

2021-2022

Bryan County Schools

Student/Parent Handbook



“Committed to Excellence and Success in ALL We Do!”

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Paul T. Brooksher, Ph.D., *Superintendent*

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Bryan County Schools Mission:

“We are dedicated to rigorous educational tasks that challenge and motivate students while always being focused on continuous improvement.”

Bryan County School System is accredited by AdvancED (now known as COGNIA).

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2021-2022 Calendar

| July 2021 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

26-30 Pre-Planning

| January 2022 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

3-4 PL Day/WorkDay
(Student Holiday)

5 Students Return

17 M.L.K. Holiday
(Staff and Student Holiday)

| August 2021 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

2 Pre-Planning

3 First Day of School

| February 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

21-22 Winter Break
(Staff and Student Holiday)

23 PL Day/Workday
(Student Holiday)

| September 2021 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

6 Labor Day
(Staff and Student Holiday)

7 PL Day/Workday
(Student Holiday)

| March 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

17 PL Day/Workday
(Student Holiday)

18 Staff and Student Holiday

| October 2021 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

11 Fall Break
(Staff and Student Holiday)

12 PL Day/Workday
(Student Holiday)

| April 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

4-8 Spring Break
(Staff and Student Holiday)

| November 2021 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

11 Veterans Day
(Staff and Student Holiday)

12 PL Day/Workday
(Student Holiday)

22-26 Thanksgiving Break
(Staff and Student Holiday)

| May 2022 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

20 Last Day of School

23-24 Post Planning

| December 2021 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

17 End of Semester

20-31 Semester Break
(Staff and Student Holiday)

| June 2022 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Beginning of Term |
| | Professional Learning Day or Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| | Staff and Student Holiday |
| | End of Term |

Superintendent's Welcome

Dear Bryan County Parents and Students:

On behalf of the Bryan County Board of Education, I would like to welcome you to the 2021-22 school year. As in years past, our priority continues to be student achievement, with a strong focus on safety and quality instruction. This handbook was developed to provide you and your student with important information regarding school system policies and procedures. It also includes the student Code of Conduct which sets the behavioral expectations for all Bryan County Schools students.

Additionally, you will find information regarding the school lunch program, transportation, extracurricular activities, and other useful resources. Please take the time to review this handbook with your student(s) so you are familiar with the expectations and guidelines. Your support of these will allow us to focus on what is most important, teaching and learning with an emphasis on learning.

The Bryan County Board of Education and I wish you the very best for the 2021-2022 school year!

Sincerely,

Paul T. Brooksher

Paul T. Brooksher, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Attendance & Enrollment

Absences

Students not subject to compulsory school attendance laws who are enrolled for the current school year who do not attend school for ten (10) consecutive days and the local school is not notified of the absence by parent/guardian are considered withdrawn. These students may be dropped from the school's rolls after attempting to notify the parent or guardian. Students determined to no longer be a resident of the system may be withdrawn even if the student is subject to compulsory school attendance laws. The withdrawal shall be retroactive to the first day of the consecutive absences.

Students who have received a short-term suspension (1–10 days), will be allowed to make-up their work; however, it is incumbent upon the student to do so in timely fashion. Students are responsible for making arrangements and completing make-up work **within five school days**.

For currently enrolled students who are subject to compulsory school attendance laws, it is required that schools make a good-faith effort to obtain documented information that the student no longer resides in the school's attendance zone before the student is withdrawn. **Parents/Guardians may be asked for proof of residency at any time.**

When a student needs to leave school early, they may only be released to their parent(s) or to the person properly identified to school authorities, or upon written notification from the parent(s).

Students who have emergencies necessitating their absence from school for a portion of the school day must have been present for the majority of the school day in order to be counted present. ***Students must attend school for at least the equivalent of half the school day in order to be counted for the whole day.***

The basis of Bryan County Schools **excused absences** definition comes from OCGA 160-5-1-.10. The Bryan County Schools procedure reads as follows:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others. Bryan County Schools will request medical documentation upon the return to school for the purpose of validating that the absence is an excused absence.
2. A serious illness or death in the student's immediate

family necessitating absence from school. In the event of a serious illness in a student's immediate family, Bryan County Schools will request students to present appropriate medical documentation regarding the family member upon return to school for the purpose of validating that the absence is an excused absence.

3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety. (For Bryan County Public Schools, the closure of schools for hazardous conditions may only be made by the Superintendent to qualify as an excused absence.)
6. A period not to exceed one day (1) is allowed at the discretion of the local school for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
7. Students will be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
8. Students who are in a foster home or otherwise in the foster care system under the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services will be counted present for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school when attending court proceedings related to that student's foster care.
9. A student who participates in the Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program will be counted as present and given full credit for the school day during which he or she served in the STEP program.
10. Military Dependent Absence: Code Section 20-2-692.1 provides that a student whose parent is in the armed forces of the United States military or National Guard, and said parent has been called for overseas deployment or is on leave from overseas deployment, will be granted up to five (5) school days of excused absences per school year to visit with said parent, prior to their deployment or while they are on leave.

Reporting Absences

Parents or guardians are encouraged to contact the school on the day of the student absence to indicate the reason for the absence.

Student check-in and check-out procedures are determined at the local school level. A student must have parental permission, however, to leave school grounds.

This includes, but is not limited to, local schools requesting appropriate documentation from the parent/guardian of a student with excessive absences (excused or unexcused). If a student has accumulated excessive absences, the school will contact the parent, guardian, or person having charge or control of the student to notify them of these absences and the possible consequences.

Attendance Protocols

School attendance is very important to the learning process. The good work habits students develop now will be beneficial to them later in life. Attendance also correlates strongly with test results. The greater a student's attendance in class, the more success they will have in school. Student attendance is a specific indicator on the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). Student attendance impacts all additional areas of CCRPI as well.

Georgia law requires compulsory school attendance for all students between the ages of 6 and 16 residing in Bryan County. Any parent, guardian or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children and who violates the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, can be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1). In addition, a child under six years of age who has attended more than 20 days in public school will be subject to the compulsory attendance law. {{O.C.G.A. § 20-2-150 (C)}}. Any child subject to the compulsory attendance, who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences, shall be deemed truant per the Georgia Department of Education State Board Rule 160-5-1-10 STUDENT ATTENDANCE and Bryan County Schools Board Policy JB STUDENT ATTENDANCE.

In addition, Children in Need of Services (CHINS) is an approach to dealing with status offences including truancy as created by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (House Bill 242) and went into effect January 1, 2014. It promotes early intervention and effective alternatives to low-risk offenders and uses juvenile courts as a last resort for discipline. CHINS is defined a truant student for court purposes as having 10 or more days of unexcused absences from school in the current academic year. For more information about CHINS, please visit:

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20132014/130097.pdf>. For more information about student attendance please visit the following sites:

Georgia Department of Education

<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Student-Attendance-Improvement.aspx>
<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Student-Attendance-Guidance.aspx>

Attendance Works

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

Students are not counted absent from school if they are present at least half of the instructional day. Students will be marked absent from every class they miss, however, even if counted present for the day. Attendance is checked every block/class in the middle and high schools. If a student is not present for at least half of a class, they are marked absent from that class. Students should make up missed work within *five (5) school days*.

Early Checkouts occur when a student is removed from class and leaves school prior to the official end of the school day with a parent or legal guardian. An early checkout can be marked as excused if it is aligned to the excused absences guidelines.

ES/ MS—To be considered in attendance for a school day, the student must be present for at least one-half of the school day, excluding lunch period.

HS—High School attendance is taken by class. In order for a student to participate in an extra-curricular activity he/she must be present for at least 2 blocks that school day. Exceptions can only be made by the Principal prior to the school day.

