not be allowed to attend 6-8 grade dances and 6-8 students will not be allowed to attend 9 – 12 dances.

2. Students planning to attend any dance will be required to wear APPROPRIATE clothing for the particular event. Dances are for Bennington Middle School students only.

3. Should any Bennington student, however, attempt to bring any non-resident student to a dance who is not his/her date, the Bennington student will be indefinitely suspended from all further dances until the policy breach is resolved. Faculty dance sponsors shall decide the authenticity of a date.

4. Depending on sport events and other circumstances different dances will have different starting times. No dance shall extend later than 9pm. Students leaving a dance must sign-out and will not be permitted to return.

5. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other prohibited substance, or any damage to school property are subject to the same policies during dances as those that apply to the school day and activities.

F. **Music**

The Instrumental and Vocal Music programs offer a wide variety of musical activities. Band and Chorus is offered at the Middle School with some extra-curricular activity involved. Middle School general music is required for sixth and seventh graders. All other music classes are electives. Grades are given for each class. Private and small group instruction is also offered to students at no cost.

G. **Activities Transportation**

All teams attending a contest of any kind shall be accompanied by their sponsor, coach, or other faculty member designated to supervise. Athletic trips are made by school vehicle if at all possible. Therefore, all team members must travel with the team. Parents/guardians may transport only their student home from a contest or performance with clearance from the head coach, sponsor, or Principal.

H. **Sportsmanship and School Spirit**

1. The students of the Bennington Schools are consistently judged by the general public for moral and ethical conduct during school activities and for the control of their personal lives. Such judgments also reflect on the training received in the school, home, church, and community. Indeed, we want the public to praise and commend our students for their loyal support of school in all activities, but we also want the same public to be able to admire and extol them when victory is in the shadows of defeat. While no one admires a loss, the manner of its acceptance will create an image of respect, honor, and dignity for all Bennington students.

3. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his school and does his utmost to keep his activity standards at the highest possible level. School spirit will mean cheering for our team, not against our opposition. To these goals, all Badgers should be dedicated.

I. **Athletics**

1. All athletics will be centered in one department under the Director of Activities. It shall be the duty of the director to coordinate all athletics under one program to facilitate unity and cooperation.

2. All boys and girls out for inter-scholastic athletics are required to have a physical examination by a doctor (Article 1-a, Section 9, of the N.S.A.A. rules). Any boy or girl out for athletics must also have his/her parents'/guardians' consent and physical examination before he/she is issued any equipment or permitted to engage in the activity. This consent must be written on the official NSAA form that also includes the insurance information.

J. **District and State Contests**

1. Only team members or individuals qualifying for district and state contests will be under the direct supervision of the school district.

2. Students wishing to attend district or state contests must have permission from a parent or guardian to leave school. Students that wish to participate in an extra-curricular activity that afternoon or evening (practice, concert, game, etc.) must attend a minimum of five class periods during the day.

K. **Middle School Activities Philosophy**

1. Middle School activities place an emphasis on involvement and fundamentals. Athletes involved with teams at Bennington Middle School will have the opportunity to improve their knowledge and individual skills for their sport(s). Various skill levels are present at the junior high level and the programs in place at Bennington Middle School strive to provide a quality experience for each individual athlete regardless of their experience, knowledge or performance level.
2. Extra-curricular programs are created for Middle School students to get them involved outside of the school day. Research indicates that participation in activities contributes to a student's success in his/her future years. Participating in activities and on athletic teams develops self-discipline, cooperation, commitment, accountability and leadership skills. In addition, extra-curricular activities expose students to a competitive environment where they are challenged to exceed expectations placed upon them as a member of Bennington Middle School.

L. **Mounts and Pyramids**

No mounts or pyramids will be allowed during any school-sponsored activity, practice, or contest as dictated by the NSAA guidelines. This rule applies to both students and spectators.

XVIII. STUDENT GOVERNMENT

B. **Student Senate**

The students of Bennington Middle School execute their democratic responsibilities as citizens through Student Government. While the purpose of this organization may vary, the members develop leadership, positive attitudes, and practice the responsibilities of good citizenship. The Student Senate aims to promote good school spirit, assist in school functions, provide a forum of students' expression, build school morale, and promote student involvement. The Student Senate members will complete an application process. They will represent the class at the Student Senate meetings.

XIX. ADDENDUM

Parental/Community Involvement In Schools

It is the policy of this school district to foster and facilitate parental/guardians and community information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

A. Reasonable attempts by the district staff will be made to involve parents/guardians and community through frequent open communications, volunteer programs, progress reporting, and through the support of activities, which encourage involvement.

B. Parents/guardians and other interested citizens are welcome to visit the schools and/or confer with principals and teachers concerning the school's programs by setting up an appointment prior to their visit. (Children should not be visitors without adults.) Persons seeking to disrupt the educational environment shall face those penalties established by the law, board policies, and administrative rules.

C. Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be, available for review at school upon request.

D. Parents/guardians wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities are welcome. Prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, is requested.

E. Testing shall occur in this school district as determined appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement. Results of such testing are made available to parents/guardians.

F. The school district will excuse students from testing, surveys, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon written parental/guardian request, only under circumstances required by law. The proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent/guardian request shall approve a plan for an acceptable alternative.

G. Parents/guardians and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g., Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232 or Section 79-2,104, R.R.S., et seq.).

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Bennington Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Director of Student Services, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (wfagan@bennps.org).

Employees and Others: Dr. Terry L. Haack, Superintendent, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (thaack@bennps.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

The Bennington Public School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The following procedures are established in order to assist in the fair resolution of student grievances. A grievance hereunder is a claim by a student that a violation of civil rights legislation has occurred (includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975). It is the policy of the Bennington Public Schools that a student may not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, marital status, age, or handicap in admission to school; access to enrollment in courses, access to and use of school facilities; counseling and guidance materials, tests and practices; vocational education; physical education; competitive athletics; graduation requirements; treatment as a married and/or pregnant student; and student rules and regulations. Whenever a grievance occurs, the following procedure will be followed and every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible.

Additional information concerning the Bennington Public School's policy of nondiscrimination can be obtained from Dr. Matt Blomenkamp, 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington NE 68007, (402) 238-3044.

EXPLANATION - This grievance procedure is not intended to limit the option of the district and a grievant to resolve any grievance mutually and informally. Hearings and conferences under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place that will afford a fair and equitable opportunity for all persons involved.

The grievance procedure is not required if the grievant prefers other alternatives such as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or the courts. Due process shall exist throughout the procedure with the right to: 1) representation; 2) present witnesses and evidence; 3) confidentiality; 4) review relevant records; and 5) proceed without harassment and/or retaliation.

A grievance may be filed by an individual grievant or by a parent/guardian on behalf of a student grievant except that no grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance.

Days in this procedure shall refer to days when school is in session. During summer vacation days shall refer to Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

The inclusion of time limits in this procedure is for the purpose of insuring prompt action. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time period specified, unless there is a mutually agreed extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

PROCEDURES

Level One **-** A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level Two **-** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days of the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the grievance is based and an explanation of how such facts results in civil rights discrimination. The principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level Three - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the parties involved. A complete record of this meeting shall be kept and signed by both parties for possible future reference. The Superintendent will respond to the written grievance within five (5) days of the receipt of the written grievance.

Level Four **-** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the School Board within five (5) days of the receipt of the written response from the Superintendent. The School Board shall consider the grievance at the next regular meeting and issue a written response within five (5) days of the meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves approximately 100 students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities. School age special education students are served in the least restrictive environment. For further information contact Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Service Coordinator at the Bennington Schools Central Office (402-238-3044).

PERMITTED PRESENCE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presences of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Student Fees Policy

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children, which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents/guardians have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Table 1, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2019-2020 school year. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Table 1

Middle School Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary.
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - $5 (if lost)
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles.

	students are required to purchase a new pair.	
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary.
School Meals		Breakfast - $1.75 Adult Breakfast - $2.50 Lunch - $2.90 Adult Lunch - $4.05 Milk - $0.50 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year lost or damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to $25.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined books are charged the replacement cost up to $100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Yearbook - optional	School Book	Not to exceed $60 per book.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
1 to 1 Technology	Damage or replacement costs	Costs will vary between $5 and $20 with cooperative loss program, and between $40 and $100 without cooperative loss program. Total replacement will be $200.
Extracurricular and other programs	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**

Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for $35 per year. District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA.
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables, Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary according to instrument
Vocal Music	Shoes and performance outfits	Costs will vary
Student Senate	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Clubs	Clubs are considered extra-curricular and may require supplies, clothing or fees for special events	Cost will vary according to activity
Social & Recognition Activities		
School dances	School/Grade Level	Not to exceed $15 per dance

Speech/Drama	Admission to events	Not to exceed $15 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips; School Sponsored and Non-School Sponsored	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	None-costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to $5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to $100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students. Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be $2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

XX. ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET 606.06

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of the Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, including electronic mail ("e-mail') and the Internet. To gain access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the internet, all staff must sign and return the "Staff Agreement' form to the central office. Likewise, to gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents must sign a "Parents Agreement", which will be kept on file.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable staff and students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards, while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents should be warned that some material accessible by the internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media arid information resources. To that end, the Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

A. E-Mail and Internet Rules:

1. General Rules

(a) The e-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff arid students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental permission is required for student use. Access to e-mail and the Internet is a privilege, not a right.

(b) Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

(c) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise retained

(d) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

(e) The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

2. Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

(a) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

(b) Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members.)

(c) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

(d) Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

(e) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

(f) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

(g) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

(h) Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

(i) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

3. Penalties for Violation of Rules

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the networks so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

4. Use of Computer Access to Telecommunications Resources is a Privilege and Not a Right.

Violations of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

B. Staff, Student and Parent Agreements.

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff Agreement, Students Agreement and Parents Agreement, in the forms attached hereto as Appendix “1”. Appendix “2”, and Appendix “3” respectively, are incorporated herein by this reference. They are also available through the online Nebsis family accounts. Signatures are completed electronically.

Handbook Addendum - Bennington Public Schools 1:1 Initiative

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Introduction

Bennington Public Schools is proud to offer our students in grades 6-12 Chromebooks for use at school and at home. The 1:1 Learning Initiative, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all students in these grades, has been designed to provide students with the skills and tools they need in school and for lifelong learning and success.

Computer Specifications

All students are issued one Chromebook, one Chromebook power supply, and one protective laptop case. The laptop and the power adapter have been assigned serial numbers and asset tags by the District.

Please note that these devices require a Wi-Fi connection in order to be able to access the Internet. Chromebooks have limited offline functionality, but the full power of the device will be realized with an Internet connection.

Laptop Take-home Privileges

While all students will be issued a laptop for use at school, it will be up to individual families to decide whether or not they would like their students to bring their laptops home at the end of the school day. Before take-home privileges will be granted, parents/guardians and students must attend an orientation. At this orientation, parents/guardians may pay the cooperative loss fee and sign all the necessary agreements. Parents/guardians who do not attend the orientation will be required to receive a certificate of completion of a district-assigned 30-minute e-learning module before take-home privileges will be assigned.

The laptop, power supply, and case will all be collected at the end of the academic year or upon termination of the student's enrollment for maintenance, cleaning, and repair.

Any laptops not returned when requested will be reported to local law enforcement as stolen property.

FEES AND COOPERATIVE LOSS AGREEMENT

Families who would like to have take-home privileges for their students' Chromebooks may pay an annual, non-refundable fee of $20. This fee provides for an 80% discount on up to four (4) repairs that must be conducted on the student's Chromebook during the school year.

After four (4) repairs in one school year, families will be responsible for 100% of the repair cost. Families who choose not to participate in the cooperative loss program will be responsible for the full cost of the repair each time.

With or without the cooperative loss agreement, damage that results in a complete loss of the Chromebook will result in a damage bill for the full replacement cost of the device.

The following table lists the costs for each event. Note that parts availability and pricing is subject to change. The information provided is accurate as of the most recent edition of this handbook.

Damage Type	With Cooperative Loss	Without Cooperative Loss
Broken Screen	$12	$60
Broken Bottom Cover	$15	$75
Broken Top Cover	$15	$75
Lost/broken Power Supply	$8	$40
Keyboard Replacement	$15	$75
Bezel	$7	$35
Total Loss	$200	$200

Repairs due to defects in workmanship or warranty service will be facilitated by the Technology Department.

Laptop Use at School

General

Laptops are intended to be used at school every day. Students are responsible for bringing their laptops to every class unless specifically advised by teachers not to bring them.

Laptops must be brought to school fully charged every day. Only use the provided charger to charge your laptop.

Students must comply with individual classroom teachers' rules.

No laptops will be allowed in the locker rooms at any time.

Laptops will not be permitted at the tables during lunch.

Laptop Software, Apps, and Settings

The presence of inappropriate material including (but not limited to) guns and weapons-related content, pornographic content, alcohol-, drug-, or gang-related symbols or pictures, or any other material deemed unacceptable by the school administration on the laptop or in the student's online storage will result in disciplinary action (see Computer Violations) and, where appropriate, referral to law enforcement.

Sound

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. All students are advised to acquire headphones or earbuds. All Chromebooks are equipped with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack similar to what is found in most portable devices and cell phones.

Printing

Students will not be granted access to printers with their Chromebooks. They are able to print from release stations located in the school libraries.

Lunch

Students will not be permitted to use their Chromebooks during lunch.

Extracurricular Activities

Students will be allowed to take their laptops to extracurricular events at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

If students bring their Chromebooks to an event, students and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any loss, damage, or theft that may occur during the event.

Laptop Care

General

No food or drink is allowed next to your laptop.
Students may not carry the laptop with the screen open.
Under no circumstances should laptops or other technology be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include, but are not limited to: the school grounds and campus, common areas, unlocked classrooms or lockers, bathrooms, busses, cars, and hallways. Any computers left in these areas are in danger of being lost or stolen.
Students are not permitted to write, draw, or place stickers or labels on the laptop.
The laptop must be transported to and from school in the district-provided case or in a student-purchased bag or case approved by the district.
Students may install covers or cases on their laptops as long as the cases are removable and do not cause physical damage to the Chromebook.
Students should not under any circumstances repair, alter, or make changes to their laptops. When students encounter a problem, they or a teacher should contact the Technology Help Desk.
Loaner laptops will be made available for students whose laptops are awaiting repair by the Technology Department. Students will be expected to return the loaner laptop by the end of the school day.
Student laptops will be labeled in the manner specified by the school district. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels and markings.

Display Care

The laptop display can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The display is particularly vulnerable to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not lean on the lid of your Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not place anything in the laptop bag that will press against the case.
- Do not poke the screen.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pencils, pens, fingers, or headphones).
- Do not place your Chromebook in your backpack unless it is in a separate padded slot designed for laptops.

Misbehaviors and Consequences

Computer Violations

Bennington Public Schools has a zero tolerance policy on computer violations. Students who are not responsible users of technology will receive the following consequences:

- First Offense – Minimum: Admin Conference, Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Second Offense – Minimum: Detention(s), Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Third Offense – Minimum: Required attendance at Saturday Digital Citizenship class, take-home privileges revoked until the class is attended and passed, Maximum: Long-Term Suspension
- Fourth Offense – Determined by Administration

Forgotten or Uncharged Laptops

Teachers will expect that students come to school ready to learn and with their laptops in appropriate working order (charged, undamaged, and fully functioning). Students who forget to bring or charge their laptops will receive consequences at the teacher's discretion.

Unsupervised laptops will be confiscated by the staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action will be taken for leaving a laptop unattended.

IT Controls

The Technology Department has the right at any time to access student computers and school issued accounts, add or remove software, change settings, and/or remove local data on the Chromebook. It is up to students to make sure their data is safely stored.

Family Computing Tips

Computers are a resource tool. Bennington Public Schools strives to provide students with the skills and tools needed to support lifelong learning and success. While it is great to have your children learn to use the latest technology, spending too much time with video games and surfing the web can be unproductive. Due to federal regulations, Bennington Public Schools will filter and document usage on District-owned equipment at all times. Measures have been put in place to limit student access to harmful or inappropriate material both on and off school grounds. **No technology measure is perfect or will serve as an adequate substitute for parent/guardian involvement, communication, and supervision.** It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to supervise, manage, and monitor their children while they are not at school.

Parents and guardians should communicate with their children and set computer limits. Here are some examples:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, phone number, parents' or guardians' work addresses/phone numbers, or the name and location of my school without parent or guardian permission.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. I will report mean or uncomfortable messages to a trusted adult or teacher.
- I will talk with my children so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.
- Limit the hours during the day that your child is on the computer.

One of the District's goals with this initiative is to provide equitable technology access to families. Family members of the student with a school-issued laptop are permitted to use the laptop to check the school website, child's grades, etc. The student's use for school work should take priority over other family use. All users of the student's Chromebook are required to follow the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook as well as the District's Acceptable Use of Computers and Internet Policy.

When students are off-campus, a Wi-Fi Internet connection should be made available to enable access to all learning materials made available through the District. It is possible to complete some tasks (composing documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations, using offline apps) without an Internet connection. The District can provide contacts in the community to help qualifying families subscribe to affordable Internet services.

BENNINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2022-23

The Mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

www.benningtonschools.org
402-238-2447

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PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Junior-Senior High School. It presents guidelines and directions which will help answer questions regarding school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of Bennington Junior Senior High School. These pages are devoted to the rules that govern Bennington Junior-Senior High School. However, it is impossible to list the unique circumstances covered by every rule. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. We encourage parents and guardians to visit the school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we can provide the best educational experience possible for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please feel free to contact us

SCHOOL COLORS -- *Royal Blue and White*

SCHOOL MASCOT -- *Badger*

SCHOOL MISSION -- *"Commit now to becoming two or four year college graduate with minimal debt by the age of 24."*

SCHOOL PHONE -- 238-2447
FAX -- 238-2950

SCHOOL CONFERENCE – Eastern Midlands Conference

N.S.A.A. -- Class B

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.benningtonschools.org

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

A. The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Board duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.

B. The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. He/She is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. He/She advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's sanction.

C. The Principal of each building, under the supervision of the Superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

II. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Bennington Public Schools are organized in a 6 - 3 - 4 plan. This implies that a student has six years of Elementary School training (K-5), three years Middle School training (6-8), and four years of High School (9-12). Bennington is a fully accredited school by the Nebraska State Department and the North Central Accreditation of Schools.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The High School Principal, Assistant Principal/Activities Director and Counselor's offices are located on your right as you enter the main entrance of the building.

Principal –Greg Lamberty
Activities Director/Assistant Principal –Chris Kessell
Assistant Principal Cody Bobolz
School Resource Officer – Gary Baker

IV. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The primary concern of the counselor is to aid students who have questions concerning academic, personal, or social life. This is accomplished through private conferences and group discussion. The counselor discusses questions with students concerning future courses and possible vocations and careers.
The goal of the guidance program is to help students develop an understanding and acceptance of themselves so they may make intelligent vocational, educational and social choices. Students are assisted in formulating goals, which are unique to their personal talents, capacities, and interests. Guidance can help the students believe in themselves, to respect themselves and others, and to recognize that achievement can be a personally satisfying experience when goals are clarified.
Counseling is the heart of the guidance service. It is defined as the process of an experienced and qualified individual helping a second person to understand oneself.
The following services are provided through the Counseling Office: self-evaluation, planning high school programs, preparing for post-secondary education and training, studying vocational and career options, counseling students individually and in groups, administering individual and group tests, conferring with parents regarding student progress and concerns, making referrals to various agencies, scheduling classes and assisting with curriculum planning, and conducting follow-up studies with various groups.

Guidance Counselor (O-Z) – Ryan Rischling
Guidance Counselor (H-N) –Katheryn McQueen
Guidance Counselor (A-G) – Jennifer Smith

V. RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS

A. It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the agency provides this verification, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental/guardian signature is necessary to release the student data.

B. Information

1. School officials may have access to only records in which there is a legitimate educational interest, unless a parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if an official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the superintendent or designee.

3. Students and parents/guardian of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

4. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Bennington Public Schools to provide address and telephone listings. Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

5. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student intends to enroll. This is only if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

6. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

   a. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**

   b. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

VI. MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE

Mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: The mandatory ages of attendance are age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached 18 years of age; (4) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office). In addition to a signed notarized release form, the superintendent's designee (Principal) shall conduct an exit interview if the child is (a) enrolled in Bennington High School, or (b) resides in the school district and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

ADDRESSSING BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to obtain maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center. The administration will follow Nebraska Statute 79-208 and 209 when dealing with attendance issues.

Excessive absenteeism is the failure to attend school for a minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board, with or without reasonable cause.

The superintendent shall designate the principal as the attendance officer. The principal will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status. The principal may assemble an attendance team that will facilitate implementation of the attendance plan and will be responsible for oversight of attendance strategies.

If any student has accumulated a total of, eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the school shall render all services to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
2. A meeting or meetings between a school attendance officer, school social worker a school administrator or designee, the person who has legal or actual control of the child, and the student (when appropriate) to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

    (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
    (ii) Educational counseling;
    (iii) Educational evaluation;
    (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
    (v) Family or individual counseling; and
    (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting or services offers as part of the attendance plan, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

Notification:

1. If a student has accumulated eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

2. If a student has accumulated fifteen (15) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.

3. If a student is absent more than twenty (20) days in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. The District shall notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the student to the county attorney. The report shall state that the District has made the efforts required by this policy and that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful and the District recommends county attorney intervention. The report shall include all relevant information regarding the student's attendance and excessive absenteeism. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.

4. If a student has a history of being chronically absent from school, the District shall render any and all services in the District's power to compel the student to attend school at any time the attendance officer deems necessary. This may include filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides prior to twenty (20) days, or the hour equivalent, of absence in a school year.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

If a student is unexcused absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the County Attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical. This may be done by informing the County Attorney of either the number of absence due to such illnesses or that the attendance officer is of the opinion that prosecution is not warranted. This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.
2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.
3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.
4. A copy of the final certified letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.
5. A copy of the attendance requirement.
6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include past actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

Attendance is coded at Bennington Public Schools as listed below.

E - Excused - family emergencies or events (examples could include a family wedding, funeral, a family member being deployed with the military, 50th wedding anniversary) - students can make up work for full credit.

U - Unexcused - Parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit, but may be asked to do so during after school or morning study hall or Saturday School.

MP - Medical Parent - a student is sick and a parent or guardian calls to verify they are home ill. - students can make up work for full credit.

MD - Medical Doctor - a parent or guardian provides a doctor's note to validate their absence from school. - students can make up work for full credit.

T - Tardy - a student is tardy to school or to a class period throughout the day.

R - Truant - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence.

SA - School Activity - a student is absent at a school sponsored activity. - students should have completed work prior to being absent at a school activity.

Below are a list of district procedures when recording excused and unexcused absences for all students.

1. Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused."
2. When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered "unexcused."
3. The school district will only recognize school sponsored activities as excused absences. Any club activity (volleyball, softball, basketball, hockey, etc.) where a students is absent will be coded as a "U" and considered unexcused.

*The school does not recognize Senior Skip Day as an excused absence.

VII. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

A. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be duplicated. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.

B. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.

C. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school

hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, students must bring a note of parental/guardian request to the school office at least one day before the student leaves school for the appointment. In cases of emergency, the principal may waive this procedure. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's study period or during different periods throughout the school day. All students must report to the office after they have been absent

D. Each absence must be covered by a signed note or telephone call from a parent or guardian, stating the date and reason for the absence.

E. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work. Students and parents/guardians should avoid scheduling vacations during the days of final examinations.

F. Any student missing more than ten (10) days per semester (this includes both excused and unexcused absences) will have his/her record reviewed by an Attendance Committee with the possibility of credit loss for that semester. Meaning a student may not miss the same period more than ten (10) times. Any student with five absences (excused or unexcused absences) during any quarter will also have his/her attendance record reviewed by a school administrator, parent/guardian, and student (if necessary) to solve the excessive absenteeism problem. Parents/guardians will also be notified by mail when a student reaches their eighth absences for a semester. Parents/guardians will be notified when the tenth absence occurs. They will have seven school days to meet with the Attendance Committee. They will have an opportunity to explain if the child's absences were due to: 1) Illness with doctor verification; or 2) Absences due to family emergency and/or special family/student need. If the parent/guardian cannot provide clear proof to substantiate items 1 and 2, students will lose credit for all classes missed ten (10) or more times. Failure to comply with this meeting will result in automatic loss of credit.

G. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring. If a student is tardy for his/her first period class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class and will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. Tardies for periods 2-8 will be recorded by the classroom teacher.

Emergencies will periodically occur causing a student to be late to school. Consequently, a student may be tardy two times without disciplinary consequences. Further tardiness (for all class periods 1-8) will result in the following disciplinary action:

3 tardies – one detention / 2 lunch detentions
6 tardies – one detention / 2 lunch detentions
9 tardies – two detentions / 4 lunch detentions / 2-Hour Saturday school
12 tardies – 2-Hour Saturday school / two detentions
15 tardies – two 2-hour Saturday schools / 4-Hour Saturday School
18 tardies – one day suspension / 2 4-Hour Saturday Schools
19 or more tardies – Attendance/Behavior Contract Initiated with designated consequences.

Each tardy is accumulated for periods 1-8 throughout semester. The principal will deal with excessive unexcused tardiness on an individual basis. When a student arrives more than 15 minutes late to any class period, it will be considered an unexcused absence and the student will be required to serve a detention.

H. Students who skip classes are in violation of BHS conduct rules. A skip (truancy) is defined as any absence that the school and parents/guardians do not approve or an absence that the principal will not accept as a reasonable absence: for example, oversleeping, hair appointments, shopping, remaining in the restroom during class without permission, and other absences when the school is not properly notified.

I. Students shall be present 5 of the 8 periods of the school day in order to participate in any school event, including practices, performances, or games. If the activity occurs before 5th period, the student must be in attendance all previous periods.

J. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities. Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and following unless administrators determine such participation poses a significant risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant or parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed health care provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification may be required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed health care provider. Pregnant or parenting students are here notified that they may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school.

Lactation:

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

K. Married students residing in the district are considered to be of legal age and shall have the same educational opportunities as unmarried students. The district encourages married students and students with children to complete requirements for graduation and to participate in school activities.

VIII. MAKE-UP WORK

A. No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher. **Students can be required to take tests and quizzes as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence.** School Board policy #503.03 states that “students absences approved shall make up work missed and receive full credit”. Ordinarily, students will be given one-day for each day absent to make-up work (five day or less). In the case of long-term absences (six days or more), the instructor and grade level administer will determine when make-up work is due based on the difficulty of content and length of absence.

B. When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence they will be required to turn in make-up work at the end of the day on the day they return to school.

C. If a student is going to be absent from school for an athletic event, field trip, or other school-sponsored activity, he/she is required to turn in all assignments requested by teachers prior to the absence, or in a manner acceptable by the teacher. If the student does not meet this requirement, the teacher will inform the sponsor of the event or the principal and the student will not be dismissed from school. Staff

members can be informed of the students who will be absent by a list provided to staff members by the sponsor at least two days prior to the event. Students are not counted absent on school-sponsored trips.

IX. THE SCHOOL DAY

A. Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must report to the office for help. Students who leave without proper permission will be considered truant. Failure to comply with this standard will be considered a major rule violation resulting in an administrative conference and potentially disciplinary action.

B. Illness at School

Students who become ill during the school day are to report to the office. If the school nurse is present, he/she will help assess the situation. In his/her absence, the office staff will work with the student. Students will not be sent home until parents/guardians or emergency contacts have been notified.

C. Released Time from School

1. Junior ~~and Senior~~ students may be released from school with the permission from the school and/or parents/guardians for employment opportunities. This provision applies only to periods one and eight.

2. Students requesting to leave school early must pick up a release form in the office, secure the necessary signatures, and have the form returned to school before the release can be granted.

3. Students must be passing all subjects to keep release time status. These standards will be checked each grading period. Students who do not meet the standards will be required to report to a study hall until the next grading period.

4. Students who receive early release will not be allowed to stay at school. Seniors that leave school after 4-8 periods need to exit campus.

D. School Lunch Program

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any

USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov - This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Students must remain on the campus during lunchtime. Please note that the federal lunch program prohibits bringing in outside fast food items during the lunch period (McDonalds, Burger King, etc). All students must report to the Commons area during their entire assigned lunch period (students may be excused with a prearranged pass from a teacher). During the months of August, September, April, and May students will be allowed to use the Courtyard area after they are done eating. They must be supervised by an adult.

E. Fire Drills and Tornado Drills

Teachers will give students instructions to follow during drills. There will be no talking or running during the drills. Everyone must leave the building when the fire alarm rings.

F. School Closing

State law requires school to be in session a minimum of 175 days. Our calendar ranges from 175-177 days each year. In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. School Messenger System will also provide school closing information to all patrons who have subscribed to the service. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If more days are used for inclement weather than the number scheduled, time will be made up Saturdays or at the end of the school year.

G. The Daily Bulletin (*Badger Gram*)

School information will be read to students at the beginning of third period. A copy of the bulletin will be placed outside the office each day. The daily bulletin will also be posted on the school website. Information for the bulletin should be given to the high school secretary by 8:30 a.m.

H. **Class Period Schedule**

Period 1	8:10 – 8:55
Period 2	8:59 – 9:44
Period 3	9:48 – 10:33
Period 4	10:37 – 11:22
Period 5	**11:26 – 11:52 A 11:33 – 11:59** **11:52 – 12:18 B 11:59 – 12:25** **12:18 – 12:44 C 12:24 – 12:50**
Period 6	12:54 – 1:39
Period 7	1:43 – 2:28
Period 8	2:32 – 3:17

Bus leaves	*3:25*
Detention	*3:20 - 4:00 (M-TR)*

I. **Student Passes**

If a student wishes to confer with a teacher or counselor during a study hall period, he/she should have that teacher issue a pass from their planner prior to the study hall period to present to the study hall teacher.

Students may be issued passes to leave a classroom or study hall for necessary reasons. Students in halls or restrooms during class time must have their signed planner with them. Students are limited to four passes per school day. Privileges will be taken away from students for not following appropriate pass procedures.

J. **Passing Periods**

1. Passing periods will be four minutes in length. This will allow ample time to get from one classroom to the next.

2. Students who arrive at school before 8:00 are to remain in the commons area until 8:00 unless accompanied by a teacher.

3. All students are to be out of the building by 4:00 p.m. unless under the direct supervision of a teacher. Doors to the main staircase will be locked at 4:00 p.m. Students must bring their books to the gym before practices that end after 4:00 p.m. All students in the building after 4:00 must wait in the commons unless supervised.

K. Late Assignments Procedures

It is the responsibility of all students to turn in their assignments in a timely manner. Any day of the week teachers may also require students to attend after school study center or come 30 minutes before school to make up late assignments. Teachers will notify parents/guardians by phone or e-mail. If a student does not report, parents will be notified by the principal or designee and students will be assigned after school detention for the next day. If the student skips after school assignments repeatedly, there will be a required meeting with student, parents, teachers that are involved and principal. Students who have difficulty with organization and getting work turned in, may be referred to the PST team for review. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of each individual teacher and will be covered in their syllabi

L. Detention

Detentions will be assigned from 3:20-4:00 with designated staff members. Grades 9-12 will be assigned detentions Monday-Thursday. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the Code of Conduct or failure to complete academic assignments. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day assigned unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or by the principal. All students who are involved in extra-curricular activities must serve their detentions at the regularly scheduled time and they must report to their practices immediately after their detention is finished. Rescheduling requests will be considered by the principal on an individual basis. Students will be required to be on task with school assigned activities; they may not use cell phones.

Failure to serve a detention will result in parental notification and additional consequences assigned by the grade level administrator. If a student fails to serve a second detention, they will receive Saturday Schools and their parents will be required to meet with the principal to develop a plan to correct this behavior.

X. BUS SERVICE

A. The Bennington Public Schools provides free transportation to and from school at designated pick up, drop off or stopping points, at such times and according to such routes as determined by the Bennington Public Schools for resident students who live more than four miles from the school they attend. Transportation may also be provided for school activities as determined by the Bennington School.

B. Transportation may also be provided to resident students who live less than four miles from the school. They may use this service at a cost of $175.00 per semester per student ($350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be paid by the month, by the semester, or annually. A $5.00 per-day per-student fee will be charged to occasional riders when and as determined appropriate by the Bennington Public Schools. Each of these situations will be handled on an individual basis depending on distance from the schoolhouse they attend and the established bus routes.

C. Transportation fees assessed by Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon request
If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Applications for reduction of school transportation fees will be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Transportation, accompanied by sufficient documentation to establish that the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

D. The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in the school's best interests.

E. Parents/guardians must notify the school when a child is planning to ride a different bus or needs to be dropped off at a location different from his regular stop. If a student requests the change without parental/guardian notification, the driver will not allow the change to be made.

F. Parents/guardians and students should review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:

1. School transportation is a privilege.
2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus.
3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus arrives. At the end of the school day busses will leave five minutes after high school dismissal. All students riding the bus must report promptly after dismissal.
4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus windows.
6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus.
7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated. This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of the other students.
8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking both directions for on-coming traffic.
9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.
10. The back door is to be used only in case of emergency; <u>always</u> use the front door for entering and leaving the bus.

G. All bus behavior rules apply to activities and field trips as well as transportation to and from school.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

A. Hall & Locker Room Lockers

The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students will be provided a locker with attached lock. It is the responsibility of the student to properly lock their locker. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to share their locker combinations. Students are not to change lockers without

permission. Only school locks can be used on all school lockers. Lockers will not have decorations posted without administrative approval.

B. Search and Seizure

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions, and automobiles may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use.

The principal or his designee may confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the high school safe and free from illegal drugs, the high school principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found, as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline.

C. Dating Violence

Bennington Public Schools prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

D. Public Displays of Affection/Aggression

Students are not allowed to display affection for each other at school. Such things as holding hands, embracing, and kissing are inappropriate behavior during school hours. Students are expected to conduct themselves with maturity.

Aggressive play or intimidating/bullying behavior is prohibited. Students who intimidate/bully or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of board policy #504.51.

E. **Telephone**

1. The school's phones are business phones and are not to be used by students during the school day unless they have received permission.