At the time the student is released from school, the parent or legal guardian may be required to bring appropriate documentation showing the reason for an early checkout.

After any combination of 10 early checkouts and/or tardies, a residency letter will be sent home to verify that the student lives in the district. If residency documents are not produced within 10 school days, then a withdrawal letter will be issued.

Tardies for purposes of this section of the student handbook occur when a student is late to school. A tardy can be marked as excused if it is aligned to the excused absences guidelines.

Elementary/Middle Progression for Excessive Unexcused Absences (Determined by School Year)

5 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be notified by a letter sent home of the number of unexcused absences and

will be reminded of the state's attendance requirements.

- Student is considered truant by Georgia State Board of Education Rule

7 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be notified by phone.
- A letter, attendance protocol, and form will be sent home for the parent to sign and return to the school indicating that they received and understand the school's attendance protocol.
- A mandatory meeting will be arranged with the parent/ guardian, student, and school's SARC.

10 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be sent a letter to inform them that any more unexcused absences will result in a referral to the CHINS Program through the Juvenile Court.

10+ Absences—

- The student will be referred to the CHINS Program through the Juvenile Court.
- Fifteen (15) absences could result in the failure of a class.

**High School Progression for Excessive Unexcused Absences
(Determined by Semester)**

3 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be notified by a letter sent home to inform of the number of unexcused absences and the state's attendance requirements.

5 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be notified by phone.
- A letter, attendance protocol, and form will be sent home for the parent to sign and return to the school indicating they received and understand the school's attendance protocol.
- A mandatory meeting will be arranged with the parent/ guardian, student, and school's SARC.
- Student is considered truant by Georgia State Board of Education Rule

7 Absences—

- Parent/guardian will be sent a letter with the return receipt requested to inform them any more unexcused absences:
 - will result in a referral to the CHINS Program through the Juvenile Court
 - could result in course credit being denied.

10 Absences—

- The student will be referred to the CHINS Program through the Juvenile Court.

Children in Need of Services (C.H.I.N.S.) Program

C.H.I.N.S. is a new approach to dealing with status offences including truancy as created by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (House Bill 242) and went into effect January 1st, 2014. It promotes early intervention and effective alternatives to low risk offenders and uses juvenile courts as a last resort for discipline.

School referral process:

If the school brings a complaint, it must state and show that it had attempted to address the issue at the school level. This includes addressing any disabilities or suspected disabilities that may be contributing to the child's behavior and/or evaluating the child for additional services, when appropriate.

Grades 9-12 Policy

Students shall attend school as directed by the compulsory attendance law. Students who have successfully completed a course will receive credit if they have been absent seven (7) days or less per semester. In the event that a student misses more than seven (7) days in a particular class, credit may be denied for that class unless the school is provided with:

- parental excuses for absences
- there is evidence of a verifiable death in the immediate family
- a court order for each day of absence beyond the seven (7) day limit.

Exceptions to the attendance policy are made only in very unusual situations. In the event of an unusual situation, the parent must submit in writing to the principal a request for appeal of the attendance policy. The principal may, if the situation warrants, schedule a hearing before the school attendance committee. Such appeal must be made within ten (10) days of the end of the semester.

FAQ on the Attendance Policy

Do I have to take my child to the doctor if they are too sick to attend school?

No.

Whether the absence is excused or unexcused, students have five school days after returning to school to complete make-up work.

The Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol does not

require parents/guardians to take students to the doctor. The parent/guardian of a student must determine when to take their children to a healthcare provider. In terms of the Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol, if a student does not attend school and does not have appropriate documentation from a healthcare professional, then the absence will be unexcused. If a student is seen by a healthcare professional, the parent/guardian has five school days after the student returns to school in order to turn in the medical documentation to excuse the absence(s).

How do I know if my child is too sick for school?

Bryan County Schools knows it is difficult to make those early morning decisions.

The main reasons for keeping your child at home are as follows:

- If he/she is too sick to be comfortable at school
- If he/she will spread a contagious illness/disease to another child
- If he/she has a fever 100 degrees or more

For more information visit: <https://www.choa.org/medical-services/wellness-and-preventive-care/parent-resources/all/too-sick-for-school>

Are handwritten or typed notes signed by a parent/guardian going to be accepted at all to excuse absences under the new Bryan County School Attendance Protocol?

No, only official documentation (i.e. healthcare provider notes, court papers, etc.) will be accepted to excuse an absence from school and it will only be accepted if received by the school within five school days from the student's return to school.

What options do I have, as a parent/guardian, if my child has concerns with attendance?

All Bryan County Schools have Student Attendance Review Committees (SARC) that meet after a student has accumulated 5 unexcused absences. The committees are comprised of the parent/guardian, student, school counselor, and other personnel that are necessary including but not limited to the teacher, school social worker, and school administrator. The purpose of the SARC is to examine individual student attendance data with parents/guardians to develop interventions and ensure that the proper supports are in place to support student achievement.

If a child is sent home by a school administrator or a school

nurse, is the child marked with an excused or unexcused absence?

When a child is ill and sent home by a school administrator or a school nurse, the absence is considered excused for that day. If the child continues to be absent from school, the absences beyond the day sent home will be marked unexcused until a healthcare provider's documentation is received by the school. The documentation from a healthcare provider must be submitted to the school within five school days from the student's return to school.

What if my child has regular healthcare appointments during school time and leaves school early multiple times a week?

The situation would be an early check out. Early checkouts occur when a student is removed from class and leaves school prior to the official end of the school day with a parent or legal guardian. An early checkout can be marked as excused if it is aligned to the excused absences guidelines. Please note that according to the Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol after any combination of 10 early checkouts and/or tardies, a residency letter will be sent home to verify that the student lives in the district. If residency documents are not produced within 10 school days, then a withdrawal letter will be issued. The residency verification process will be triggered for excused or unexcused early checkouts and tardies.

What happens after any combination of 10 early checkouts and/or tardies?

Tardies occur when a student is late to school. A tardy can be marked as excused if it is aligned to the excused absences guidelines. A residency letter will be sent home to verify that the student lives in the district. If residency documents are not produced within 10 school days, then a withdrawal letter will be issued. The residency verification process will be triggered for excused or unexcused early checkouts and tardies. For example, if a child accumulates 6 tardies (2 excused and 4 unexcused) and 5 early checkouts (5 excused) then a residency letter will be sent home to verify that the student lives in the district.

If my child has a disability under Section 504 or receives special education services, is he or she exempt from the Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol?

The Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol is in place for all students including students with disabilities. Many students with disabilities require frequent healthcare

appointments for their disabling conditions. Healthcare provider notes will continue to be accepted to excuse absences from school if received by the school within five school days from the student's return to school.

Where can I go if I still have questions about the Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol?

School administrators, school counselors, and school social workers are available to address questions related to the Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol.

Custodial/Guardianship Changes

If the status of a student's custody changes after the student's enrollment, the parent or guardian shall notify the local school of the student's new address and contact information.

Parents/guardians will be required to facilitate and obtain appropriate guardianship or custody of their child to avoid referral to an outside agency or withdrawal. State law generally prohibits attempts to make a change of custody of a minor child by removing the child from the premises of the school without permission of the person who enrolled the student. This prohibition applies even if there is a court order granting custody of the child to the person seeking to make the change.

Enrollment, Transfers & Withdrawals

Students who are residents of Bryan County are eligible for enrollment in the schools of Bryan County. Students must reside in Bryan County with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The Bryan County School System does not charge its students any fee for enrollment.

The following documents are required for registration:

- 2 Proofs of Residency (ex. Light bill, cable, rental agreement, contract for the home)
- Birth certificate
- Social Security Card or waiver
- Eye, Ear, Dental form
- Certificate of Immunization

Individual schools may have additional documents required for registration.

Upon enrollment, the school will request all educational documents from the previous school that the student attended.

Proof of residency is required. Students discovered to be ineligible for enrollment in Bryan County Schools will be withdrawn immediately.

A child must have attained the age of five (5) by September 1 of the fiscal year to be eligible for admission into kindergarten. A child is entitled to admission to the first grade if he or she will be six (6) years of age before September 1 of the school year. A birth certificate is required for a student to initially enter school. The student must also have a Social Security Card or waiver.

Students initially entering school or transferring from another state shall be given an eye, ear, and a dental examination by the local Board of Health or a private physician and a certificate provided pursuant to the rules promulgated by the State Department of Public Health and the State Board of Education. The statement must be on a Georgia Department of Human Resources form.

A certificate of immunization from a physician or a qualified employee of a county Board of Health shall be furnished by the child's parents to the school where attendance is sought. The statement of immunization must be on a Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3231. The certificate shall be placed in the student's folder.

A student suspended or expelled from another school system will not be permitted to enroll in the Bryan County School System. Students in grades 6-12 must furnish a copy of their discipline record from the prior school.

To facilitate prompt, appropriate communication between the home and school, parents, guardians, or persons having charge or control of a student should notify the school immediately when there is a change in the student's address and/or phone number as listed in school records.

Transfers and Withdrawals

1. In order to prevent delay, a parent or guardian should notify the principal's office at least two days prior to the date of expected withdrawal.
2. The school shall forward a transcript of the student's records to the target school upon receipt of a signed request of the parent or guardian.
3. Students are expected to return all books and materials or reimburse the school system for the books and materials not returned.
4. Any student who fails to withdraw properly shall be considered a dropout and must go through the correct procedures before being readmitted.
5. No student who is serving a suspension or an expulsion from another school system shall be allowed to enroll in a Bryan County school.

Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act ensures the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. This law identified any student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as homeless. It provides legal protections for children and youth in homeless situations to immediately enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and qualifying public preschool programs. It further provides provisions for student records maintenance and transfer, school of origin transportation, and appropriate dispute resolutions for homeless students. In accordance with this law, Bryan County Public Schools affords homeless children and youth equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including comparable services, such as Title I support, special education, gifted, English Language Learners (ELL), vocational/technical, and public preschool education, as provided to other non-homeless students. Homeless children and youth will have access to the services needed to support their academic achievement as they work to meet the same challenging standards to which all students are held.

Terminology

Compulsory Attendance— Attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program is required for children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays. Every parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state having control or charge of any child between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall be responsible for enrolling and sending such child to a public school, private school, or home school program. Attendance in a public school, private school, or a home school program is required regardless of the fact that a child has been suspended or expelled from school by the local board of education. Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A.) 20-2-690.1

Early Checkout— When a parent, guardian, or other person having charge or control of a student authorizes a student to leave the facility before the end of the school day. School day hours are published in local school handbooks and/or school websites.

Tardy— Students are considered tardy to school or class if the student arrives at a designated location after a school bell, chime, or buzzer has sounded. (Local schools will include specific information relevant to their facility to

identify the designated location for student arrival.)

Truant— Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five (5) days of unexcused absences.

Behavior and Expectations

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

PBIS is a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to organize evidence-based practices, improve their implementation of those practices, and maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for ALL Bryan County School students. PBIS emphasizes the establishment of systems that give school personnel the ability to use effective interventions accurately and successfully at the school, district, and state levels. These supports include (a) team-based leadership, (b) data-based decision-making, (c) continuous monitoring of student behavior, (d) regular universal screening, and (e) effective on-going professional development. Effective classroom management and preventive school discipline are essential for supporting teaching and learning. PBIS goes further by emphasizing that classroom management and preventive school discipline must be integrated and working together with effective academic instruction in a positive and safe school climate to maximize success for all students. The principles of PBIS are the same as those represented in Response to Intervention (RTI) (e.g., universal screening, continuous progress monitoring, data-based decision making, implementation fidelity, and evidence-based interventions). Literacy and numeracy implementation frameworks are examples of the application of RTI for academic behavior, and PBIS is an example of the application of RTI for social behavior.

Purpose and Scope of the Behavior Code

Bryan County Schools (“BCS” or “District”) is committed to creating a safe, positive environment for all our students, staff, parents, stakeholders, and community partners. BCS will work to assure that all students and staff are well-motivated, fully aware of their potential, and dedicated to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills and behavior. BCS believes that all children can thrive in a safe learning environment. The District utilizes a range of activities to recognize, celebrate, and reward positive behavior at the classroom, school and district levels. BCS has adopted this Code to support the creation of a safe learning environment for all members of the school community. The purpose of this Code is to state clearly our standards for acceptable conduct of students. The Code also explains the consequences for not meeting these standards of conduct. This Code establishes a strict policy for behavior that endangers the safety of the schools and/or disrupts the

educational experience for other students. BCS does not permit corporal punishment.

The Code also sets forth the disciplinary procedures for the students who have committed violations of the Code. This Code is not meant to be a contract between the District and the students and may be amended at any time. It is a place for BCS to explain certain guidelines applicable to students.

The rules in this Code are designed to notify students (grades K–12) as to the types of behaviors that are not acceptable; nevertheless, every specific situation may not have been included. Consequently, students should expect to be disciplined for misconduct that is obviously inappropriate. A specific rule need not be written for every conceivable variation of behavior that directly affects the orderly mission of the school

Everyone is entitled to a safe, secure, and orderly environment in which to learn and work. The rules and regulations in this Code are designed toward that end and are effective during the following times and places:

- a) On school grounds at any time;
- b) Off school grounds at a bus stop, on a school bus, at a school activity, function, or event;
- c) Off school grounds when the behavior of a student (1) could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony or which could result in a felony criminal charge if committed by an adult; and which (2) makes the student’s continued presence at school a potential danger to person or property at school or which disrupts the educational process. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.5(c)).
- d) Off school grounds while the student is participating in or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities such as field trips, conferences or athletic events, or is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of school authorities;
- e) Off school grounds when the misconduct is directed at a school student or employee and is related to the victim’s school affiliation, or when the off-campus conduct directly affects the safety and welfare of the school community or the orderly mission and function of the school; and
- f) Off school grounds and when a student leaves without permission (AWOL) of a school official, or anytime Rule 10 would apply.

The rules of this Code do not apply to:

Student speech that occurs off campus if the speech is at a non-school sponsored event and does not cause or is not likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the school environment or a school activity.

Rules

Rule 1 – Disruption and Interference with School

No student shall cause or attempt to cause directly or indirectly disruption or interference with school.

Rule 2— Damage, Destruction, or Misuse of School Property or Equipment

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or alter/misuse school technology or any other equipment, including accessing unauthorized areas on the computer. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal school property. A student shall not possess, sell, use, buy or transmit stolen school property or attempt to possess, sell, use, buy or transmit stolen school property.

Rule 3— Damage, Destruction, or Misuse of Private Property

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property or steal or attempt to steal private property. A student shall not possess, sell, use, buy, or transmit stolen private property on school grounds. Further, off school's grounds, a student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property belonging to a school employee where such theft or damage is on account of that school employee's performance of his/her official duties. A student shall not sell or buy or attempt to sell or buy personal property on school grounds.