2. If messages are of an emergency nature, they will be delivered directly to the student in the classroom.

3. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used during passing periods and lunch. Usage in classrooms is up to the discretion of each individual teacher. Students need to be aware of their teacher's expectations regarding these electronic devices. Failure to comply with appropriate electronic device etiquette may result in disciplinary action. If a student is using a cell phone or electronic device in violation of school or classroom rules, the student will have the item confiscated and turned in to the administration. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic devices may be picked up the following day by students in the administration office. On the day of confiscation, the student's parent/guardian may retrieve the device at the end of the school day in the administrative office unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law or school policy, or has been turned over to legal authorities. Failure to give the cell phone or other electronic device to a staff member upon request will be considered insubordination resulting in disciplinary action. Repeated infractions of the Bennington cellular phone or other electronic device guidelines will result in escalated consequences. There is a zero-tolerance policy for cell phone use in restrooms and locker rooms.

4. Any student caught using their cell phone to bully or harass another student will be subject to disciplinary action.

F. **Possession of Nuisance Devices**

Students are encouraged to bring only necessary materials to school in order to maintain a school environment where all students may reach their potential. Unnecessary items can be a distraction to the learning environment and create unnecessary opportunities for theft in which the school cannot be held responsible. Any item that is disruptive to the educational environment will be considered nuisance items and will not be allowed in classrooms, except at the discretion of an individual teacher. Students can expect to have these items confiscated by staff and administration; the items will be turned into the office.

G. **Parking**

Students are to park in designated student parking areas. Due to the number of parking stalls available, parking will be assigned by grade and all students must have the appropriate parking tag in their window in order to park in their area. Failure to display the correct tag, or parking in an unauthorized area may result in a fine ($5 first offense, $10 for all additional offenses), a car boot, or loss of parking privileges. Drop-off traffic may continue straight ahead to the drop-off loop. There is no parking in the drop-off loop. Students may not park in the teacher parking section during school hours. Students are not allowed to park in the loading dock area or teacher parking lot at any time.

- By parking on school grounds, students give consent to have their car searched by school officials when reasonable suspicion exists.
- Students with outstanding fines at school may be subject to a loss of specific parking lot privileges

- All vehicles must be street legal and only consume one parking stall in the lot. Farm equipment, ATV's, Go Carts, etc. will not be allowed access to parking lots on BHS property.

H. Posters

Any student, group, or organization needs to have the approval of the sponsor and the principal before hanging any poster or sign. Only masking tape may be used to hang posters, and those who put posters up must also remove them in a timely manner.

I. Food and Beverage

Students must adhere to individual teacher's procedures for beverages and food in the classroom. Teachers have the discretion in what is allowed in their classroom. Failure to comply with teacher procedures may result in teacher/administrator consequences.

J. Fund-Raising Activities

School organizations are regularly involved in revenue-producing projects to support planned activities. Since School District tax money cannot be used to finance these activities, each organization must decide which activities it wishes to conduct and is responsible for the costs involved. Each student involved in any of these projects must assume full responsibility for the products issued to him/her for selling. The student will be held accountable for returning the product or money or both to the office depending upon the sales. Each organization shall have the right to establish policies related to the projects. Refer to Board Policy 506.08. All fundraising must be approved by administration prior to any selling activity.

K. Lost and Found

The office maintains a small lost and found area. Any article left in the classroom or found in the building should be turned in to one of the secretaries. Articles may be claimed with proper identification. Appropriate safeguards should always prevail. Large amounts of money or valuables should not be brought to school. If brought to school by necessity, such items should be checked in at the office for safe keeping until after school hours. Items left unclaimed at the end of each quarter will be donated to a local store or organization.

L. Text books

All basic texts are provided to students during the school year. Texts are to be kept clean and in good condition. Fines are assessed for damaged texts. The teacher will handle end of the year textbook fines and as the fines are collected they will be turned into the office:

1. Books lost or damaged beyond repair – full value of replacement.
2. Backs or covers broken -- $12.50 per book (over 2 years old) $25.00 per book (less than 2 years old).
3. Pages torn and un-mended -- $.50 per page (not to exceed the value).
4. Ink writing, spots, etc-- $.25 per page.
5. Pencil marks – students must erase these marks.

M. Financial Indebtedness

Financial indebtedness is something that cannot be ignored or put off. School policy states that all course credit will be frozen and transcripts will be withheld until all financial obligations have been cleared with the school. Students or parents/guardians must also reimburse the school district the actual cost of replacing books or materials, the rebinding of books, or the value of replacing school property.

Students who willfully cause damage to school property will be responsible for the cost of the damage including labor. They will also receive disciplinary consequences for their actions.

N. School Assemblies

All students should express their school spirit through hand clapping (no whistling or shouting) during any assemblies held during the year. Performers are our guests; and students must respect them and their peers at all times during these performances. These programs, which quite often include our own students, are provided for our educational benefit. Therefore, we should show interest and consideration toward all presenters and performers. The same courtesy should be extended to students and teachers from other schools.

O. Student Spectators

Students are encouraged to attend all of the school activities offered by Bennington Schools. School spirit is encouraged at all times. School spirit means loyalty to all Bennington High School activities and their participants while demonstrating respect for the opposing team's participants, coaches, and fans as well as the game officials. If a student chooses to leave during an event, he/she will not be allowed to return. [Exceptions: 1) Students may attend two different events being hosted at Bennington on the same night; and 2) Students may return during a day-long tournament.] BHS students are not allowed to bring outside containers into the gym or facilities during school activities.

P. Visitors

All visitors are required to first stop in the office and need to be identified before proceeding into other parts of the building. Friends or siblings of students will not be allowed to visit classrooms or join students for lunch without administrative approval. Former students wishing to visit teachers are encouraged to do so outside of regular school hours.

Q. Asbestos Notification

The Institute for Environmental Assessment has been retained by the Bennington Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos, if any, within any of the school district buildings. The district will conduct periodic surveillance of all asbestos materials on an annual basis. This periodic surveillance has been conducted to provide continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of any asbestos materials in all buildings. The detailed plan and updated information for each building, or for the entire district, is open to public review and is located in the office of each building. If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent at 238-3044.

R. **Media Center Rules**

The Library Media Center is available for your information needs and reading enjoyment from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Students should come to use the library resources to help the library serve you better and make your library time more productive, please follow these rules:

The auditorium is considered an educational setting and a performance space for our students and community. Students are not permitted in the auditorium, catwalks, storage rooms, or scene shop without permission from a BPS staff member. The use of the auditorium is subject to the BHS administration and BHS music department.

T. **Option Enrollment Program**

Any student wishing to enroll in the option enrollment program must meet the deadlines prior to May 1 for NSAA eligibility and all other guidelines set forth in the School Board policies.

U. **Internet Use**

Bennington Secondary School Internet use is granted to students, and is monitored by staff and a software filtering service. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action and loss of Internet privileges. Parents /guardians who wish to have their student(s) not allowed usage of the Internet should contact their grade-level administrator. (See addendum XX).

V. **School Ceremonies and Observances**

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reason in compliance with board policy. Requests for remembering or memorializing a person or event shall be approved by the superintendent and/or building principal, subject to this policy. Major school ceremonies such as graduation, awards, and scholarship events are not appropriate for significant memorial activities. School-wide recognition of anniversary dates will not occur. Temporary memorial symbols displayed on school grounds will be limited to a maximum of one month past the occurrence being memorialized. Requests may be made to memorialize an individual or event in the school yearbook or one edition of the school newspaper/newsletter. Information may be included on a “Memorial Page,” but should be limited to the name, photo, dates of birth/death, and school activities in which the student or staff member participated.

W. **School Store**

The store will be run by the FBLA and Booster Club through the activities department and be open on an established & agreed upon schedule by both organizations at various athletic/activity school events. The school store will provide a variety of items for students including school supplies. The school store will be staffed by FBLA students. A faculty member will oversee school store operations during each shift. Students will be expected to report to all of their assigned shifts unless reasonable notice is given of their absence.

X. Recreational Trail

Use of the recreational trail, which traverses the school grounds, is subject to two sets of rules. The School has retained the authority to control use of the trail in conformance with student discipline and safety rules and regulations. When using the trail, students will be required to follow the same school rules that apply to school grounds. In addition, the City of Bennington has an ordinance, which establishes additional rules that students and other users of the trail must follow. The City's ordinance is available in the Principal's office.

Y. Student Technology Device Use

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Z. Regulated Electronic Devices

Any prohibited items or devices brought to school or school events may be confiscated by district staff. Prohibited items will be turned over to the student's parents or guardian on request unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law, or has been turned over to legal authorities.

Prohibited devices shall include any item which is sufficiently annoying, offensive, unpleasant, or obnoxious that it substantially interferes with or materially disrupts the educational process.
In addition to any prohibitions on electronic devices defined in the student handbook, students shall not use electronic devices for recording or transmitting photographs, images or sounds of other persons without direct administrative approval and consent of all person(s) being recorded, other than the recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time where there is an expectation of privacy. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

AA. Breathalyzers

The District may require all students to submit to alcohol screening before they may enter or exit a school sponsored event or activity, or prior to leaving on a field trip or other off-campus event or activity sponsored by the school. Such screening devices may be used to sample students' breath and any liquid-carrying containers. If such screening has positive results, then there shall be a second screening. If such second screening again has positive results, then there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has violated the District's alcohol policy and the student may be subjected to a field test.

XII. STUDENT DRESS

A. Students are required to dress appropriately and in good taste. No student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students (dress which might cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the individual student or the student body). Bennington High School has a standard of dress that students will be expected to follow.

B. It is inappropriate for students to wear any top that does not cover the back, chest, abdomen or shoulders. Upper body articles should cover the body from the shoulders to the waist. Some examples of prohibited dress include: Bare backs, bare shoulders, midriffs, tube tops, halter tops. Clothing must have straps that are at least 1" wide and are over the shoulders. No see through or soiled clothing is allowed. Visible undergarments are prohibited. Both girls and boys will be allowed to wear shorts as long as they are an appropriate length. Undergarments and private parts (front side and back side) should not be visible when wearing any top or bottom garment. Shorts with pockets exposed below the hem are not appropriate school attire.

C. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertises or promotes alcohol, smoking, drugs; uses profanity, or makes offensive reference to sexuality, race, or culture, has a double meaning, or is otherwise inappropriate is not allowed in school. Jewelry that could be used as a weapon will not be permitted.

D. Sagging pants are inappropriate for school attire. All students are to wear pants at the waistline. Any student wearing pants with undergarments visible will be required to raise the pants to the waist. Pants and skirts with revealing or excessive holes are inappropriate student dress.

E. It is not appropriate to wear hats or stocking hats in the building during school hours. Therefore, all students wearing hats to school must keep them in their lockers during the day. Bandanas may not be worn in school.

F. Athletic (practice) clothing should not be worn in class.
Wrestling singlets, costumes, and pajamas are prohibited.
Athletes must leave their shirts on during practice and games.
Face paint is not allowed at school and full face paint is not allowed at activities.
Sunglasses on the face are not allowed at school but will be allowed at outside activities.
*Sunglasses prescribed by a doctor will be permitted.

G. Students should not wear clothing or hairstyles that are hazardous in school activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, or art; or block their vision; or restrict their movement. Teachers in lab areas may have grooming or dress rules to assure a safe environment. Students are required to adhere to such rules.

H. Light coats and jackets (including letter jackets) are allowed. Hooded sweatshirts are allowed as long as the hoods are not worn above the neck. No blankets or winter jackets will be allowed to be worn once school begins in the morning.

I. Special eye protection may be required in some classes. Students are expected to comply with these rules for their own safety.

J. Students will be required to wear some type of soled shoe or sandal while attending school and/or school events. Open toed shoes will not be permitted in industrial technology or physical education classes.

K. If, in the opinion of administration students violate the above mentioned dress code he/she could be required to change, return home and change, or be administered consequences for insubordination. The time spent en-route will be unexcused and consequences may be administered. If offenses are repeated, additional consequences may be issued. Dress code exceptions may be made for those attending extra-curricular activities.

L. Students should not wear chains, leashes, or collars around their necks that could be consider a choking hazard.

***Prom and Homecoming – Dress code will allow for strapless dresses and minimal exposed abdomens. Prom is a formal dance and Homecoming is business casual.**
***Athletic Practices/Games – School Purchased or approved uniforms are allowed**

XIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. School Nurse

1. The School Nurse is an integral part of the total education program. The Visiting Nurses Association is funded by private contract. Bennington Public Schools typically receive nurse's services three full days a week.

2. The location of the nurse's office varies. The Nurse will not treat walk-ins when she is on site. In an emergency, students must report to the office.

3. Medication should be given at home whenever possible. When it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, the parents/guardians must complete the Medication Authorization Form in the school office. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide any medication given at school and ensures its safe travel to and from school. All medication must be sent to school in the original container and will be stored securely on arrival at school.

4. For fever over 100 degrees/or vomiting students should be kept home a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.

B. Medication Regulation

1. Bennington Public Schools is not to administer any prescribed medication without the approval of parents/guardians and doctor. No unauthorized medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) shall be administered by the school nurse or any school staff member. No personnel of Bennington Public Schools will prescribe medication at any time. The staff is not allowed to give students any prescription or non-prescription medication. Students may use non-prescribed medication, but may not distribute non-prescribed (over the counter) medication to peers. Distribution of any type of medication will be in violation of the Code of Conduct.

2. When a student must take medication, which has been prescribed by a doctor during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:

   (a) All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. If medication is controlled, parents are required to conduct an exact count of the medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.
   (b) Only four weeks supply shall be brought at a time unless otherwise indicated by the parent/guardian and attending physician.
   (c) The label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label.
   (d) All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication with them or in the lockers.
   (e) Medication will only be used by the student in the office and in front of the school secretary or the principal.
   (f) Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

C. **Student Self-Management of Medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

Parents/Guardians may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis (both Diabetes and Anaphylaxis must be self- administered in the nurse's office under the care of the health para or nurse). The parent will need to follow the following procedures.

1. The parent/guardian will be required to request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent/guardian will need written verification from a physician or other health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment indicating the condition and specific medications including: name and purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.
3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

Once the request has been approved the school and parent/guardian in consultation with the student's physician, will develop a plan for the self-management of the student's medication. The plan will include the following items.

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at the school relating to the condition;
2. Evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his/her condition;
3. Permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his/her condition by a regularly credentialed health care professional; and
4. Be signed by the student's parent/guardian and the physician responsible for the treatment of the student's condition;

5. The plan will include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescriptions medication as well as the procedure for reporting when the student has administered medication;
6. The disciplinary procedures regarding the misuse or threatened misuse of medications and supplies, as well notification procedures if discipline action is necessary.

The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:

1. The district and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition; and
2. Shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agent against a claim arising from the student's self-management of his/her condition.
3. Any injury to others as a result of the student's self-medication shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

XIV. PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICIES

A. The physical education dress for girls and boys is gym shorts, T-shirt, and socks. All students must wear tennis shoes for safety reasons while using the gym. Students must furnish their own towels.

B. All gym clothes and shoes should be marked with the owner's name.

C. When going to and from gym class, please use the hall door nearest your dressing room. No one is allowed in the gym at noon and before or after school without permission of the athletic director. If a coach or teacher is using the gym at any time, they are responsible for all students and equipment. Students must leave when the supervisor does. The gym should not be used as a play area during practice for non-athletic activities. Students will not be able to use the weight room or gym area without a teacher supervising. Students cannot be in these areas without a teacher present.

D. Students are expected to practice good hygiene prior to and after PE class. Students are encouraged to shower after class and bring a rotation of clean & sanitary clothes.

XV. SCHOLASTIC POLICIES

A minimum of 50 credits of successful course work must be completed to meet the requirements for graduation from Bennington High School. Certain courses are required of all students; the remainder may be selected from a variety of elective subjects. All 9th and 11th graders are required to carry seven subjects per semester. 12th grade students who choose to take than less than seven (7) courses, must be on track to graduate (minimum of 42 credits), and enrolled in no less than four (4) courses at Bennington High School.

A. Graduation Requirements

Please see Bennington Public Schools website, or link below for access to the grading policy.

http://www.benningtonschools.org/index.cfm?action=208&id=626&tab=sr

Students must earn 50 credits to receive a Diploma and be a full-time student. A full-time student is defined as four (4) classes taken at Bennington High School, (Bennington Curriculum).

Language Arts - 8 Credits.
English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12, AP Language or AP Literature

Social Studies - 8 Credits.
World Geography, World History, American History or AP American History, and American Government are required

Mathematics - 6 Credits.
Algebra and Geometry are required

Science - 6 Credits.
Physical Science and Biology will be required for graduation

Business Computer Applications and Personal Finance – 2 Credits
Information Technology 1 and Personal Finance are required

Physical Education - 4 Credits.
Health 9 and three other semesters of a PE class are required

Electives – 16 Credits
Students may choose from the variety of courses, across multiple disciplines provided at Bennington High School

Foreign Language
Will not be required for graduation, but is highly recommended for all students planning on attending a 4-year college program. Check entrance requirements for the program that you choose.

Exceptions to the course of study listed above may be granted for transfer students with administrative approval. Students who do not complete the courses listed above will not be eligible to receive a diploma and will not participate in commencement exercises.

Accumulated Credits

To meet the 50-credit requirement for graduation a student should earn a minimum level of credits each school year.