Rule 4— Abuse, Threats, Intimidation, Assault, or Battery of a School Employee

Section A

Regardless of intent, a student shall not make oral or written communication, create a document, or make a symbolic gesture or contact of a threatening, undermining, or provoking nature to or about a school employee or in the presence of a school employee. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespectful conduct, insult, use of profanity, ethnic, racial, sexual, disability, or religious slur, or harassment and includes the development of a "hit list," "people to kill," "people to shoot," or a statement about bringing a weapon to school and injuring people.

Section B

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way that could reasonably cause physical injury or make physical contact of a threatening or provoking nature to a school employee.

Rule 4B also applies off school grounds when the misconduct by the alleged perpetrator is because of the school employee's performance of his or her official duties.

Rule 5— Abuse, Threats, Intimidation, Assault, or Battery by a Student regarding Another Student or to Any Other Person Not Employed by the School

Section A

Regardless of intent, a student shall not make oral or written communication, create a document, or make a symbolic gesture or contact of a threatening, distracting, or provoking nature to or about a person/student or in the presence of a person/student. This includes, but is not limited to, bullying/cyberbullying, disrespectful conduct, insult, use of profanity; ethnic, racial, sexual, disability, or religious slur; or harassment and includes the development of a "hit list," "people to kill," "people to shoot," or a statement about bringing a weapon to school and injuring people.

State law defines Bullying as: 1) any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; 2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or 3) any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate that: a) causes substantial physical harm; b) substantially interferes with a student's education; c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating/threatening educational environment; or d) disrupts the orderly operation of school. Upon finding that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4) Retaliation for reports of bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated and will be subject to independent disciplinary action.

Section B

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause bodily injury to any student/person. A student shall not engage in any behavior that threatens the safety or well-being of another person or has the likelihood of provoking a fight.

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited.

Rule 6— Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, and Explosive or Implosive Devices

A student shall not solicit to buy or sell, or buy or sell or possess, handle, transmit, threaten with or discharge/use, any object that can reasonably be considered or converted to and/or used as a weapon.

Rule 7— Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Section A

A student shall not be involved in any substance, drug, alcohol, or tobacco transaction, including, without limitation to buy, possess, sell, use, transmit, solicit; attempt to buy, possess, sell, use, or transmit; or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, depressant, or stimulant drug including without limitation caffeine pills, hallucinogenic drug, anabolic steroid, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalant, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. A student shall not possess, sell, buy, or transmit, or attempt to sell, buy, or transmit any substance under the pretense that it is, in fact, a prohibited substance as described in this rule. The misuse or unauthorized possession of a prescription drug or nonprescription drug shall be considered a violation of this rule; however, this rule shall not apply to proper possession and/or use of a drug as authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician.

Self-administration of asthma medication and prescription auto-injectable epinephrine is permitted with written parental approval and required documentation to the principal or his or her designee. See administrator for completion of proper county forms and procedures.

Section B

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, buy or solicit any drug-related paraphernalia which includes, but is not limited to pipes, water pipes, clips, rolling papers, or any other items related to drug use or depicting drugs or drug use except where such items are related to an approved curriculum.

Section C

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, buy or solicit tobacco products, or tobacco paraphernalia such as, but not limited to e-cigarettes, matches, lighters, pipes, rolling papers and the like.

Rule 8— Disregard of Directions or Commands

A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized school personnel.

Rule 9— Sexual Misconduct/Indecency

A student shall not engage in any act of sexual harassment of a physical nature or verbal nature. A student shall not perform any act of indecent exposure, lewd exposure, gesture or lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body or the body of another person, or any act of sexual intercourse. A student shall not use any

inappropriate gestures that mimic or imply sexual acts or engage in any acts of "streaking" or "mooning" as those terms are commonly understood. Such acts will not be regarded lightly or considered pranks.

A student shall not possess, view, copy, sell, buy, or transmit printed or non-printed pornographic materials including any non-curricular sexually explicit printed or non-printed materials; or a student shall not possess, view, copy, sell, buy, or transmit printed or non-printed pornographic materials including but not limited to non-curricular materials depicting the human male or female genitals or buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering or any portion of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering.

Rule 10— Unexcused Absences

A student shall not be absent from school or from any class or other required school function during required school hours except for illness or other providential cause, except with written permission of the teacher, principal, or other duly authorized school official. A student may not leave school grounds prior to the end of the school day, after his or her initial arrival on campus, without the permission of a duly authorized school official.

Rule 11— Other Conduct Which is Subversive to Good Order

A student shall not perform any other act which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools. This includes, but is not limited to, violating local school rules; violating local law, state law, or federal law; violating compulsory attendance; gang-related activity or behavior; hate or hate-group related activity or behavior; violation of state and federal law, provide false information (lying); cheating; paging devices; laser pointers; electronic communications (cellular telephones, radios, televisions, etc.); actions that are ethnically or racially inflammatory; loitering; criminal trespassing; community misconduct that would pose a threat to the school community; altering grades in a teacher's grade book or any other record or misrepresent information on school records or forms; driving on school grounds without a license; and/or gambling or community misconduct that would be so serious as to pose a threat to the school community.

The administration of the school system and the local schools reserve the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the Bryan County School System even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written discipline rules.

Rule 12— School Bus Infractions

No student shall cause or attempt to cause (either directly or indirectly) a disruption or interference with a school bus by any means to include:

- talking, whistling, shouting, or making other noises from the time the bus stops for a railroad crossing until the bus is safely across the tracks
- throwing any object from the windows of a bus at any time
- causing any part of his or her or another person's body to protrude, extend, or project from any window, door, or other opening of the bus at any time
- eating and drinking while on the bus (water is allowed) (Georgia Code 20-2-751.5)
 - a) Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior.
 - b) Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices that might interfere with communication on the school bus or the school bus driver's operation of a safe school bus environment. This includes headphones and any device that prevents the bus driver from easily communicating with the student.
 - c) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

(Georgia Code 20-2-1181) Parents, guardians and others should not attempt to board a school bus during the bus route. It shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Bus Disciplinary Procedures

Disciplinary action for misbehavior on school buses is administered by school administration at the local school. School buses and bus stops are considered extensions of the school campus. All rules that govern student conduct while on school campus/property apply while students are on the school bus or at the bus stop. School principals have the authority to impose an immediate suspension for serious

offenses. School administration may also add any other disciplinary action deemed necessary. School bus drivers do not discipline children, although they have the prerogative to assign seats or move a child from one seat to another.

Elementary Bus Discipline Guidelines:

Offense 1: The driver will talk with a student or may reassign him/her to a new seat on the bus. If this does not correct the misbehavior, the driver will contact the parent. The driver will document these actions.

Offense 2: School administration will counsel and submit a warning to the student. The student will be placed on probation. Driver will provide documentation of action taken during first offense. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted.

Offense 3: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for one (1) day.

Offense 4: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) days.

Offense 5: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for five (5) days.

Offense 6: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for seven (7) days.

Offense 7: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for ten (10) days.

Subsequent offenses will warrant a 10 or more days' suspension from all school buses.

Middle / High School Bus Discipline Guidelines:

Offense 1: School administration will counsel and submit a warning to the student. The student will be placed on probation. Driver will provide documentation of action taken during first offense. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted.

Offense 2: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for one (1) day.

Offense 3: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for three (3) days.

Offense 4: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for five (5) days.

Offense 5: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for seven (7) days.

Offense 6: Student will be suspended from riding the bus for 10 days.

Subsequent offenses will warrant a 10 or more days suspension from all school buses.

When suspended from any bus, the student is suspended from all buses (including vehicles used for extra-curricular activities).

School and County Administration has the right to forego the Bus Discipline Guidelines, if the conduct is deemed more severe than a minor misbehavior.