9th grade	-	0-12 credits
10th grade	-	13-24 credits
11th grade	-	25-36 credits
12th grade	-	37 + credits

If these minimum levels are not met, a student may need an additional semester or year to complete their course of study. We highly recommend that students exceed these minimum requirements to help them prepare for the rigor of post-secondary educational experiences.

CREDIT RECOVERY**:** Bennington High School will offer a credit recovery program targeting students who have had considerable difficulty in acquiring typical academic skills and credits needed to graduate from high school. The goal of Credit Recovery is to give high school students the opportunity to

graduate in a timely manner. This program has policies and procedures that allow students who have failed core courses (courses required for graduation) an opportunity to make-up course work for credit. Bennington High School students may be eligible to participate in Credit Recovery if accepted and by adhering to the guidelines. There will be a fee required for this opportunity. Guidelines will be provided upon request.

EARLY GRADUATION POLICY: In order to qualify for early graduation both the student and his/her parents/guardians must meet with and make written application to the principal and guidance counselor no later than November 15th during the first semester of the student's junior year. Recommendation will be made by the administration and a decision will be rendered by the Board of Education. Students who enroll in college immediately after completing their high school course of study may participate in the spring graduation ceremony. Early graduates must have 50 completed credits with all required courses successfully passed. Part time students will forfeit their membership in all school organizations if they graduate early.

B. **Grading System**

1. Grading is based on all facets of classroom performance: recitations, attitude, interest, cooperation, attendance, tests, and daily work.

2. A grade system of A through F will be used. An "A" will be the highest grade a student could receive. An "F" is considered to be a failing grade. Numbers will be used to determine class averages. A system of grade points will be used to translate letter grades into numerical cumulative grade point averages and class ranks for each student.

3. Academic letters will be calculated at the end of students' 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th semester of each year Students that have maintained a minimum of a cumulative 3.5 grade point average will be eligible for the award.

Grading Scale

Regular Courses	Weighted Courses
A = 4.0 = 100-93	A = 4.5 = 100-93
B = 3.0 = 92-86	B = 3.5 = 92-86
C = 2.0 = 85-77	C = 2.5 = 85-77
D = 1.0 = 76-70	D = 1.5 = 76-70
F = 0.0 = Below 70	F = 0.0 = Below 70

C. **Honor Roll**

1. PRESIDENT'S LIST (Top Academic Honor Roll) REQUIREMENTS:
9th-11th graders must be graded in at least seven (7) classes, while seniors must be graded in at least six (6) classes.

4.0 - 3.75 grade average

2. DEAN'S LIST (Regular Honor Roll) REQUIREMENTS:
9-12th graders must be graded in at least four (4) classes.

4.0 - 3.5 grade average.

*Honor Roll is calculated at the end of each quarter, as well as a semester Honor Roll. No late or make-up work will be allowed to be calculated in after the quarter or semester drop dead date unless approved by the principal.

D. **Weighted Courses**

The following will be weighted courses:

AP Calculus	AP English Literature and Composition
AP US History	AP French
AP Chemistry	AP Biology
AP Spanish	AP Statistics
AP Language and Composition	AP World Geography
AP Computer Science	

Laude Recognition Model

Summa Cum Laude ("*with the highest honor"*) – This is the highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate summa cum laude, a student must achieve a 4.0 GPA on a 4.00 weighted scale.

Magna Cum Laude ("*with great honor*") – This is the second highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate magna cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.95 but less than a 4.00 on a 4.00 weighted scale.

Cum Laude ("*with honor*") – This is the third highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.90 but less than a 3.95 on a 4.00 weighted scale.

E. Grade Reports

1. Bennington Public Schools' students will receive their report card once every nine weeks, or four times a year. Semester grades are the grades of record.

2. Interim Reports will be sent to all parents/guardians after 4 ½ weeks of the quarter. Parent/Guardian conferences may be scheduled at any time.

3. On-line grades will be available to all parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians may view their child/children's grades by using Bennington School's website (www.benningtonschools.org). They will be required to register with the school prior to their first use. The information provided is secure. Parents/Guardians will be able to access their child/children's grades, attendance and discipline records. All information provided will be updated on a weekly basis.

F. Extra Help

Students are encouraged to seek extra help from teachers if an assignment is not understood, if the work is difficult, or if he/she has been absent and missed assignments or class instruction. Students should arrange a conference with their teacher before or after school or at a time

convenient to both during the day. A teacher may request a student stay after school if it is apparent he/she is having difficulty with work. Study Center will be available Monday-Thursday morning between the hours of 7:00am and 7:45am in the areas of English, Science, and Math.

G. Academic Dishonesty

Students who are academically dishonest (cheating) must meet with their teacher and grade level administrator, and parents will be notified as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Consequences could range from and administrative conference to short term suspension for cheating. At the conclusion of the meeting with teacher(s) and administrator(s), students may be allowed to make up work on their own time.

H. New Student Registration

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress must provide the following items when registering:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time, shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
2. Evidence of a physical examination if they are transfer from out of state;
3. Updated Immunization/Health records.
4. A transcript from the previous school or current/proposed class schedule;
5. Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, of if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given. New students and parents/guardians will register in the Counselor's office. New students will not start classes the same day they register.

I. Dual-Enrollment Program

Any student may attend college while still enrolled at Bennington high school. Students who are interested should contact the school counselor. The student will pay tuition and books, and provide transportation for off-campus classes. The student will pay for tuition for dual enrolled classes held at Bennington High School. Students will receive credit toward high school graduation for dual enrolled courses taken at Bennington High School. Students will not receive credit for high school graduation for Dual Enrollment courses at the college, if equivalent coursework is offered by Bennington High School. Dual enrolled college course must be taught by a high school accredited/certified instructor.

J. Dual Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll their child at Bennington High School. The student shall be considered dual enrolled and will fall under policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to dual enrollment students in the same manner as all other students enrolled at Bennington High School. These policies and administrative rules include, but are not limited to; athletic eligibility

requirements rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation.

K. Failing a Course

If a student should fail one or more courses during the regular school year, it will be the responsibility of that student to make up these deficiencies by attending Credit Recovery. Retakes during the next academic year will also be permitted.

L. Schedule Changes

The selection of a student's program is a serious undertaking. A tentative plan for each student's entire high school program should be written upon entering the ninth grade. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to give course selection adequate time and careful attention. If necessary, students should seek additional conference time with counselor and instructors. In almost all cases, spring registration is final. Careful planning makes this possible and eliminates the need for most drops, adds, or schedule changes. However, some mistakes are made and thus, some schedule changes will be necessary.

M. Course Withdrawals

A student may withdraw from a course the first two weeks of the semester, provided he/she first consults the instructor and his/her counselor. Only under the following conditions will a student be permitted to drop a course at the end of the first semester:

1. The course to be dropped is a one-semester course.
2. The student has a failing grade for the semester, and the express consent from both the instructor and counselor has been given to drop the class.
3. A student has been academically misplaced.
4. A previous failure in a required course needs to be remedied.

Withdrawal slips may be obtained from the guidance office. All students are requested to seriously consider all ramifications before making decisions regarding withdrawals. During the term, a parent may wish to withdraw his/her student from a class against the educational recommendations of the high school counselor and administration. After the first two weeks (ten school days) of a semester, students who choose to drop a class will receive an "F" for the semester.

N. Teacher Cadet Program

A pupil may register to be a "Teacher Cadet," (assistant to a classroom teacher) with approval of the teacher involved and the principal. Students must take six academic classes before signing up for a student aide class. Proper dress must be maintained in assisting the classroom teacher. Teacher Cadets will be graded on attendance, interest, performance of activities, cooperation with teacher, and dependability. Students must sign up with the school counselor.

O. Part-time/concurrent Students

Bennington High School students interested wanting part-time status are to see the counselor for eligibility. Parents/guardian will meet with the principal before approval is granted. LB 821 allows students who are residents of the Bennington District, but attend another public, private, denominational, parochial school, or home school to attend Bennington High School on a part-time basis. Both the student and parents/guardians will be required to meet with the counselor and principal to provide proof of residence and to determine a class schedule. While the student

is attending they will be required to follow all rules in the student handbook. Part-time students will not be eligible for a Bennington High School Diploma unless they have fulfilled all Bennington High School graduation requirement. In order for Home Schooled students to participate in activities at Bennington High School, he or she must be enrolled in a minimum of two classes at Bennington. Homeschooling or non-accredited programs must be reviewed by the principal and curriculum director in order to determine if the school will award credit. Options may include: taking a final exam the school creates for the course and/or a review of coursework by the principal and curriculum director for credit. All non-accredited coursework approved will be assigned a Pass/Fail grade. No letter grade will be awarded. Concurrent students, enrolled in another high school, must have a majority of their classes at Bennington High School to participate in Bennington activities. All other part-time students must be enrolled in a minimum of four classes at Bennington to be eligible for activities.

P. Certificate of Attendance

A parent/guardian of a student who qualifies for special education services may request Bennington Public Schools to issue one certificate of attendance and allow participation in one high school graduation ceremony. Under the Special Education Act, such student must be at least seventeen years of age, and has not completed his or her individualized education plan. It is recommended that the parent/guardian should receive approval from the IEP team before making a request to the administration. (Note for the board: This change has been required by LB 1153 which was passed in the legislative session this yea

Q. Hazing

Hazing or initiation by a school organization, groups, clubs, teams or individuals are prohibited Anyone engaging in hazing or initiation behavior will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Hazing is any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. The school will follow Neb. Statute 79-2, 101 to 2, 102 when dealing with hazing.

XVI. STUDENT CONDUCT

MTSS and SEBL are essential components to a safe and positive learning environment for all students. When programs and initiatives focus on building respectful and trusting relationships among school staff, families, and community members they are more effective in creating and sustaining connections that support student achievement.

	Be Respectful	**Be Responsible**	**Be THERE**
Classroom	►Listen to teacher ►Follow instructions ►Be courteous to others in words and actions ►Treat others' property with care	►Treat school property with care ►Come to class prepared ►Be safe ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►On Time ►On Task ►Do your BEST
Hallway	►Pace and Space ►Hands and feet to self ►Use an acceptable volume	►Keep hallways clean ►Move with a purpose ►Have your agenda book ►Keep your locker locked & organized	►Keep your pace during passing periods ►Be aware of the time

	►Treat others' property with care	►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	
Locker Room	►Knock and be acknowledged before entering office ►Hands and feet to self ►Treat others' property with care ►Be considerate of others privacy	►Keep your locker locked & organized ►Pick up after yourself ►Have the proper attire	►Be dressed on time
Commons/ Lunchroom	►Follow directions ►Hands and feet to self ►Be courteous to others ►Walk to lunch	►Keep area clean ►Put trays, silverware, chairs, etc. in their proper place ►Throw trash away, recycle when possible	►Remain in Commons ►Stay in your place in line
Bathroom	►Be considerate of others privacy ►Use facilities appropriately ►Keep area clean ►Treat others' property with care	►Practice good hygiene ►Report problems to an adult	►Take care of needs quickly ►Use the assigned student restroom

General Rules of Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes that a major function of school is the development of socially productive behavior on the part of students. It also recognizes that student behavior should not disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health and safety of others.

A. The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose, in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, contests, or performances.

1. No student shall:

(a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.

(b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or

attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.

(c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.

(d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18

(e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

(f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

(g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.

(h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.

(j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member**,** or voice disrespect to those in authority (Willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).

(k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.

(l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.

(m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.

(n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.

(o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

(p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.

(q) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or the knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

(r) Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall

require that such item will be in the possession and/or supervision of an adult staff member at all times

d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Consequence Guidelines

Infraction	**Definition**	**Minimum**	**Maximum**	**Possible Action**
Reckless Behavior	(non-injurious) creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious and sometimes deliberate disregard or indifference to that risk resulting in a disruption to the learning environment	Admin. Conf.	Sat. School	
Reckless Behavior	(injury) creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious and sometimes deliberate disregard or indifference to that risk resulting in personal injury	Admin. Conference	Expulsion	
Fighting	Mutual attempt to physically harm another person through mutual physical contact. (potential for continued fighting can be considered in consequences administered)			
1st offense		Sat. School	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Additional offenses		Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Physical Assault	(Injury) Initiation of a violent act against another person through aggressive physical contact.	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
	(Non -Injury) committing actions that place another person in reasonable harm's way	Admin. Conf.	Short Term	
Physical Injury to Employees, Volunteers,	Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to an employee, a school volunteer, or any student	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

Use of Threat (verbal & written)				
Level One Threat	Using a threat as a common expression or in a context the recipient does not feel threatened, frightened, or coerced (e.g., “I could just kill you for that.”).	Admin. Conf	Short Term	
Level Two Threat	Using an expression or an implied or veiled threat with the intent of threatening, frightening, or coercing another and the recipient feels threatened, frightened, or coerced (“I will kill you.”)	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Level Three Threat	Threatening to kill or injure another person or threatening to damage property with potential for injury	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Repeated Threats	Threatening another student or staff member more than one time	Admin. Conf	Expulsion	
Threatening with an Object	Threatening with an object which can be used as a weapon (Must resemble a real weapon)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Bomb Threat	Threatening to use any type of explosive device to injure a person(s) or destroy property	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Firearms	Knowingly possessing, handling, transmitting, using, intimidating with or threatening with any firearm, explosive, destructive device (any weapon that will expel a projectile by the action of explosion)	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Other Guns	Using, intimidating with, threatening with or possessing on one’s person, handling or transmitting any paint ball gun, soft air gun, bb gun, or pellet gun	Long Term	1 yr. Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Other guns in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Other Weapons	Possessing, using, or threatening with any weapon that might be used to injure a person	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	(brass knuckles, knives, throwing stars, etc.)			
Other Weapons in vehicles	Above mentioned in vehicle	Short Term	Long Term	Legal Authorities
Possession of prohibited objects	Knowingly possessing, handling or transmitting non-violent, disruptive objects	Saturday School	Long Term	
Extortion	Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or intent of obtaining money or anything of value	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual assault or attempted sexual assault	Any sexual assault or attempt to sexually assault any person (on and off school grounds) as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat.	1 yr. Expulsion		Legal Authorities
Sexual contact	Intentional touching of another person's sexual or intimate parts or the clothing above those parts without consent	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Sexual Engagement	All consensual physical sexual activity	Short Term Suspension	Long Term Suspension	
Sexual Harassment	Unwanted activity of a sexual nature which interferes with the educational process (touching, pinching, patting, verbal, sexual name calling, pressure to engage in sexual activity, propositions, messages, notes and unwanted body contact)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Harassment	Intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words symbolic representations or behavior that is disruptive to the educational process in the form of verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name calling, taunting, mocking, slander, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering, derogatory remarks, jokes, or drawings. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, disability,	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

	sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status.			
Bullying	Intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, electronic, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, oppressing, or controlling another student Includes an imbalance of power and is ongoing.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Hazing	When a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation, admission, affiliation or continued membership of a group. Consent by the student being hazed shall not be a defense to hazing	Short Term Suspension	Expulsion	
Possession of tobacco or tobacco products, or CBD oils	Including look alike and e-cigarettes, and inhalants	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Distribution of tobacco or tobacco products	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person of tobacco or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes).	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	
Possession of alcohol or other drugs	Possession or use of illegal drugs or look-a- like drugs, or possession of a prescribed medication by a student for whom the medication was not prescribed; or possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Possession or use of alcohol	Short Term Suspension	Long Term	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
2nd Offense		Long Term Suspension	Expulsion	Suspension Reduction
Distribution of Alcohol or Drugs	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person, of illegal narcotic drug, controlled substance, look-a-like	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	substance, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol			
Possession, Use or Transportation of Medication	Possession of prescribed medications is prohibited. Students may possess non-prescribed medications, but may not possess prescribed meds except in transport to and from school. All prescribed medication must be turned in to the nurse. (students may possess inhalers and glucose tablets tablet in original containers	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities Suspension Reduction
Distribution of Prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Long Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
Distribution of non-prescribed Meds	Distribution or attempted distribution to any other person	Administrative Conference	Short Term Suspension	
Profanity and Obscenity	Written or oral language that is reasonably offensive and disruptive	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Disparaging Language or Symbolism	Disparaging or demeaning language or symbolic actions (including writing)	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Damage to Property	Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Theft/Larceny	Stealing or attempting to steal	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if over $500
Arson or False Fire Alarm	Intentionally starting a fire or pulling the fire alarm (excluding approved spirit/activities)	Short Term	Expulsion	Legal Authorities if believed to be criminal
Inappropriate use of Technology	Use of any electronic device or program that disrupts the educational environment See School Board Policy 606.06	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Truancy	Unauthorized absence from school	Administrative Conference	Reassignment	
Dishonesty	Being dishonest in a way that interferes with the educational process.	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Academic Dishonesty	Cheating on examinations or plagiarism	Administrative Conference	Long Term Suspension	
Insubordination	Refusal to cooperate and comply with staff instructions.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

Disruptive Behavior	Behavior or possession of a material that disrupts the educational environment	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
Parking	Parking in staff lot or not in a parking stall in the 9-12 lot.	Detention Fine	Saturday School Loss of Parking Privilege	Authorities may be contacted
Nuisance Item	Any item that interferes with the educational process	Detention	Short Term	
Repeated Violations	Repeated violations of the code of conduct	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	

C. **Reporting Law Violations**

Under State law, district administrators are required to contact police whenever it is known or suspected that a student has violated the Nebraska Criminal Code. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the Bennington Police Department and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. The school district shall refer all incidents of student discipline for violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act to the Bennington Police Department.

D. **Sanctions**

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal. Once a suspension or expulsion decision has been delivered by an administrator, students may not attend/participate in any extra-curricular activity until that suspension/expulsion has been completed.

1. **Short-term Suspensions -** Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator investigated the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. Before such short-term suspension shall take effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

   a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or

b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent of his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedure set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

E. **Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment**

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.

2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent, State Statute 79-4, 196.

3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

F. **Procedures** to be followed if an administrator makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment:

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the superintendent. The school shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act;

2. Such written notice shall include the following:

   (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
   (b) The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
   (c) A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for the disciplinary purposes can be invoked;
   (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
   (e) A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
   (f) A form on which the student, student's parents, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and
   (g) Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student, the student's parents or guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to. (See Section of State Statutes 79-254 to 79-291, R.R.S., et seq.)

G. **Other Disciplinary Action**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take other disciplinary action regarding student behavior when deemed reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, which may include, but is not limited to, counseling, parent/guardian conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, detentions, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, etc.

Extended Suspensions - If the principal determined that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of interference with an educational function or school purpose or a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings.

H. **Saturday School**

1. Saturday School assignments will consist of two hours OR four hours. Students will serve from 8:00 am – 10:00 am OR 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The doors to the school will open at 7:45 am and be closed at 8:30 am.

2. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:

   (a) Students must be on time and prepared to work at 8:00 am.
   (b) Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
   (c) Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School Supervisors instructions.
   (d) Any activity the supervisor sees as unacceptable such as (sleeping, have gum/candy, arguing, or bring nuisance devices) will result in dismissal from Saturday School and consequences with a principal.
   (e) A parent/guardian must notify the principal, if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 8:00 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.
   (f) Parents/guardians will be notified by email or phone call of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive written notice from the Principal or designee on the Friday prior to any Saturday School assignment. Parents will be notified Saturday morning if their child does not show up to school by 8:15am.
   (g) Teachers and students will make all efforts to set up test and assignment re-take opportunities during Saturday School. Teacher discretion may be used if Saturday School is not an option for re-takes.

3. Students who have inappropriate behavior during Saturday School will earn the following consequences:

   (a) Students who show up late to or skip a Saturday School will be assigned a one-day suspension the following week. Parents will be notified by the administration of the suspension Monday morning.
   (b) Students who skip or get kicked out a second time will be suspended for three days the following week. Parents/guardians will be contacted by the building administration.
   (c)

XVII. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A. **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the extra-curricular activities offered by Bennington High School. A student has the opportunity to display leadership talents and gain valuable experiences by taking part in the activity program. School sponsored activities available are:

Vocal and Instrumental Music (chorus and band)
Student Senate (officers are elected)
Volleyball
Football

Girls and Boys Basketball
Girls' and Boys' Wrestling
Girls' and Boys' Track & Field/Unified Track
Girls' and Boys' Golf
Girls' and Boys' Cross Country
Softball
Baseball
Girls' Soccer
Boys' Soccer
Unified Bowling
Girls' Tennis
National Honor Society (members selected by merit)
Speech
School Newspaper/ Yearbook Staff
Engineering Club
Foreign Language Club
Quiz Bowl
Cheerleading (Varsity and Wrestling)
Dance Team
Skills USA
FBLA
Art Club
Musical
Play Production
Leo Club
Outdoor Club
Prism Club
Multicultural Club

All students participating in these activities must follow the Activity Rules for Bennington High School.

B. **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society was founded to stimulate high school scholarship, develop leadership, provide service with a purpose, and to recognize unquestionably worthy character among its members. The initial qualification for candidate consideration is scholarship, a 3.5 GPA based on cumulative grades. A screening committee comprised of five faculty members will make final decisions on membership. The faculty committee, using a four-point scale, rates the candidate on character, leadership, and service. The Lions Club sponsors the Installation Banquet in the spring.

C. **Activity Rules for Bennington High School**

Understanding the activity rule is vital to your participation in school activities. Both parents/guardians and students need to understand that honesty and cooperation with school officials concerning this policy are of vital importance. Parents/guardians and athletes please take time to read and discuss all items in the Activity Rules. Bennington Public School abides by all

Nebraska Schools Activities Association constitution and bylaws. More information can be found at: www.nsaahome.org

PHILOSOPHY: The Bennington High School activity program is an important part of the total school program. Those students who participate in this program reflect the image of the school and the community of Bennington.

This philosophy is firmly based on the belief that there is more to the activity program than playing the game or participating. During the season, participants must maintain a high standard of conduct, which will enable them to function and perform to the best of their abilities. Therefore, the sponsors and the administration of Bennington High School will not tolerate the use of, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs by student athletes and all other activity participants.

The philosophy of the Bennington High School activity program is also based on the belief that student participants are representatives of Bennington High School and the community of Bennington for as long as they participate in the activity program. As such, their actions, both on and off the playing field, must be above reproach. All students involved in Bennington activities/athletics are deemed to be held to a higher standard when it comes to representing Bennington on and off campus. Participant-related incidents, as well as the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, are considered improper behavior for student participants and are subject to penalties.

This philosophy recognizes the fact that there must be close cooperation between the sponsors, the participants, and the parents/guardians if the activity rules are to be successful and effective. The activity rules are for the benefit of all the students involved in activities. The school and the parents/guardians must share the responsibility of making sure that the rules are followed. If the school and parents/guardians work together to enforce these rules, it will ensure a smooth-running activity program and eliminate any problems that may occur.

All Activity Rules violations will be referred to the Activities Director.

1. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVITIES: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if

   (a) He/she has below a 70% average in two classes

   Each student must meet eligibility requirements by mid quarter (progress reports) and end of the quarter (report card). Grade checks will be done, and if the student is failing two or more courses, they will have seven calendar days to regain eligibility (students will still be eligible for all contests and practices during this seven day grace period). At the end of seven days and each subsequent Monday, reports will be run, and any student still failing two or more courses will be ineligible for all competition that week.

   Eligibility is considered only for interscholastic activities, which are not requirements for a particular class.

   Students will be required to attend before and after school practices unless the head coach or sponsor excuses them. Students who have medically verified illnesses will be provided time to make up work.

   This rule is applied for all midterms and first and third quarter reports. The NSAA requirement for all students to pass 20 semester credit hours in order to be eligible for varsity competitions will be applied for the each semester.

2. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS: There shall be no tolerance for drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or the use of illegal drugs. Student participants shall not remain in an area where alcoholic beverages are being used unless accompanied by their parents/guardians. Business establishments that also provide food and recreational activities are excluded.

   (a) Penalty –FIRST OFFENSE–OPTION A: If a student self-reports a violation within 72 hours of the violation they will sit out one contest. OPTION B: Student participants will be suspended for 25% of the current season's competition. This will not exceed 4 games or two weeks in the activity in which they are participating or the next activity they will be involved in.
   (b) Penalty –SECOND OFFENSE--Student will be suspended from all inter-scholastic activities for the remainder of the current school year.
   (c) Before action can be taken, student must freely admit to a violation or be observed violating the training rules by a member of a school faculty, administrative staff, a law enforcement officer, or an adult willing to come into school and make a formal statement.
   (d) A minor in possession conviction shall be regarded as a violation of Rule 2.
   (e) The options above will apply to drinking, selling, or possessing alcohol or using, selling, or possessing other illegal substances while school is not in session during summer vacation (training rules are observed year round). The beginning of the athletic calendar year will start the first day, after the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. last day of school is May 22nd, then the first day of the new athletic calendar year would be May 23rd, or the conclusion of a spring sport that extends past the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. golf and track)
   (f) Offenses that occur in the summer will be served during the first season the offending athlete participates and successfully completes.
   (g) The Activities Director's decision may be appealed to the building Principal by the student or the student's parents/guardians.

3. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY: A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if

   (a) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a misdemeanor (could exclude traffic tickets) during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials or school personal, may result in a one-week suspension from all games, practices, and activities. Self-reporting an offense could allow for inclusion of practices. A second offense during the school year will result in suspensions from all activities for the remainder of the year.
   (b) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a felony during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials, may result in immediate suspension from all games, performances, events, practices, and activities until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Bennington High School administrative team.

4. PRACTICE SESSIONS: No participants shall miss a practice without first being excused by one of the coaching staff or sponsor of activity. If participants are not in school or are suddenly taken ill, they will bring their excuse absences when they

return to school. If there is a conflict with another school activity, they must clear it with the sponsor before they miss the practice.

5. SUSPENSIONS: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR PRACTICE ON DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.

6. CONCUSSIONS – RETURN TO PLAY
   (a) **No Physical Activity**: this period of time should be a minimum of 24 hours rest.
   (b) **Light Aerobic Exercise**: Walking, swimming or stationary biking at less than 70% of the maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.
   (c) **Sport Specific Exercise:** NO head impact activities. Exercises are designed to the movements required for the specific sport and are done close to full speed.
   (d) **Non-contact Training:** Begin to incorporate resistance training and coordination (catching, rebounding, spiking, etc…) exercises. Begin preparing the athlete for return to full contact activities.
   (e) **Full-contact Practice:** Participate in normal training activities as directed by the coaching staff while being observed by the medical staff.
   (f) **Return to Play**: Cleared for normal game play.

   (f 1) Has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional and has received a written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from that professional;

   (f 2) Has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student, parent or guardian.

**Failure to successfully complete any one step returns the athlete to step #1 on the progression. Every athlete is different and every concussion is different. Recommendations for athletes are that the return to play progression is done on a daily basis that results in a week-long progression to return to the sport activity.

Concussions – Return to Learn Progression

(a) **At Home Rest:** Stay at home; limit mental exertion and interaction especially with computers, phones, texting, television, video games and homework.
(b) **At Home Light Mental Activity:** No more than 30 minutes of mental exertion. No prolonged concentration on any activity. Minimal interaction with TV, computer, phone or texting.
(c) **School – Part time:** NO Testing, avoid loud noises, schedule a quiet area for the student to use if necessary (this includes lunch), modify the student schedule if necessary, allow for extra time in regards to the completion of homework. No physical activity.
(d) **School – Part time**: Modified classroom testing, begin to decrease the additional time for the completion of homework. No standardized testing or physical activity.
(e) **School – Part time:** Extend the amount of time a student is at school and in the classroom. Begin to remove the temporary accommodations that were in place for the student and progress back to a full normal day of school.

(f) **School – Full time:** Return to physical active classes and full homework, testing, class participation.

** This progression will be different for each individual. It is expectated parents and guardians notify the school of such injuries and requires the student to make such notification, which implies appropriate punishment to students for lack of doing so. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

The Return to Learn and Return to Play protocols will be directed & supervised by the Athletic Trainer at Bennington High School. The Athletic Trainer will use approved and accepted methods of diagnosing concussions. The AT will also incorporate a variety of endorsed medical tests including the SCAT (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool) Series and the ImPact Test for establishing baseline testing data and cognitive operations for athletes that have suffered a concussion. The athletic trainer will have full and final authority to remove or clear an athlete from practice, competition and/or physical activity as it relates to Bennington High School programs.

The Athletic Trainer will communicate diagnosis and provide updates of athletes in the concussion protocol to parents, coaches, the Activities Director and counseling department who will then share this information with the teachers involved with the specific student on a daily basis.

Athletic Trainier: Elizabeth LaBombard – elabombard@bennps.org / 402-238-2447.

7. GENERAL CONDUCT: Good sportsmanship shall be observed during practice sessions and contests. Activity participants are expected to be positive and respectful at all times. Being arrested for or charged with a misdemeanor or felony may result in a restriction of activity participation.

8. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL ON DAY OF CONTEST: Student athletes must attend school five class periods the day of a contest (seniors on a shortened schedule must attend 4 periods). Doctor's appointments, educational activities or funerals are exceptions. The Principal approves all exceptions. To receive credit in activities, students must take part in all public appearances of that activity unless excused by the sponsor.

9. SEASONS: During the season of a sport, no student will be permitted to participate in a sport clinic or be a member of a non-school sport or club as per NSAA regulations.

10. EQUIPMENT: All equipment from one sport must be returned before the athlete can check out equipment for another sport.

11. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants are advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches/ sponsors will provide the students with training rules and practice procedures.

12. TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS: The training rules that are listed above have been kept to a minimum. We, at Bennington High School, realize that it is impossible to cover every situation that might develop in the future. Each case not covered in the activity policy will be decided on its own merit. We sincerely request your cooperation in this matter. Good sportsmanship begins with adults. We thank you in advance for modeling positive and respectful behavior as a Bennington spectator and fan throughout the school year.

Each organization's constitution or bylaws must include eligibility criteria at least as rigorous as that spelled out in this handbook. Foreign exchange students and option students must meet the same criteria for eligibility as resident students. Part-time students are not eligible for extra-curricular activities.

D. **Activity Ticket**

All Bennington students are encouraged to purchase an Activity Ticket. Student Activity ticket prices will be $35.00 for all students in grades K-12. Adult activity ticket prices will be $70, and $160 for family activity tickets (K-12 Bennington students and their legal parents and/or guardians.) Students must have their activity pass to be admitted without being charged an entrance fee. Students who leave the activity before its conclusion will not be allowed back into the activity. Activity passes are not valid at EMC Tournament games or NSAA District & Sub-District contests or the Spring Musical.

E. **Dance Policies**

1. Homecoming and Prom are the only recognized, school sponsored dances throughout the school year. All other dances are sponsored by outside organizations and will be supervised by that organization.

2. Students planning to attend any dance will be required to wear APPROPRIATE clothing for the particular event.

3. Bennington students will be permitted have dance dates from outside of the school. Bennington students with out of school dates must sign up their dates by the Wednesday prior to the dance. (Sign-up sheets will be provided in the office) The out of school date will be required to fill out a form and have it signed by their parents and their high school principal, Should any Bennington student, however, attempt to bring any non-resident student to a dance who is not his/her date, the Bennington student will be indefinitely suspended from all further dances until the policy breach is resolved. Faculty dance sponsors shall decide the authenticity of a date.

4. No dance shall extend later than midnight. Students leaving a dance must sign-out and will not be permitted to return. Students leaving more than 30 minutes prior to the end of the dance will need parent permission.

5. Homecoming Court will be comprised of seniors.

6. Prom attendance is limited to eligible juniors and seniors. The Prom coronation ceremony is open to the public. All seniors, except Homecoming King and Queen, are eligible to be elected as Prom King or Queen. Prom Court will be comprised of seniors. All guests must arrive at the dance with their Bennington date.

7. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other prohibited substance, or any damage to school property are subject to the same policies during dances as those that apply to the school day and activities.

F. Music

The Instrumental and Vocal Music programs offer a wide variety of musical activities. Band and Chorus is offered with some extra-curricular activity involved. Private and small group instruction is also offered to students at no cost.

G. Activities Transportation

All teams attending a contest of any kind shall be accompanied by their sponsor, coach, or other faculty member designated to supervise. Athletic trips are made by school vehicle if at all possible. Therefore, all team members must travel with the team. Parents/guardians may transport only their student home from a contest or performance with clearance from the head coach, sponsor, or Principal.

H. Sportsmanship and School Spirit

1. The students of the Bennington Schools are consistently judged by the general public for moral and ethical conduct during school activities and for the control of their personal lives. Such judgments also reflect on the training received in the school, home, church, and community. Indeed, we want the public to praise and commend our students for their loyal support of school in all activities, but we also want the same public to be able to admire and extol them when victory is in the shadows of defeat. While no one admires a loss, the manner of its acceptance will create an image of respect, honor, and dignity for all Bennington students.

2. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his school and does his utmost to keep his activity standards at the highest possible level. School spirit will mean cheering for our team, not against our opposition. To these goals, all Badgers should be dedicated.

3. Students that attend home and away events will be expected to sit and remain in the designated areas.

I. Athletics

1. All 9-12 grade athletics will be centered in one department under the Director of Activities. It shall be the duty of the director to coordinate all athletics under one program to facilitate unity and cooperation.

2. All boys and girls out for inter-scholastic athletics are required to have a physical examination by a doctor (Article 1-a, Section 9, of the NSAA rules). Any boy or girl out for athletics (including dance and cheer) must also have his/her parents'/guardians' consent and physical examination before he/she is issued any equipment or permitted to engage in the activity. This consent must be written on the official NSAA form that also includes the insurance information.

J. **District and State Contests**

1. Only team members or individuals qualifying for district and state contests will be under the direct supervision of the specific athletic team participating in the event.

2. Students wishing to attend district or state contests must have permission from a parent or guardian to leave school. Students that wish to participate in an extra-curricular activity that afternoon or evening (practice, concert, game, etc.) must attend a minimum of five class periods during the day or meet the requirements set forth by the administration for that specific day.

K. **Mounts and Pyramids**

Due to potential liability in case of injury, stunts and pyramids by cheerleaders and lifts by dance teams during district sponsored events are prohibited unless the supervising coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, a cheer risk management and safety course. If the coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, stunts and lifts shall be allowed in accordance with NFHS Spirit Rules. The following restrictions shall be in effect at district events: stunts/lifts shall be limited to shoulder height or below; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must have an additional spotter; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must remain on two feet except during the mount or dismount of the stunt/lift; twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to ½ twist; and all cradle dismounts, tosses, and inversions are prohibited.