Note: All other BCS rules still apply while on the bus or at the bus stop. Safety is the first priority while transporting students to and from school. While on a bus, the bus driver/manager is the school official who has supervisory responsibility of students. Drivers must be able to concentrate on their driving at all times. A momentary distraction from their concentration can lead to a serious accident resulting in injury or death. The bus driver may return a student to the school if the student is endangering others or seriously misbehaving.

Students who jeopardize the safety of others will be susceptible to disciplinary measures that may include being permanently suspended from school transportation services. Riding the bus is a privilege not a right.

General Discipline Information

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student, and other relevant factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the positive character traits.

The following is general information regarding discipline:

1. Students under short-term suspension (1–10 days), long-term suspension (10 or more days), or expulsion are not allowed on any Bryan County school campus or to attend any school activity, function, or event. Students assigned to out-of-school suspension are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities during that time period.
2. All dangerous weapons, instruments, or controlled substances confiscated by school authorities are to be turned in to school administration.
3. A student is considered to be in possession of an illegal and/or banned item(s) or substance(s) when such item(s) or substance(s) is found on the person

of the student, in his/her possession, in his/her locker, in a student's vehicle on school or property, or in any vehicle a student brought on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, or any school event held away from the school.

4. Students are prohibited from engaging in gang/hate groups or hazing related activities in school.
5. School administrators and/or their designated representatives possess the authority to conduct a reasonable search of students, their possessions, their lockers, and their vehicles when on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, or at any school event held away from the school if it is established there is reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal a violation of the law, the Student Conduct Behavior Code, or local school rules.
6. A student may be considered a party to a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code and disciplined for the underlying offense when the student: (1) Directly violates the Student Conduct Behavior Code; (2) Intentionally causes some other person to commit a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code; (3) Intentionally advises, encourages, hires, counsels, or procures another to commit a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code. A student may be considered a party to a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code even when the responsible persons are not students subject to the Code.
7. Certain violations of the Student Conduct Behavior Code may also be violations of state law and juvenile authorities. Other law enforcement agencies may address the student's misconduct in accordance with state laws, in addition to the school system's administrative procedures and regulations.
8. Students are to notify an administrator or staff member when suspected illegal items, dangerous items, or other items banned from school are found in the school building, on the school campus, or on the school bus. Students are advised not to pick up or handle illegal, dangerous, banned, or unidentified items.
9. Students who are under suspension or expulsion through the spring semester will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activities, including the prom, graduation exercises, or baccalaureate ceremonies.

10. Students should recognize their responsibility to know the contents of this student discipline handbook and to ask the local school administration or staff for any clarification. All students, regardless of age, are subject to the rules and regulations of the Bryan County Public Schools. Parents will review the contents of this handbook with their students.
11. State law requires that certain criminal offenses committed by a student while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event be reported to the principal, school superintendent, appropriate law enforcement authority, and the District Attorney. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184).
12. Georgia law makes it unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, disperse, or possess with the intent to distribute a controlled substance or marijuana in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, or school board used for elementary or secondary education. Any person who violates or conspires to violate this code section shall be guilty of a felony. (O.C.G.A. § 16-13-32.4)
13. Students coming from DJJ (Department of Juvenile Justice) placement, public or private residential treatment facility, or incarceration for longer than 30 school days will transition through the Bryan County School Systems Alternative School.
14. After a disciplinary hearing has been held, textbooks, materials, or equipment belonging to the local school must be returned to a school administrator at their local school.
15. The Unsafe School Choice Option provides students at schools classified as “persistently dangerous” with the option of transferring to another school. Major offenses, including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to a school being named “persistently dangerous” or unsafe pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.16.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 4 th | 3-5 days of ISS or 1 day of OSS/ Mandatory parent conference |
| 5 th | 1-3 days of OSS/Behavior Contract/ Counselor Referral |
| 6 th | 3 days of OSS |
| 7 th | 5 days of OSS |
| 8 th | 10 days of OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing |

Administration has the right to forego the Discipline Guideline at any time, if the incident is deemed severe.

High School Automatic Suspensions

Alcohol/ Drugs/Firearms

10 days OSS pending a Hearing & file all mandatory legal charges

Blades (less than 2 inches)

1st offense - 1 day OSS

2nd offense - 3 days OSS, Behavior Contract

3rd offense - 5 days OSS, with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

Blades (more than 2 inches)

1st offense - 5 day OSS, Behavior Contract, report to law enforcement, with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

2nd offense – minimum of 5 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing & report to law enforcement

Bullying/ Cyberbullying

1st offense - 3 days OSS/ School Counselor Referral/ Formal notification of parents with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

2nd offense - 5 days OSS & Behavior Contract with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

3rd offense - 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Fighting

1st offense - 5 day OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges (school policy)

2nd offense - 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges (school policy)

Instigation of an Altercation

1st offense— 3 days ISS or 1 day OSS

2nd offense— 3 days of OSS & Behavior Contract

3rd offense— 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Physical Aggression

1st offense— 3 days ISS or 1 day OSS

2nd offense— 3 days of OSS & Behavior Contract

3rd offense— 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Physical Aggression towards Faculty/Staff

10 days of OSS, pending a Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

High School Discipline Guidelines (Daily Infractions)

ASD—After School Detention

ISS—In-School Suspension

OSS—Out of School Suspension

SS—Saturday School

| <u>Offense</u> | <u>Suggested Discipline</u> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | Warning or ASD |
| 2 nd | 1 day of ISS or ASD or SS |
| 3 rd | 1-3 days of ISS or ASD or SS |

Profanity towards Faculty/Staff

3-10 days of OSS, with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Tobacco

1st – 1 day of ISS or 1 day OSS & possible legal charges

2nd offense - 1 day OSS & possible legal charges

3rd offense and subsequent offenses - 3 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Skipping school (leaving campus)

1st & 2nd offense—3 days of ISS; possibility of revoking parking permit

3rd and subsequent offenses- 3 days OSS, Behavior Contract, possible Disciplinary Hearing

Unauthorized Recording or Transmission of School, School Personnel or Students

All recordings/ transmissions have to be authorized by the school

2-5 days OSS, possible Discipline Hearing

Vaping*

1st – 2 days OSS & possible legal charges

2nd offense - 3 day OSS & possible legal charges

3rd offense and subsequent offenses - 5 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

**Depending on the circumstances vaping could be considered a drug violation.*

Verbal Fight

Profanity laced or threatening argument 2-5 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Middle School Discipline Guidelines (Daily Infractions)

ASD—After School Detention

ISS—In-School Suspension

OSS—Out of School Suspension

SS—Saturday School

| <u>Offense</u> | <u>Suggested Discipline</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 st | Warning or Detention |
| 2 nd | 1 day of ISS or Detention (Progressive)/ Saturday School |
| 3 rd | 1-3 days of ISS |
| 4 th | 2-3 days of ISS or 1 day of OSS/ Team mtg./ Referred to School Counselor |
| 5 th | 3-4 days of ISS or 1-2 days of OSS/ Behavior Contract |
| 6 th | 3-5 days of OSS |
| 7 th | 3-5 days of OSS |
| 8 th | 10 days of OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing |

Administration has the right to forego the Discipline Guideline at any time, if the incident is deemed severe.

Middle School Automatic Suspensions

Alcohol/ Drugs

10 days OSS pending a Hearing & legal charges

Blades (less than 2 inches)

1st offense - 1 day OSS

2nd offense -3 days OSS/ Behavior Contract

3rd offense - 5 days OSS, with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

Blades (more than 2 inches)

1st offense - 5 day OSS, Behavior Contract, report to law enforcement, with the possibility of a Disciplinary Hearing

2nd offense – minimum of 5 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing & report to law enforcement

Bullying/Cyberbullying

1st offense - 3 days OSS/ School Counselor Referral/ Formal notification of parents

2nd offense - 5 days OSS & Behavior Contract

3rd offense - 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Fighting

1st offense - 5 day OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges (school policy)

2nd offense - 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges (school policy)

Instigation of an Altercation

1st offense— 3 days ISS or 1 day OSS

2nd offense— 3 days of OSS & Behavior Contract

3rd offense— 10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Physical Aggression

1st offense— 3 days ISS or 1 day OSS

2nd offense— 3 days OSS & Behavior Contract

3rd offense—10 days OSS pending a Disciplinary Hearing

Physical Aggression towards Faculty/Staff

10 days of OSS, pending a Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Profanity towards Faculty/Staff

3-10 days of OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Tobacco

1st – 1 day of ISS or 1 day OSS & possible legal charges

2nd offense - 1 day OSS & possible legal charges

3rd offense and subsequent offenses - 3 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

Skipping school (leaving campus)

1st & 2nd offense—3 days of ISS; possibility of revoking parking permit

3rd and subsequent offenses- 3 days OSS, Behavior Contract, possible Disciplinary Hearing

Unauthorized Recording or Transmission of School, School Personnel or Students

All recordings/ transmissions have to be authorized by the school

2-5 days OSS, possible Discipline Hearing

Vaping*

1st – 2 days OSS & possible legal charges

2nd offense - 3 day OSS & possible legal charges

3rd offense and subsequent offenses - 5 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges

**Depending on the circumstances vaping could be considered a drug violation.*

Verbal Fight

Profanity laced or threatening argument 2-5 days OSS, possible Disciplinary Hearing & legal charges.

Range of Consequences

The decision to charge a student for violation of this Student Conduct Behavior Code shall be made by the administration of the local school.

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

- Warning and/or counseling with a school administrator or counselor
- Loss of privileges
- Isolation or time Out
- Temporary removal from class or activity
- Notification of parents
- Parent conference
- Detention/Saturday School
- In School Suspension
- Referral to a hearing officer
- Short-term suspension
- Restitution for stolen or damaged property
- Suspension or expulsion from the school bus
- Suspension or expulsion the school
- Placement in an Bryan Academy, BCS's Alternative Education Program

References to Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) included in the Student Conduct Behavior Code do not require that the elements of the specific criminal code section referenced be proved beyond a reasonable doubt before schools may punish misconduct. Further, these code references do not impose any additional intent requirements upon schools pursuing discipline against students for the violation of this Code.

Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be

referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

Glossary of Discipline Terms

Assault: Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike).

Battery: Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person. This includes attacking another person with a weapon or one that causes serious bodily harm to the victim. This also includes the placement of a bomb or an explosive material sent through the mail, regardless of whether or not the material explodes.

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the school administration may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school, provided any such action does not violate school Board policy or procedures.

Bullying/Cyberbullying 1) any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so, 2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm, or 3) any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate that: a) causes substantial physical harm, b)substantially interferes with a student's education, c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating/threatening educational environment or d) disrupts the orderly operation of school. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4)

For the purposes of this handbook cyberbullying will be treated as the same as bullying. Cyberbullying which occurs through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication

1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel,

2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the

safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and

3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student: A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics that interferes with the learning process of other students.

Detention: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one day's warning so that arrangements for transportation can be made by the parents or guardians.

Expulsion: Suspension of a student from a public school beyond a calendar year. Such action may be taken only by the hearing officer.

Fighting: Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender or major injury.

Fireworks: The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

Gambling: Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

In-School Suspension (ISS): Removal of a student from assigned and extracurricular classes and placement of that student into an isolated educational setting.

Suspension: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term), or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term), which may be imposed only by the hearing officer. During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the

school or its employees.

Theft: The offense of taking or misappropriating any property of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

Waiver: A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a hearing officer.

Weapons: The term weapon is defined as any object which is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. The following items are defined as weapons:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Student Removal from Class

A teacher may remove a student from class or refer to the principal or designee a student from class if the student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to direct students in his or her class or the ability of other students to learn in the class. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738.

When a teacher has previously filed a report of a student's repeated or substantial interference with the classroom or when the behavior of a student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher, the

teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from the classroom pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738.

Bryan County Schools may utilize physical restraint in those situations in which the student is an immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques. The physical restraint techniques used in the schools work to assure that students are restrained in a manner that is safe to the student and the staff implementing the restraint.

When a teacher has previously filed a report of a student's repeated or substantial interference with the classroom or when the behavior of a student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from the classroom pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738.

Each school will have a placement review committee. The placement review committee shall be responsible for determining the appropriate placement of a student when the principal recommends that the student be returned to the classroom and the teacher withholds consent for the student's return. The placement review committee shall consist of three members, including two teachers and one alternate teacher chosen by the faculty and a member of the professional staff chosen by the principal. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738(d).

Dress Code

The Bryan County Dress Code applies to all students while on any school system property, on any school bus, or during any school-sponsored activity or event, wherever located.

Bryan County Schools believe that appropriate dress has a positive impact on behavior. Any extremes in dress or appearance and/or any items which adversely affect safety are not permitted. Neat and appropriate dress is expected of all students. Any exceptions to the following must have the prior approval of the principal.

Violations of the dress code can subject the offending student to disciplinary action. Parents may be notified and required to bring appropriate clothing to school. School system staff members regard school as students' work. Rules for dress are designed accordingly.

1. All clothing is to be worn in a normal, conventional fashion at all times. Pants/shorts/skirts must be worn at the waist. Clothing is to be of a size appropriate for the wearer.

2. A layer of opaque, non-see through, clothing should be worn at all times.
3. Clothing should appropriately cover a student's upper torso (front- including midriff, back and sides) and be an appropriate length on the lower body.
4. All students are required to wear safe and appropriate shoes. For grades K-2 only (required as a safety measure for elementary children), shoes must have a strap around the heel if the heel back is bare.
5. Hats, caps, bandanas, other head coverings, and sunglasses (**excluding medical masks**) are NOT to be worn inside school buildings.
6. Undergarments cannot be worn as outer garments.
7. Sleepwear items cannot be worn.

The principal or designee shall determine if any particular mode of dress is not acceptable, is distracting, or is disruptive.

8. Sleeveless tops must have at least three (3) fingers (the student's fingers) of garment in width across the shoulders. No undergarments are allowed to be seen over the shoulder or under the arm.
9. Excessively tight clothing that is inappropriately revealing will not be allowed.
10. Clothing with holes and/or slits that are inappropriately revealing cannot be worn.
11. Unacceptable statements, symbols, or designs (including inappropriate sexual references) or drug or alcohol advertising are not permitted on any article of clothing. No gang symbols will be worn or be found in a student's possession. Unacceptable items include references to all racial symbols, unacceptable sayings, and any other unacceptable symbols.
12. Students cannot wear articles of clothing, jewelry, or accessories which, in the opinion of the school administration, pose a clear and immediate threat to the physical well-being or safety of other students on campus.
13. Statements, symbols, or other items cannot be worn on the seat of clothing.
14. Students assigned to Bryan Academy shall adhere to the Bryan Academy uniform dress code.

Electronics/Network Expectations

All Bryan County students are granted access to the internet. When using Bryan County School System technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy.

Online student accounts are to be used for legitimate educational purposes and are subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider e-mail, networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way.

While the school district does maintain Internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. Bryan County School System DOES NOT CONDONE the use of such materials. Inappropriate use of system technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code. If the parent/guardian wishes to prohibit their child from accessing the internet, the school or school system must be notified in writing, within 30 days of the beginning of the school year or the date of enrollment.