*In the case of activity rules a student or their parents/guardians can appeal the activity director's decision to the building principal. The activity director will present all information regarding his decision to the principal Parents/guardians and student will be given the opportunity to present reasons for appealing the activity director's decision. After both sides have been presented, the principal will render a decision. If a hearing is required, the parents/guardians and student will be notified of their right for a hearing.

XVIII. STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A. **Student Senate**

The students of Bennington High School execute their democratic responsibilities as citizens through Student Government. While the purpose of this organization may vary, the members develop leadership, positive attitudes, and practice the responsibilities of good citizenship. The Student Senate aims to promote positive school spirit, assist in school functions, provide a forum of students' expression, build school morale, and promote student involvement. Grades 9 through 12 student senate officers are elected in the spring. All elections will be conducted under Parliamentary Procedure and ballots on all candidates will be used.

XIX. ADDENDUM

Parental/Community Involvement In Schools

It is the policy of this school district to foster and facilitate parental/guardians and community information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

A. Reasonable attempts by the district staff will be made to involve parents/guardians and community through frequent open communications, volunteer programs, progress reporting, and through the support of activities, which encourage involvement.

B. Parents/guardians and other interested citizens are welcome to visit the schools and/or confer with principals and teachers concerning the school's programs. (Children should not be visitors without adults.) Persons seeking to disrupt the educational environment shall face those penalties established by the law, board policies, and administrative rules.

C. Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be, available for review at school upon request.

D. Parents/guardians wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities are welcome. Prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, is requested.

E. Testing shall occur in this school district as determined appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement. Results of such testing are made available to parents/guardians.

F. The school district will excuse students from testing, surveys, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon written parental/guardian request, only under circumstances required by law. The proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent/guardian request shall approve a plan for an acceptable alternative.

G. Parents/guardians and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g., Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232 or Section 79-2,104, R.R.S., et seq.).

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Bennington Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Director of Student Services, 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (wfagan@bennps.org).

Employees and Others Matt Blomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent 11620 North 156th Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 (mblomenkamp@bennps.org)

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

TITLE IX

The Bennington Public School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The following procedures are established in order to assist in the fair resolution of student grievances. A grievance hereunder is a claim by a student that a violation of civil rights legislation has occurred (includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975). It is the policy of the Bennington Public Schools that a student may not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, national origin, marital status, age, or handicap in admission to school; access to enrollment in courses, access to and use of school facilities; counseling and guidance materials, tests and practices; vocational education; physical education; competitive athletics; graduation requirements; treatment as a married and/or pregnant student; and student rules and regulations. Whenever a grievance occurs, the following procedure will be followed and every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible.

Additional information concerning the Bennington Public School's policy of nondiscrimination can be obtained from Matt Blomenkamp 11620 N 156th Street, Bennington NE 68007, (402) 238-3044.

EXPLANATION - This grievance procedure is not intended to limit the option of the district and a grievant to resolve any grievance mutually and informally. Hearings and conferences under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place that will afford a fair and equitable opportunity for all persons involved.

The grievance procedure is not required if the grievant prefers other alternatives such as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or the courts. Due process shall exist throughout the procedure with the right to: 1) representation; 2) present witnesses and evidence; 3) confidentiality; 4) review relevant records; and 5) proceed without harassment and/or retaliation.

A grievance may be filed by an individual grievant or by a parent/guardian on behalf of a student grievant except that no grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance.

Days in this procedure shall refer to days when school is in session. During summer vacation days shall refer to Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

The inclusion of time limits in this procedure is for the purpose of insuring prompt action. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time period specified, unless there is a mutually agreed extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

PROCEDURES

Level One - A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level Two - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days of the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the grievance is based and an explanation of how such facts results in civil rights discrimination. The principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level Three - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the parties involved. A complete record of this meeting shall be kept and signed by both parties for possible future reference. The Superintendent will respond to the written grievance within five (5) days of the receipt of the written grievance.

Level Four - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the School Board within five (5) days of the receipt of the written response from the Superintendent. The School Board shall consider the grievance at the next regular meeting and issue a written response within five (5) days of the meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school district serves many students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities. School age special education students are served in the least restrictive environment. For further information contact Mrs. Whitney Fagan, Student Service Coordinator at the Bennington Schools Central Office (402-238-3044).

PERMITTED PRESENCE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

a. The service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
b. The service animal is not housebroken; or
c. The presences of the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "I," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2021-22 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: 1. Participation in activities, 2. Materials for course projects, and 3. Use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to the purchase of the materials. A wavier is available upon request through the activities office at the high school.

Bennington High School
Fee List

Secondary Program	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes.	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - $5
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.

Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary
Post-Secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit	None – any post-secondary education costs are to be paid directly by students enrolled.
School Meals		Breakfast - $1.85 Lunch - $2.95 Milk - $0.50 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year: lost of damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to $5.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined books are charged the replacement cost up to $100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer or at night	Drivers education classes are determined by ESU#3 - $350 Summer school - $100 per class
Yearbook - optional	School Book	$60 minimum
Parking Lot	Unauthorized parking	$5-$10 fine and/or towed vehicle or loss of parking privileges
All Curriculum Areas	Textbook Damage or loss	Cost will vary and a schedule of costs is included in Student Handbook.

Extracurricular and other programs	**General Description of Fee or Material**	**$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required**
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for $35 per year. Conference Tournaments, District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA/EMC
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Softball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Baseball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Golf	Shoes, Clubs, Balls and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Soccer	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables	Costs will vary according to instrument
Instrumental Music	Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary
Vocal Music	Students in Varsity Choir will be required to pay a fee for the use of Choir Robes; Shoes and Show Choir Outfit	Costs will vary
Cheerleaders	Uniform and other optional attire	Costs will vary

Dance Team	Performance Outfit, Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
National Honor Society	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required.
Student council	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
FBLA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
Foreign Language Clubs	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
Skills USA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend as set by the AD. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Marching Band/Musical groups	Equipment and attire	Students will be responsible for possible uniform rental and cleaning fee up to $50
Social & Recognition Activities		
Class dues	Prom Dance Expenses	$30 per year for BHS junior and seniors
School dances	Homecoming	Not to exceed $30 per dance
Musical and Play	Admission to events	Not to exceed $15 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be $2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.
Reproduction of Records	Video Redacted	Costs will vary due to requests.

Bennington Nutrition Services
Meal Charges Procedures

Bennington Nutrition Services is committed to serving nutritious meals to all students. In accordance with state and federal law, Bennington Public Schools adopts the following procedures to ensure schooldistrict employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. These procedures seek to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to be a successful learner, prevent public knowledge of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit nutrition services program.

Payment Methods

Students and employees have use of a pre-paid school meal account. Payment methods to an individual's school meal account include the following:

1. Credit and debit card payments online through MySchoolBucks.com.
2. Payments in cash, check, money order or cashier's check can be accepted through either of thefollowing methods:
   a. Deposit money at the cash register in the cafeteria.
   b. Mail payment to Nutrition Services, 11620 N. 156th Street, Bennington, NE, 68007. Pleaseinclude individual's name and ID number with payment.

Account Balances

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all purchases made by their student(s) in the school cafeteria.When the school meal account balance reaches $0.00 only meals may be charged to the account.
Individuals who do not have a positive account balance shall not be allowed to purchase extra servingsof meal components, such as an extra milk or an extra entrée, on their school meal account. Snack foods and beverages offered at the High School and Middle School will be cash sales only.

Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. For questions on how to apply call 402-238-3044.

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify the families when school meal account balances are low. Families will be notified by an automated email system of a low balance once the school meal account balance reaches $3.00. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The school district will coordinate communications with the families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Nutrition services will workwith the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

Communication of Meal Charges Procedures

The procedures and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:

1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (pg. 8)

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers

The ESSA of 2015 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree

We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Bennington Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements.

NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Bennington Public Schools to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

XX. ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

606.06

We are pleased to offer the staff and students of the Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, including electronic mail ("e-mail') and the Internet. To gain access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the internet, all staff must sign and return the "Staff Agreement' form to the central office. Likewise, to gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents must sign a "Parents Agreement", which will be kept on file.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable staff and students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards, while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Students and parents should be warned that some material accessible by the internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using media arid information resources. To that end, the Bennington Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

A. E-Mail and Internet Rules:

1. General Rules

(a) The e-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff arid students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental permission is required for student use. Access to e-mail and the Internet is a privilege, not a right.

(b) Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

(c) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise retained

(d) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.

(e) The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

2. Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

The following policy for acceptable use of computers and networks, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the site administrator.

(a) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

(b) Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members.)

(c) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.

(d) Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

(e) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

(f) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

(g) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.

(h) Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

(i) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

3. Penalties for Violation of Rules

All of the policies and procedures for acceptable use of computers and networks are intended to make the computers and networks more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the networks so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

Use of the computer to access telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension and/or expulsion of students and suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of an administrator, teacher or other school employee.

4. Use of Computer Access to Telecommunications Resources is a Privilege and Not a Right.

Violations of the policies and procedures of the Bennington Public Schools concerning the use of computers and networks will result in disciplinary actions being taken against individual administrators, faculty, staff and/or students who are in violation of said rules. Disciplinary action may include loss of access, in addition to other disciplinary or legal action.

B. Staff, Student and Parent Agreements.

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff Agreement, Students Agreement and Parents Agreement, in the forms attached hereto as Appendix "1". Appendix "2", and Appendix "3" respectively, are incorporated herein by this reference.

XXI. 1:1 INITIATIVE

A. Introduction

Bennington Public Schools is proud to offer our students in seventh and eighth grades Chromebooks for use at school and at home. The 1:1 Learning Initiative, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all students in these grades, has been designed to provide students with the skills and tools they need in school and for lifelong learning and success.

B. Computer Specifications

All students are issued one Chromebook, one Chromebook power supply, and one protective laptop sleeve. The laptop and the power adapter have been assigned serial numbers and asset tags by the District.
Please note that these devices require a Wi-Fi connection in order to be able to access the Internet. Chromebooks have limited offline functionality, but the full power of the device will be realized with an Internet connection.

C. Laptop Take-home Privileges

While all students will be issued a laptop for use at school, it will be up to individual families to decide whether or not they would like their students to bring their laptops home at the end of the school day. Before take-home privileges will be granted, parents/guardians and students must attend an orientation. At this orientation, parents/guardians may pay the cooperative loss fee and sign all the necessary agreements. Parents/guardians who do not attend the orientation will be required to receive a certificate of completion of a district-assigned 30-minute e-learning module before take-home privileges will be assigned.
The laptop, power supply, and sleeve will all be collected at the end of the academic year or upon termination of the student's enrollment for maintenance, cleaning, and repair.
Any laptops not returned when requested will be reported to local law enforcement as stolen property.

D. Fees and Cooperative Loss Agreement

Families who would like to have take-home privileges for their students' Chromebooks may pay an annual, non-refundable fee of $20. This fee provides for an 80% discount on up to 4 repairs that must be conducted on the student's Chromebook during the school year.
After 4 repairs in one school year, families will be responsible for 100% of the repair cost. Families who choose not to participate in the cooperative loss program will be responsible for the full cost of the repair each time.
With or without the cooperative loss agreement, damage that results in a complete loss of the Chromebook will result in a damage bill for the full replacement cost of the device.
The following table lists the costs for each event. Note that parts availability and pricing is subject to change. The information provided is accurate as of the most recent edition of this handbook.

Damage Type	With	Without

	Cooperative Loss	Cooperative Loss
Broken Screen	$5	$40
Broken Chassis	$20	$100
Lost/broken Power Supply	$5	$40
Keyboard Replacement	$20	$100
Total Loss	$200	$200

Repairs due to defects in workmanship or warranty service will be facilitated by the Technology Department.

E. Laptop Use at School

1. General

Laptops are intended to be used at school every day. Students are responsible for bringing their laptops to every class unless specifically advised by teachers not to bring them.
Laptops must be brought to school fully charged every day. Only use the provided charger to charge your laptop.
Students must comply with individual classroom teachers' rules.
No laptops will be allowed in the locker rooms at any time.
Laptops will not be permitted at the tables during lunch.

2. Laptop Software, Apps, and Settings

The presence of inappropriate material including (but not limited to) guns and weapons-related content, pornographic content, alcohol-, drug-, or gang-related symbols or pictures, or any other material deemed unacceptable by the school administration on the laptop or in the student's online storage will result in disciplinary action (see Computer Violations) and, where appropriate, referral to law enforcement.

3. Sound

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. All students are advised to acquire headphones or earbuds. All Chromebooks are equipped with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack similar to what is found in most portable devices and cell phones.

4. Printing

Students will not be granted access to printers with their Chromebooks.

5. Lunch

Students will not be permitted to use their Chromebooks during lunch.

6. Extracurricular Activities

Students will be allowed to take their laptops to extracurricular events at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.
If students bring their Chromebooks to an event, students and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any loss, damage, or theft that may occur during the event.

F. Laptop Care

1. General

No food or drink is allowed next to your laptop.
Students may not carry the laptop with the screen open.
Under no circumstances should laptops or other technology be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include, but are not limited to: the school grounds and campus, common areas, unlocked classrooms or lockers, bathrooms, busses, cars, and hallways. Any computers left in these areas are in danger of being lost or stolen.
Students are not permitted to write, draw, or place stickers or labels on the laptop.
The laptop must be transported to and from school in the district-provided sleeve or in a student-purchased bag or sleeve approved by the district.
Students may install covers or cases on their laptops as long as the cases are removable and do not cause physical damage to the Chromebook.

Students should not under any circumstances repair, alter, or make changes to their laptops. When students encounter a problem, they or a teacher should contact the Technology Help Desk.
Loaner laptops will be made available for students whose laptops are awaiting repair by the Technology Department. Students will be expected to return the loaner laptop by the end of the school day.
Student laptops will be labeled in the manner specified by the school district. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels and markings.

2. Display Care

The laptop display can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The display is particularly vulnerable to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not lean on the lid of your Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not place anything in the laptop bag that will press against the case.
- Do not poke the screen.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pencils, pens, fingers, or headphones).
- Do not place your Chromebook in your backpack.

F. Misbehaviors and Consequences

1. Computer Violations

Bennington Public Schools has a zero tolerance policy on computer violations. Students who are not responsible users of technology will receive the following consequences:

- First Offense – Detention
- Second Offense –
- Third Offense – Required attendance at Saturday Digital Citizenship class, take-home privileges revoked until the class is attended and passed.
- Fourth Offense – Determined by Administration

2. Forgotten or Uncharged Laptops

Teachers will expect that students come to school ready to learn and with their laptops in appropriate working order (charged, undamaged, and fully functioning). Students who forget to bring or charge their laptops will receive consequences at the teacher's discretion.
Unsupervised laptops will be confiscated by the staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action will be taken for leaving a laptop unattended.

1. IT Controls

The Technology Department has the right at any time to access student computers, add or remove software, change settings, and/or remove local data on the Chromebook. It is up to students to make sure their data is safely stored.

G. Family Computing Tips

Computers are a resource tool. Bennington Public Schools strives to provide students with the skills and tools needed to support lifelong learning and success. While it is great to have your children learn to use the latest technology, spending too much time with video games and surfing the web can be unproductive. Due to federal regulations, Bennington Public Schools will filter and document usage on District-owned equipment at all times. Measures have been put in place to limit student access to harmful or inappropriate material both on and off school grounds. **No technology measure is perfect or will serve as an adequate substitute for parent/guardian involvement, communication, and supervision.** It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to supervise, manage, and monitor their children while they are not at school.
Parents and guardians should communicate with their children and set computer limits. Here are some examples:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, phone number, parents' or guardians' work addresses/phone numbers, or the name and location of my school without parent or guardian permission.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. I will report mean or uncomfortable messages to a trusted adult or teacher.
- I will talk with my children so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.
- Limit the hours during the day that your child is on the computer.

One of the District's goals with this initiative is to provide equitable technology access to families. Family members of the student with a school-issued laptop are permitted to use the laptop to check the school website, child's grades, etc. The student's use for school work should take priority over other family use. All users of the student's Chromebook are required to follow the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook as well as the District's Acceptable Use of Computers and Internet Policy.
When students are off-campus, a Wi-Fi Internet connection should be made available to enable access to all learning materials made available through the District. It is possible to complete some tasks (composing documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations, using offline apps) without an Internet connection. The District can provide contacts in the community to help qualifying families subscribe to affordable Internet services.

BHS Parent-Student Handbook Changes 2022-2023

P. 2 – Katheryn McQueen Guidance Counselor. Greg Lamberty Principal, Cody Bobolz Assistant Principal

P. 9 – Seniors that leave school after periods 4-8 must leave campus

P. 15 – Parking will be assigned by grade due to limited stalls in 2022-23.

P 18 – Medial Center and Auditorium rules deleted from the Handbook. Both should be in a syllabus and posted on walls of the facilities.

P. 22 – Students should not wear chains, leashes, or collars around their necks that could be considered a choking hazard.