Internet access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. System technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:

- Harm other people.
- Interfere with other people's work.
- Steal property.
- Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to online resources, including using someone else's password.
- Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.
- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, and/or distribute pornographic, hate-oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

The Bryan County Board of Education (BOE) permits students to possess communication devices on a limited basis and provides local school principals with the authority to set forth rules pertaining to student possession and use of such devices at their individual schools.

Failure to follow these guidelines can violate the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and

16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children's Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to the Bryan County School System technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing Bryan County School System policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

Extracurricular Activity Expectations

Participation in interscholastic athletic competitions is a privilege extended to the students by the Bryan County Board of Education. Students participating in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) extracurricular athletic activities act as representatives of Bryan County Public Schools (BCS). All students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to meet the highest standards of BCS at all times. The Code of Conduct is designed to establish high expectations and standards for all students participating in GHSA sanctioned athletic activities. All students, parents, and coaches understand that the top priority is academic achievement. The Code of Conduct establishes high expectations regarding behavior and consistent consequences when violations occur.

The Code of Conduct goes into effect on the first day a student joins a BCS high school athletic team. The Code remains in effect for the entire calendar year, including time when school is not in session.

The offenses and consequences listed below are in addition to (not in lieu of) any school or criminal consequences associated with the student misconduct.

All consequences listed in this Code of Conduct are minimum standards. The coach has the discretion to set consequences over and above the minimum standards.

Violation A: Long-term Suspension (exceeding 10 days, with or without alternative school placement)

Consequence:

Ineligible to attend or participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity during time of suspension

Violation B: Arrest for, or charged with the commission of, any act that is a felony or would constitute a felony if committed by an adult (regardless of location or time of the alleged act; in or out of school)

Consequence:

Immediate suspension from all participation until such time as:

- a) School officials determine that the student did not

- commit the act(s) or other felony conduct; or
- b) Local prosecutors dismiss or drop all pending charges and petitions; or
- c) The student pleads guilty to a misdemeanor charge, in which case refer to Violation D listed in this Code; or
- d) The student is convicted and sentenced to a felony or is adjudicated delinquent in the Juvenile Court of conduct which if committed by an adult could be charged as a felony and serves any and all portions of the sentence including all periods of probation.
- e) For the following violations (C, D, and E), the school administration must have valid evidence and/or verifiable record of the violation as defined by the following:
 - 1) Self-admitted involvement by the student
 - 2) Witnessed student involvement by the sponsor, coach, or any staff member
 - 3) Parent admission of their student's involvement in tobacco, alcohol or other drugs
 - 4) Verified by official police report given to the school
 - 5) Evidence of violations through investigation by school officials

If the offense occurs at school or on school property (at any time), off school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event or en route to and from school, the student will be subject to the actions described in the Student Conduct Behavior Code (Policy JCD) and the following consequences for extracurricular activities.

Violation C: Tobacco (any type)

Consequence:

1st Offense – Consequence determined by approved local school athletic/extracurricular policy.

2nd Offense – Suspension from athletic extracurricular competition for a minimum of 10% of the remainder of the season.

3rd Offense – Dismissed from team, but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season

Violation D: Alcohol/Other Drugs (Possession and/or Use)/Misdemeanor Criminal Law Violations

Consequences:

Coach/Sponsor and Administrator will meet with the student and parent(s) or guardian.

1st Offense – Consequence determined by approved local school athletic/extracurricular policy

2nd Offense – Suspension from athletic extra- curricular activities for a minimum of 20% of the season.

Violation E: Violations of school rules meriting OSS

Consequences:

Out-of-School Suspension (Short-term, not exceeding 10 days) – Participation may resume after suspension is served. (Policy JDD)

Violation F: Hazing

Consequences:

Coach/Sponsor and local administrator will meet with the student and parent(s) or guardian.

1st Offense – Suspension from any athletic extra-curricular activity for a minimum of 10% of the remainder of the season.

2nd Offense – Suspension from all athletic extracurricular activities for remainder of school year extracurricular activities.

3rd Offense – Possible permanent suspension from all athletic and school activities.

Rights and Responsibilities

Rights of Students

Students shall have the right to:

- 1) Pursue a successful education in a safe environment without disruption;
- 2) Receive fair and equitable treatment without discrimination in every aspect of the educational system;
- 3) Be treated respectfully and as an individual; and
- 4) Be informed of their rights, responsibilities and the discipline policies of the school.

Responsibilities of Students

All students share with the administration and faculty the responsibility to develop a safe learning environment within the school. Students shall have the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend school regularly, arrive on time, and bring materials;
- 2) Respect the personal, civil and property rights of others;
- 3) Put forth conscientious effort in classroom work and homework;
- 4) Groom and dress appropriately;
- 5) Have knowledge of and conform to school rules and regulations;
- 6) Not use indecent, obscene, or foul language;
- 7) Report incidents or activities that may threaten or disrupt the school environment; and
- 8) Be responsible for all textbooks, uniforms, science equipment, athletic gear, library materials, and any other services provided to them during the school year. Each item must be returned at the end of the semester or year to the teacher or individual who issued the item.

Students are expected to pay for any damaged equipment, materials, or other property, and any fees due.

Rights of Parents/Guardians

Parents shall have the right to:

- 1) Receive regular official reports on their child's academic progress;
- 2) Receive an explanation for the basis of any grade given by the teacher;
- 3) Request a conference with the teacher and/or principal;
- 4) Receive a prompt report of their child's attendance to class or school;
- 5) Bring an interpreter during disciplinary conferences or hearings, when a parent or student has limited English proficiency and the parent or student requests an interpreter or the school observes that a parent or student's limited English proficiency would deny them an opportunity to meaningfully participate in the conference or hearing; and
- 6) Appeal disciplinary actions of suspensions of 10 days or more.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians shall have the responsibility to:

- 1) Ensure that their children between the ages of 6 and 16 enroll in schools regularly, on time, and for the whole school day in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia;
- 2) Enroll their child in another school if he/she is expelled from BCS;
- 3) Present to school officials any concern in a calm, reasoned manner;
- 4) Work with the school on academic, disciplinary, or other related matters pertaining to their child;
- 5) Plan the time and place for homework assignments and provide necessary supervision;
- 6) Talk with their child about school activities and expected behavior;
- 7) Know the rules set forth in this Code and review them with their child; and
- 8) Ensure that their child receives the periodic student health examinations that are required by law.

Health & Safety

COVID-19 Information:

Symptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 can return to school after:

- Fever free for at least 24 hours WITHOUT use of fever reducing medications AND improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of the laboratory test (not the date of the results) and the person remains asymptomatic.
- Note, asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidelines for symptomatic persons above.

Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance is offered as a voluntary benefit to all students enrolled in Bryan County Schools. Please visit the website at <http://markel.sevencorners.com> for additional information. Accident insurance coverage is offered annually as a service, and the school does not receive a profit from the fees paid. When an insured student has an accident in school, or on his way to or from school, he/she should report it immediately to the teacher in charge or to the principal's office. This insurance is a secondary coverage and will pay only after the insurance carried by the parents/guardians has paid. All athletes are required to have school insurance or proof of individual accident insurance coverage.

Bedbugs

Schools will contact parents when their child is suspected of having bedbugs.

Before your child can be admitted to school, he or she must be checked by the local school administrative designee.

Your child will not be readmitted to school until they are bedbug and egg free. Please accompany your child for him/her to be rechecked by the local school administrative designee.

Bryan County School System Safety Plan

The Bryan County School System has developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan for the school system and for each of the Bryan County schools. A copy of each plan is on file in the Bryan County Board of Education office. A copy of

the individual school plan is on file in the principal's office. Safety drills are held at each school based on the school's approved plan. The schools and the central office monitor weather conditions on a continuous basis.