P. 25 – Computer Applications class updated to Information Technology 1

P. 29 -Homeschooling or non-accredited programs must be reviewed by the principal and curriculum director in order to determine if the school will award credit. Options may include: taking a final exam the school creates for the course and/or a review of coursework by the principal and curriculum director for credit. All non-accredited coursework approved will be assigned a Pass/Fail grade. No letter grade will be awarded.

P. 30 – PbiS acronym replaced with MTSS and SEBL are essential components to a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

P 43 -Addition of Leo Club, Multicultural Club and Prism Club

P 47 – Seniors on an abbreviated schedule must attend at least 4 classes to participate in practices and games.

P 51 – Adding sexual orientation to the notice of non-discrimination.

P. 51 -52 – Adding Matt Blomenkamp as the administrator to contact when concerns arise about non discrimination policies.

P. 55 – Breakfast increase to $1.85 and Lunch to $2.95.

P 57. – Class dues to attend Prom are $30 per year for juniors and seniors that choose to attend Prom.

Curriculum & Personnel Proposals for Approval
June 13, 2022

Name	Description	Personnel Costs	Curriculum Costs
1.0 FTE MS#2 Exploratory Teacher (Proposal 30)	Add 1.0 FTE Physical Education Exploratory Teacher for BMS for Growth	$85,100	$3,000
1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher AP (Proposal 43)	Add 1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher at AP for Growth	$85,100	$3,000
B-5 Lead EC/SPED Teacher (Proposal 51)	Add 1.0 FTE Birth-5 Early Childhood SPED Teacher + 15 Days	$91,900	$2,000
2-3 Hapara Highlights (Proposal 88)	Add the Highlights portion of Hapara to Grades 2-3. This expands program to cover grades 2-12.	$0	$3,650
Elementary Drumming Club Sponsor (Proposal 95)	Add Elementary Drumming Club Sponsors to Extra Duty Schedule (5 Schools)	$3,705	$0
Total Costs - General Budget		$ 265,805	$ 11,650

Bennington Public Schools
Projected Bond Cash Flow and Levy Analysis
Existing and proposed new debt

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
Bond Size		$ 50,000,000	$ 50,000,000	$ 53,000,000	$ 100,000,000	$ 100,000,000	$ 105,000,000	$ 125,000,000	$ 125,000,000	$ 130,000,000	$ 150,000,000	$ 150,000,000	$ 155,000,000
Bond Series	2024	$ 15,000,000	$ 15,000,000	$ 15,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 25,000,000	$ 40,000,000	$ 40,000,000	$ 40,000,000
	2025	$ 15,000,000	$ 15,000,000	$ 15,000,000	$ 35,000,000	$ 35,000,000	$ 35,000,000	$ 45,000,000	$ 45,000,000	$ 45,000,000	$ 50,000,000	$ 50,000,000	$ 50,000,000
	2026	$ 20,000,000	$ 20,000,000	$ 23,000,000	$ 40,000,000	$ 40,000,000	$ 45,000,000	$ 55,000,000	$ 55,000,000	$ 60,000,000	$ 60,000,000	$ 60,000,000	$ 65,000,000
Maturity		2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2048	2031 - 2053	2031 - 2053	2031 - 2053
Average Interest Rate		**3.50%**	**4.00%**	**4.00%**	**3.50%**	**4.00%**	**4.00%**	**3.50%**	**4.00%**	**4.00%**	**3.50%**	**4.00%**	**4.00%**
Current Taxable Valuation (2022)		1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896	1,875,606,896
Valuation Increase 2022-2027		11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Valuation Increase 2028 - 2033		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Valuation Increase 2034-2039		5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Bond Fund Levy 2022		***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***
Bond Fund Levy 2024		***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.38***	***0.42***	***0.42***	***0.42***	***0.45***	***0.45***	***0.45***	***0.48***	***0.48***	***0.48***
Maximum Negative Cash Flow		$ (2,787,483)	$ (3,800,000)	$ (1,160,000)	$ (3,950,779)	$ (5,938,280)	$ (1,538,280)	$ (2,679,502)	$ (5,092,002)	$ (692,002)	$ (2,545,725)	$ (5,545,725)	$ (1,145,725)
		12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2027	12/15/2028	12/15/2028	12/15/2028

Additional Bond Fund Levy		Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
$	150,000	$ -	$ -	$ 60.00	$ 5.00	$ 105.00	$ 8.75	$ 150.00	$ 12.50
$	200,000	$ -	$ -	$ 80.00	$ 6.67	$ 140.00	$ 11.67	$ 200.00	$ 16.67
$	250,000	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 8.33	$ 175.00	$ 14.58	$ 250.00	$ 20.83
$	300,000	$ -	$ -	$ 120.00	$ 10.00	$ 210.00	$ 17.50	$ 300.00	$ 25.00

(3) Additional $3,000,000 of bond issued to fund capitalized interest for payments thru 2028

(3) Additional $5,000,000 of bond issued to fund capitalized interest for payments thru 2028

(3) Additional $5,000,000 of bond issued to fund capitalized interest for payments thru 2028

(3) Additional $5,000,000 of bond issued to fund capitalized interest for payments thru 2028

(1),(2),(3) Bond issues are showing a final maturity of 20

Interest income on investment of construction funds have not been calculated into the cash flow for debt service. Additional estimates for this income will be made and used to offset the negative numbers shown for cash flow thru 2028.

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)53.

Possible 2022 Bond Projects

Bennington Public Schools, June - 2022

BENNINGTON BADGERS

Facility Capacities

High School - 1,150
MS South - 750
MS - 750 Combined: 1,500
Anchor Pointe - 483
Bennington - 483
Heritage - 483
Pine Creek - 575
Stratford - 483 Combined: 2,507

% Inc 2020-21	Fall **	Fall **	Fall **	10/1/2021																
Grades	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2232-33	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Kinder - 6% All	257	322	345	336	356	378	400	424	450	477	505	536	568	602	638	615	692	769	924	1,077
1st Grade - 5%	301	273	326	361	353	374	396	420	445	472	500	530	562	596	632	615	692	769	923	1,077
2nd Grade - 5%	253	319	280	341	379	370	393	416	441	468	496	525	557	590	626	615	692	769	923	1,077
3rd Grade - 5%	259	279	336	297	358	398	389	412	437	463	491	521	552	585	620	615	692	769	923	1,077
4th Grade - 5%	246	265	296	350	312	376	418	408	433	459	486	516	547	579	614	615	692	769	923	1,077
5th Grade - 5%	219	255	282	314	368	327	395	439	429	455	482	511	541	574	608	615	692	769	923	1,077
Total	**1,535**	**1,713**	**1,865**	**1,999**	**2,125**	**2,223**	**2,391**	**2,520**	**2,635**	**2,793**	**2,961**	**3,138**	**3,327**	**3,526**	**3,738**	**3,692**	**4,154**	**4,615**	**5,539**	**6,462**
6th Grade - 7%	226	236	266	308	336	393	350	422	470	459	486	516	546	579	614	615	692	769	923	1,077
7th Grade - 5%	240	242	250	278	323	353	413	368	444	493	482	511	541	574	608	615	692	769	923	1,077
8th Grade - 4%	207	258	242	263	289	336	367	429	383	461	513	501	531	563	597	615	692	769	923	1,077
Total	**673**	**736**	**758**	**849**	**949**	**1,082**	**1,130**	**1,220**	**1,296**	**1,413**	**1,481**	**1,527**	**1,619**	**1,716**	**1,819**	**1,846**	**2,077**	**2,308**	**2,769**	**3,231**
9th Grade - 5%	212	232	262	249	276	304	353	385	451	402	484	538	526	558	591	615	692	769	923	1,077
10th Grade - 1%	156	215	228	256	251	279	307	357	389	455	406	489	544	531	563	615	692	769	923	1,077
11th Grade - 1%	155	164	220	228	259	254	282	310	360	393	460	410	494	549	537	615	692	769	923	1,077
12th Grade - 1%	143	148	170	224	230	261	257	285	313	364	397	465	414	499	555	615	692	769	923	1,076
Secd. Total	**666**	**759**	**880**	**957**	**1,016**	**1,098**	**1,198**	**1,336**	**1,513**	**1,614**	**1,747**	**1,902**	**1,978**	**2,137**	**2,246**	**2,462**	**2,769**	**3,077**	**3,692**	**4,307**
**Actual																				
% Inc	10.50%	11.62%	9.20%	8.62%	7.50%	7.65%	7.17%	7.56%	7.24%	6.92%	6.33%	6.12%	5.42%	6.59%	5.73%					
District Total	2,874	3,208	3,503	3,805	4,090	4,403	4,719	5,076	5,444	5,820	6,188	6,568	6,923	7,380	7,803	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Net Gain		334	295	302	285	313	316	357	368	377	368	379	356	456	423					
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2029-30	2029-30	2029-30					
Anchor Pointe		405	518	579																
Benn. Elem	587	371	379	397																
Heritage	428	442	434	433																
Pine Creek	520	495	534	590																
Elem. Total	1,535	1,713	1,865	1,999	2,125	2,223	2,391	2,520	2,635	2,793	2,961	3,138	3,327	3,526	3,738	3,692	4,154	4,615	5,539	6,462
M.S. Total	673	736	758	849	949	1,082	1,130	1,220	1,296	1,413	1,481	1,527	1,619	1,716	1,819	1,846	2,077	2,308	2,769	3,231
Secd. Total	666	759	880	957	1,016	1,098	1,198	1,336	1,513	1,614	1,747	1,902	1,978	2,137	2,246	2,462	2,769	3,077	3,692	4,307
District Total	2,874	3,208	3,503	3,805	4,090	4,403	4,719	5,076	5,444	5,820	6,188	6,568	6,923	7,380	7,803	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Buildings	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30				8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Elementary-483	3.18	3.55	3.86	4.14	4.40	4.60	4.95	5.22	5.46	5.78	6.13	6.50				7.64	8.60	9.56	11.47	13.38
MS -750(2) & 975(2)	0.90	0.98	1.01	1.13	1.10	1.25	1.31	1.41	1.50	1.64	1.72	1.77				2.14	2.41	2.68	3.21	3.75
High School 1,150	666	759	880	957	1,016	1,098	1,198	1,336	747	795	877	956				1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Two HS's @ 1,600									746	795	876	955				1,362	1,619	1,927	2,542	3,157
					Elem #5				Elem #6			Elem #7				Elem#8	Elem#9	Elem#10	Elem #12	Elem #14
					MS #2							MS #3							MS #4	
									HS #2										HS #3	

% Inc 2020-21	Fall **	Fall **	Fall **	10/1/2021																
Grades	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2232-33	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Kinder - 6% All	257	322	345	336	356	378	400	424	450	477	505	536	568	602	638	615	692	769	924	1,077
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Total	**1,535**	**1,713**	**1,865**	**1,999**	**2,125**	**2,223**	**2,391**	**2,520**	**2,635**	**2,793**	**2,961**	**3,138**	**3,327**	**3,526**	**3,738**	**3,692**	**4,154**	**4,615**	**5,539**	**6,462**
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9th Grade - 5%	212	232	262	249	276	304	353	385	451	402	484	538	526	558	591	615	692	769	923	1,077
10th Grade - 1%	156	215	228	256	251	279	307	357	389	455	406	489	544	531	563	615	692	769	923	1,077
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12th Grade - 1%	143	148	170	224	230	261	257	285	313	364	397	465	414	499	555	615	692	769	923	1,076
Secd. Total	**666**	**759**	**880**	**957**	**1,016**	**1,098**	**1,198**	**1,336**	**1,513**	**1,614**	**1,747**	**1,902**	**1,978**	**2,137**	**2,246**	**2,462**	**2,769**	**3,077**	**3,692**	**4,307**
**Actual																				
% Inc	10.50%	11.62%	9.20%	8.62%	7.50%	7.65%	7.17%	7.56%	7.24%	6.92%	6.33%	6.12%	5.42%	6.59%	5.73%					
District Total	2,874	3,208	3,503	3,805	4,090	4,403	4,719	5,076	5,444	5,820	6,188	6,568	6,923	7,380	7,803	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Net Gain		334	295	302	285	313	316	357	368	377	368	379	356	456	423					
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2029-30	2029-30	2029-30					
Anchor Pointe		405	518	579																
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Heritage	428	442	434	433																
Pine Creek	520	495	534	590																
Elem. Total	1,535	1,713	1,865	1,999	2,125	2,223	2,391	2,520	2,635	2,793	2,961	3,138	3,327	3,526	3,738	3,692	4,154	4,615	5,539	6,462
M.S. Total	673	736	758	849	949	1,082	1,130	1,220	1,296	1,413	1,481	1,527	1,619	1,716	1,819	1,846	2,077	2,308	2,769	3,231
Secd. Total	666	759	880	957	1,016	1,098	1,198	1,336	1,513	1,614	1,747	1,902	1,978	2,137	2,246	2,462	2,769	3,077	3,692	4,307
District Total	2,874	3,208	3,503	3,805	4,090	4,403	4,719	5,076	5,444	5,820	6,188	6,568	6,923	7,380	7,803	8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Buildings	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30				8,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	14,000
Elementary-483	3.18	3.55	3.86	4.14	4.40	4.60	4.95	5.22	5.46	5.78	6.13	6.50				7.64	8.60	9.56	11.47	13.38
MS -750(2) & 975(2)	0.90	0.98	1.01	1.13	1.10	1.25	1.31	1.41	1.50	1.64	1.72	1.77				2.14	2.41	2.68	3.21	3.75
High School 1,150	666	759	880	957	1,016	1,098	1,198	1,336	747	795	877	956				1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Two HS's @ 1,600									746	795	876	955				1,362	1,619	1,927	2,542	3,157
					Elem #5				Elem #6			Elem #7				Elem#8	Elem#9	Elem#10	Elem #12	Elem #14
					MS #2							MS #3							MS #4	
									HS #2										HS #3	

High School #2

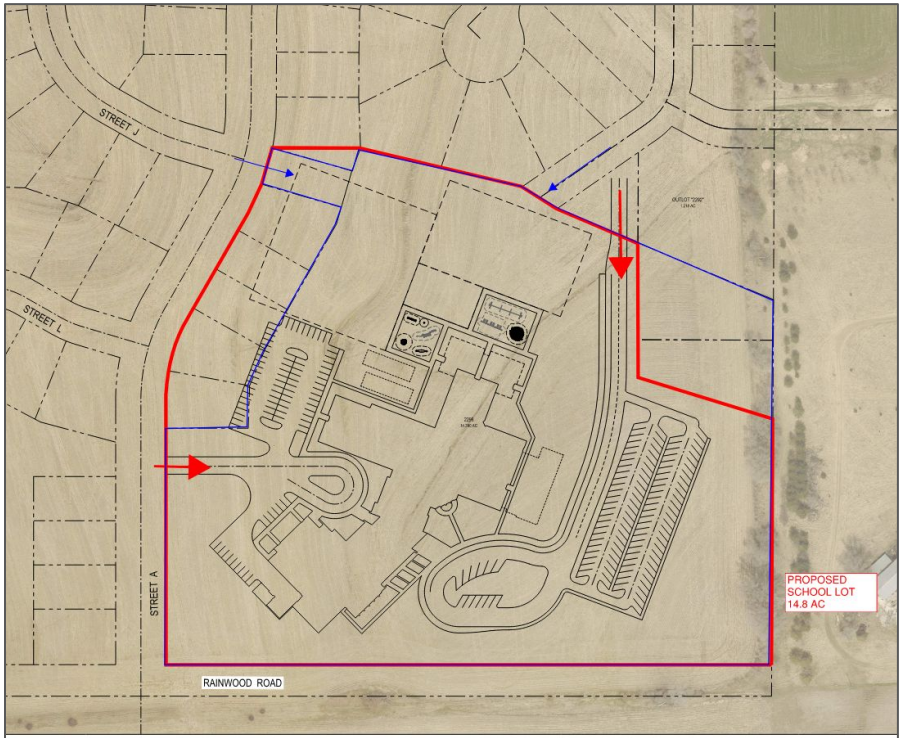
Second HS (Core Facilities / 1,000 Students):	$ 102,200,000 -	$ 112,200,000
a. 500 (Additional Student Capacity):	$ 12,075,000 -	$ 13,300,000
b. Natatorium (Pool):	$ 8,482,500 -	$ 9,130,000
c. Stadium (1,000 seats with SC & FB):	$ 1,980,000 -	$ 2,150,000
D. Post Tension Track	$ 1,200,000 -	$ 1,500,000
e. Baseball Field:	$ 970,000 -	$ 1,270,000
f. Softball Field:	$ 970,000 -	$ 1,270,000
g. Synthetic Turf (one or all fields)	$ 1,301,328	
h. CTE Classrooms (Vocation or Other)	$ 5,700,000 -	$ 6,100,000
i. Tennis Courts: (3 each)::	$ 900,000 -	$ 1,275,000
j. Young Adult Program (18-21 year olds):	$ 586,000 -	$ 630,000
k. Other (Site Support Buildings):	$ 1,240,000 -	$ 1,395,000
Total:	$ 137,604,828 -	$151,521,328

BENNINGTON BADGERS

Elementary #6

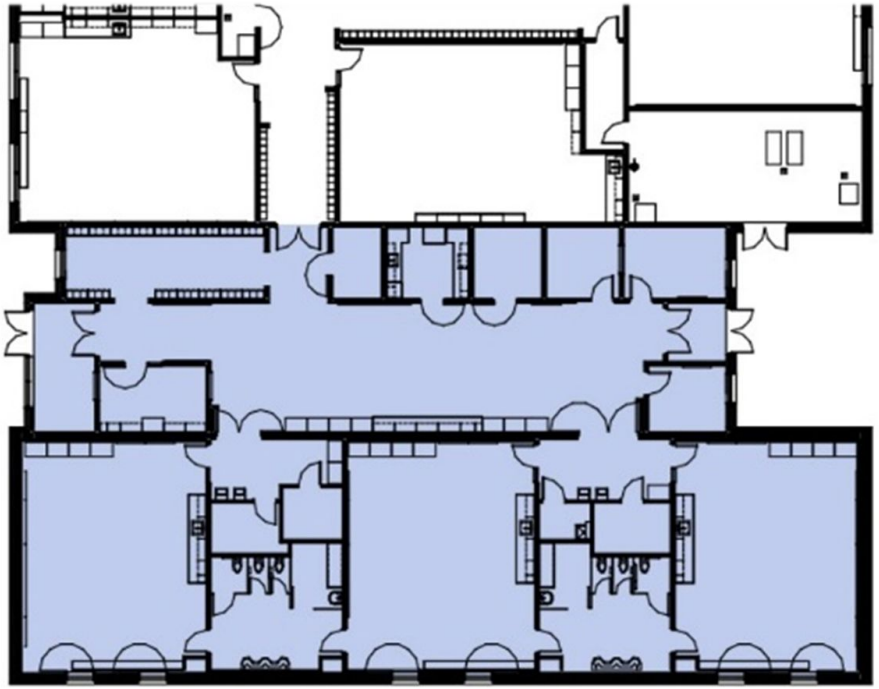
Est. Costs:

Construction -	$20,414,447
On-Site Development -	$ 2,625,810
Equip/Comm -	$ 810,855
Arch./Eng. Fees -	$ 1,116,364
General Exp. -	$ 574,016
Contingency & Esc. -	$ 1,925,267
Total -	**$27,466,759**



MANN HUBBEL SITE TEST FIT PLAN

Preschool Addition



Est. Costs:

Construction -	$2,255,247
On-Site Development -	$ 240,945
Equip/Comm -	$ 81,922
Arch./Eng. Fees -	$ 107,112
General Exp. -	$ 33,578
Contingency & Esc. -	$ 265,026
Total -	**$2,983,830**

BENNINGTON BADGERS

HS Stadium Phase II

Est. Costs:

Construction -	$	944,511
On-Site Develop -	$	00.00
Equip/Comm -	$	00.00
Arch./Eng. Fees -	$	103,896
General Exp. -	$	74,266
Contingency & Esc. -	$	147,771
Total -	**$**	**1,270,444**

BENNINGTON BADGERS

HS Tennis Courts

Est. Costs:

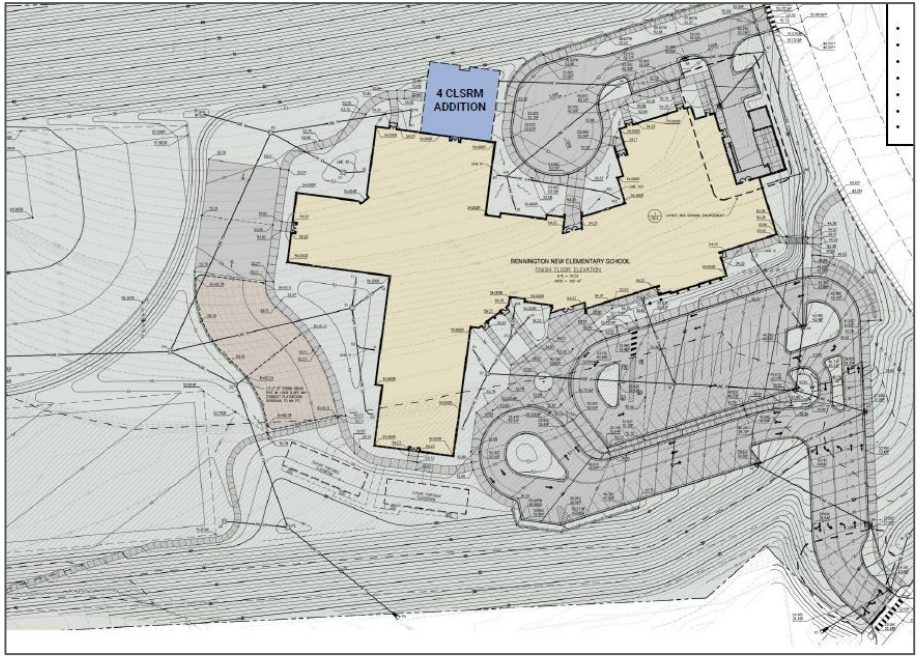
Construction -	$ 1,852,500
On-Site Develop -	$ 00.00
Equip/Comm -	$ 00.00
Arch./Eng. Fees -	$ 148,200
General Exp. -	$ 106,388
Contingency & Esc. -	$ 210,685
Total -	**$ 2,317,773**

BENNINGTON BADGERS

Heritage Elementary Addition

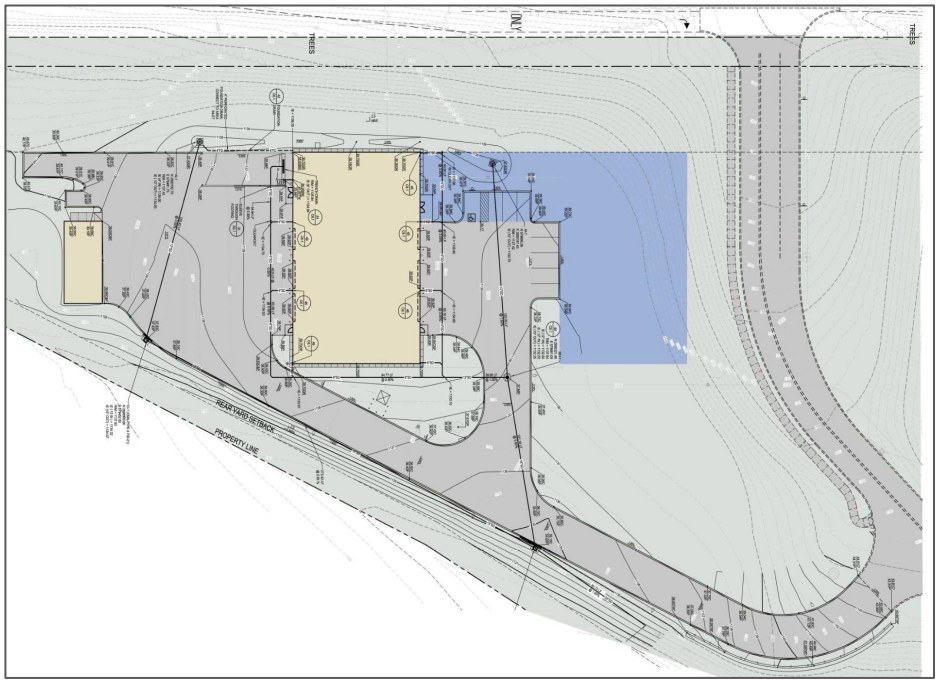
Est. Costs:

Construction -	$ 2,005,563
On-Site Develop -	$ 148,700
Equip/Comm -	$ 336,682
Arch./Eng. Fees -	$ 270,979
General Exp. -	$ 71,130
Contingency & Esc. -	$ 255,519
Total -	**$ 3,088,573**



BENNINGTON BADGERS

Warehouse Addition



Estimated Sq. Ft. - 13,540

Est. Costs:

Construction-	
($250/Sq. Ft.)	$3,385,000
On-Site Development	$ 244,000
Soft Costs -	$ 477,000
Total -	**$4,106,000**

BENNINGTON BADGERS

High School Life of Equipment

Section 1 & 2 Roof - Only sections of BHS with a modified Bitmun roof system. This asphalt-based system is starting to deteriorate.
Estimate: $629,197 (2022)

Section 1 & 2 Flooring - approaching end of life. Estimate: $3.75 / sq ft.$242,317

Section 1 HVAC Equip - Replace 7 Air Handling units.
Estimate: $1.2 m

High School Equip/Material	Annual Costs Past 365	Replacment Costs	Flooring Sq/Ft	Built/Last Replacment	Life Expectancy	Life left
Roof Section 1	$3,960.29	$314,599		2005	15	-2
Roof Section 2	$262.43	$314,599		2009	15	2
Roof Section 3	$0.00	$78,043		2012	25	15
Roof Section 4	$0.00	$212,000		2017	25	20
Roof Section 5	$0.00			2020	25	23
HVAC/Equip 1	$45,515.00			2005	25	8
HVAC/Equip 2				2009	25	12
HVAC/Equip 3				2012	25	15
HVAC/Equip 4				2017	25	20
HVAC/Equip 5				2020	25	23
HVAC/Control		$239,000		2018	25	21
Flooring Section 1	$0.00	$0	45,868	2005	15	-2
Flooring Section 2	$0.00	$0	18,750	2009	15	2
Flooring Section 3	$0.00	$0	22,298	2012	15	5
Flooring Section 4	$0.00	$0	26,500	2017	15	10
Flooring Section 5				2020	15	13
Windows/Doors	$0.00			2005	30	13
Security		$25,000		2005, 17	15	15
Parking Lot 1	$27,000.00			2022	20	20
Parking Lot 2	$0.00			2022	20	20

BENNINGTON BADGERS

High School & Elementary HVAC Replacement

High School HVAC Replacement: $1,200,000

- Upgrade HVAC equipment @ Bennington High School - Original Construction of 2005

Bennington Elem. Rooftop HVAC Replacement: $750,000

- To Replace All Twelve (12) Rooftop Heat Pumps @ Bennington Elem.

BENNINGTON BADGERS

Total Construction Costs:
$187,000,000 - $201,000,000

Second HS (Core Facilities / 1,000 Students):	$ 102,200,000 -	$ 112,200,000
a. 500 (Additional Student Capacity):	$ 12,075,000 -	$ 13,300,000
b. Natatorium (Pool):	$ 8,482,500 -	$ 9,130,000
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D. Post Tension Track	$ 1,200,000 -	$ 1,500,000
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g. Synthetic Turf (one or all fields)	$ 1,301,328	
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i. Tennis Courts: (3 each)::	$ 900,000 -	$ 1,275,000
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k. Other (Site Support Buildings):	$ 1,240,000 -	$ 1,395,000
Total:	$ 137,604,828 -	$151,521,328

Elementary #6:	$ 27,466,759
Preschool Addition:	$ 2,983,830
HS Stadium Phase II:	$ 1,270,444
HS Tennis Courts:	$ 2,317,773
Heritage Addition:	$ 3,088,573
Warehouse Addition:	$ 4,106,000
HS & El HVAC Equip:	$ 1,950,000
HS Roof & Flooring:	$ 871,514
Elem. Site #8-15 Ac.:	$ 750,000
MS Site #3-30 Ac.:	$ 1,500,000
HS Site #3-60 Ac.:	$ 3,000,000
Total:	$ 49,304,893

BENNINGTON BADGERS

Questions and Discussion

K-12 Bullying Presentation

June 13 Board Workshop

Definition of Bullying

Intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, written, graphic, demonstrative, electronic, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, oppressing, or controlling another student. Includes an imbalance of power and is ongoing.

Definition of Harassment

Intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words symbolic representations or behavior that is disruptive to the educational process in the form of (verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name calling, taunting, mocking, slander, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering, derogatory remarks, jokes, or drawings) Harassment prohibited by the school district includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, marital status, or disability, sex, veteran status, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other prohibited status.

Process

1. Student, staff member, and/or parent reports incident.
2. Administration begins investigation by gathering as much information as possible.
    a. Interview students, parents, teachers that are potential witnesses
    b. Review building video camera footage
    c. Investigate any potential social media postings
    d. Possible SRO contact
    e. Possible counselor contact
3. Review of handbook and school policy, and NebSIS notes.
4. Discussion with other administration in the building.
5. Possible discussion with superintendent or student services.
6. Determine consequences and coding of incident.
7. Communicate to students, staff and parents possible findings and consequences.
8. Log information into NebSIS.
9. Follow up with student and consequences - Administrative Conference, ISS, OSS, Saturday School, Arbor Family, etc. expectations.

Data

K-12 Behavior Count Report

Gallup Data

- ❏ High School
- ❏ Middle School
- ❏ Anchor Pointe Elementary
- ❏ Bennington Elementary
- ❏ Heritage Elementary
- ❏ Pine Creek Elementary

AdvancED Student Survey

- ❏ High School
- ❏ Middle School
- ❏ Elementary Schools

Utilization of Data

Homeroom Lessons

Student Support Lessons

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Training

SafeSchools Training

Guest Speakers

New Formation of Clubs - Multicultural Club, Leo Club, PRISM Club, Diversity Club

Student Connections Survey

Morning Meetings

Behavior System and Recognition System

Arbor Family Services - In school and on location

Family Time (Elementary Homeroom)

Individual Intervention Plans (Ex: BIP, point card, student goal sheet, counselor/staff check ins, etc)

Behavior Intervention Training for Staff

School Mental Health Workshop

Training

Staff are required to complete several trainings each school year. Below are a few of the training session staff have completed.

SafeSchools Courses (2021-2022):

- Bullying: Recognition and Response
- Bullying Prevention on the School Bus
- Cyberbullying
- Making Schools Safe and Inclusive for LGBTQ Students
- Dating Violence: Identification and Prevention

Homeroom Curriculum - Lessons in regard to bullying and reporting bullying are specifically taught to students during Homeroom sessions. Staff are trained in how to teach these lessons by Mrs. Baumann and Mrs. Muller.

CPI De-escalation/Behavior Intervention Training

Mental Health Workshop

Elementary Programming

Mendez Foundation - Too Good Programs 2021

Second Step Curriculum Adoption 2022

Small group/ One on One Guidance activities, interventions and re-teaching/practice opportunities

Common Sense Digital Citizenship curriculum - Library/Media

Family Time (Badger Time, Crews, Brigades, Families): Focus on 21st Century skills that are assessed through grade level rubrics

Morning Meetings - Focused on designated monthly character skills/ 21st century skills

Student of Character/Month: Students recognized from each class/grade level for demonstrating positive character traits and choices

Updated School wide Behavior Tiered System

Updated School wide Student Acknowledgement System

School Wide Activities: Kindness Days, Compliment Contests

Staff Mentors - Daily check-ins, re-teaching opportunities for individual students with former teachers, administration, specialists

TeamMates Program

Middle School Programming

PBIS-This is one of our school improvement goals. Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind. We have positive recognition tied to positive behaviors such as our Badger Bucks, Power of the Paw, and Learn-Grow-Lead awards.

#BeKind events-We send students to the PlaySmart leadership academy each summer and they are tasked with helping with our monthly Be Kind events at the middle school.

Bullying Prevention Month-October Events Planned

Outside Speakers--Joe Beckman in Fall of 2021.

School Resource Officer-We utilize on a case by case basis to help support.

Arbor Family-District provided counseling supports for students, staff, and families.

MTSS-Our district is continuing work on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports for our students academically and behaviorally (*NEW SEL Curriculum for 2022-2023 Second Step*)

Bark-Is a program that alerts us if students are using their chromebook inappropriately.

Safe2Help-Safe2Help Nebraska is an anonymous and secure hotline and cell phone app to share safety related information or concerns to the appropriate school, crisis counselor or law enforcement agency. They are here to help keep you, your school and community safe.

Hapara-Program to help staff monitor student chromebook use.

Gallup Student Survey Yearly-We felt the area of belonging needed to be addressed so we did a student connections survey and found out that 80% of our students had a connection to at least 1 adult in the building. We worked in teams to help the 20% who didn't feel they had a connection to get more connected.

High School Programming

Assembly's - Kyler Erickson, Mark Adler, Karen Haase, Shawntal Mallory and Marti Carringington

Started a Key (Leo) Club - Sponsored by Jenny Bruck and Stephanie Jenkins - students discuss ways to incorporate service while promoting inclusion of students to the organization.

GNST (Prisim) Club - gay straight alliance club sponsored by David Porter and Mary Welker where students discuss tolerance, bullying, and proactive prevention of bullying. Multiple Town Hall discussions with Dr. Blomenkamp to help with bullying prevention.

Arbor Family - One counselor meets with students one day per week. Many conversations include bullying and bullying prevention.

MTSS-Our district is continuing work on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports for our students academically and behaviorally (*NEW SEL Curriculum for 2022-2023 Second Step*)

Bark-Is a program that alerts us if students are using their chromebook inappropriately.

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Hapara-Program to help staff monitor student chromebook use.

Homeroom Lessons - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in February. Conflict Resolution, Digital Citizenship (Civil Discourse), Teambuilding, Bullying and Dominance, and Suicide

Safe2Help and Bark

Safe2Help

https://www.safe2helpne.org/#!

Bark

https://www.bark.us/

Next Steps

1. Develop a consistent K-12 process to document bullying allegations.
2. As we continue to grow and add administrators, hold staff development on how we code behaviors.
3. We do a lot for staff and students explaining bullying and ways to report it, and we can provide more information to educate parents.
    a. Attorney Presentation