Child Abuse and/or Neglect

All Bryan County Schools faculty and staff are state mandated reporters and are required to report any suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to designated school officials, who in-turn report to the appropriate authorities.

Concussion Policy

In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include, a licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.)

- a) No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.
- b) Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
- c) It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS (available online at www.nfhslearn.com) at least every two years – beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
- d) Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.

Emergency Contact Information

In the event of an emergency/illness at school, it is very important that the school has up-to-date contact information. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to make transportation arrangements to pick up sick and/or injured students promptly from the school.

First Aid/Illness

Students who become ill during the school day or are in need of first aid must report to the principal's office or clinic. Arrangements are made for getting students to a doctor or home when an emergency arises. If a student is taken to a doctor or the hospital, the parent is notified immediately and is expected to pick up the student and assume responsibility for their well-being. STUDENTS MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL WHEN THEIR TEMPERATURE HAS BEEN NORMAL FOR 24 HOURS (WITHOUT MEDICATION TO CONTROL TEMPERATURE). Please immediately notify the school principal and school nurse upon enrollment or subsequent diagnosis of any allergies a child has.

Head Lice

Schools will contact parents when their child is suspected of having head lice. Before your child can be admitted to school, he or she must be checked by the local school nurse. Unless proof of treatment is presented and all live lice are gone, your child will not be readmitted to school nor will he/she be allowed to ride the school bus until these procedures are followed. Please accompany your child for him/her to be rechecked by the school nurse.

Health Services: Clinic

Students who become ill or need to see a counselor or administrator during a time he/she is assigned to be in class should report to class FIRST, obtain permission to be excused, and receive a pass. If a student is too ill to report to the office, he/she should have another student or teacher notify the office in order that appropriate attention may be given to the student. A student's parents will be called to pick the student up if the student is unable to return to class.

Health Services: Immunization

According to Georgia Law (Georgia Code 20-1-771), every student MUST have a current Georgia Certificate of Immunization, on a form provided by the Department of Human Resources, in order to attend school. Georgia law also requires that students new to Georgia have a current Certificate of Eye, Ear, and Dental examinations on file. Physicians or local health centers have the necessary certificates. Take any immunization records you have with you when you visit your physician or the health center. Families wishing to use the health department should contact their neighborhood health center to schedule an appointment for the screening.

Health Services: Medication

All prescription medications are required to be stored in the clinic. Prescription medication must be in the original, pharmacy container. All non-prescription medication must be in the original, labeled container or package and signed in at the nurse's clinic.

Students who become ill during the school day or are in need of first aid must report to the nurse's office or front office if the nurse is unavailable. In the event of an emergency, arrangements will be made for getting the student to a hospital and the parent will be notified immediately. Please adhere to the following Bryan County policies in regards to general illnesses:

FEVER: If your child has had a fever of 100.4F or above during the night they should not be sent to school. Also, any student with a temperature of 100.4F or above will be sent home from school. Students may return to school after 24 hours of being fever-free without use of fever reducing medication unless they are showing symptoms that may be COVID-19.

VOMITING: A child needs to be kept home from school for 24 hours after any episodes of vomiting. Students who vomit while at school will be sent home. They may return to school after being free of vomiting for 24 hours.

Hospital/Homebound Program

The Hospital/Homebound Program is available for students who have a serious illness necessitating an absence of ten (10) days or more or who have a documented chronic illness necessitating frequent, intermittent absences. The parent must obtain forms from the school and have a doctor complete a statement that the student is too sick to attend school. When this form is returned to the school, a meeting will be scheduled to develop an educational service plan. The student is counted present for the time of confinement as long as s/he is served three (3) hours or more per week by the Hospital/Homebound Teacher.

Students who miss more than four weeks of school due to an illness should be referred to the student support team at the school. Modifications and adaptations in the classroom; services of the school nurse, and/or counselor; modifications in the length of day; and other alternatives should be considered in an effort to enable the student to participate in the educational process on the actual school campus.

A child who returns to school will be automatically removed from the hospital/homebound program.

Medication

All medications, along with a completed Authorization for Administration of Medicine form, must be carried to the clinic by a parent/guardian in the original labeled bottle and logged in with the school nurse. DO NOT SEND MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR STUDENT. Medication brought in by students will not be given and will be held until logged in by a parent or guardian. While the student is at school, medication will be kept and administered by the school nurse or designee in the clinic or office, and the inventory will be updated as medication is taken.

School Closings

School closings are determined by the Superintendent, not by the local school. If bad weather causes school to be cancelled or dismissed early, public announcements will be made on the school system's website (www.bryan.k12.ga.us). The basic premise is that school is open or will remain open unless it is specifically announced otherwise.

Self-Administration of Medication

Senate Bill 472 authorizes student self-administration of prescription asthma medication at school, thus relieving the school district and its employees of any liability in connection with such self-administration. In order for a student to keep an asthma inhaler in his possession, the bill requires (1) written authorization from a parent or legal guardian; (2) a physician's written statement detailing the name and purpose of the medication, prescribed dosage, and time(s) or special circumstances for administration of the medication; and, (3) written authorization from the parent(s) or guardian(s) for the school to seek emergency medical treatment for the student when necessary and appropriate. Please contact the school nurse to obtain the appropriate form.

Instruction

Curriculum

The Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) describe the knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies that students will need when they graduate, whatever their choice of college or career. These sets of standards define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards are based on the best national and international standards, giving our students a competitive advantage in the global economy.

Bryan County Schools has made a significant investment in the development of curriculum units in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades K-12 using the Rigorous Curriculum Design (RCD) model. BCS Teacher teams worked collaboratively throughout the 2018-2019 school year to develop these high-quality curriculum resources aligned to the GSE. Each ELA and Math unit provides teachers with unit Pre- and Post-Tests, formative assessments, performance tasks, weekly plans, and instructional resources to ensure that students across the district receive quality instruction every day. The unit Posttest and at least one performance task from each unit will count as a summative grade. This curriculum was implemented in ELA and Math classes during the 2019- 2020 school year and is continually updated and improved based on teacher feedback.

Dual Enrollment

High school students may earn credits through eligible participating post-secondary institutions. To learn more about Dual Enrollment options and scholarships/ grants please visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission web site at www.gsfc.org or you may contact your high school counselor.

Exceptional Student Services

The Exceptional Student Services Department meets the individual needs of students ages three through twenty-one who are eligible for services according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A full continuum of services is available, ranging from the least restrictive to more restrictive environments, depending

on the specific needs of the student. The department also supports schools in ensuring students with disabilities appropriately access the curriculum and provide specialized instruction as determined necessary by the Individualized Education Program.

In collaboration with students, schools, families, and the community, the Exceptional Student Services Department assists students with disabilities in increasing academic performance and enhancing post-secondary options.

You can find more information about BCS Exceptional Student Services at the following link:

<https://www.bryan.k12.ga.us/exceptional-student-services>

Georgia Milestones Assessment “Test Out” Option for High School

Georgia Milestones Assessment “Test Out” Option for High Schools

As provided for in State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 (AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES) adopted by the Board in April 2013, the opportunity exists for students to demonstrate subject area competency (“test-out”) for any course for which there is an associated End of Course and earn credit for the course through that process. Students who reach the Distinguished Learner achievement level will have reached the required threshold for the awarding of course credit. Under the provisions of the Rule and guidelines, Bryan County Schools shall award course credit to students who reach a designated performance level on an EOC taken prior to taking the course.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements to exercise this option:

- The student must receive a teacher recommendation from the teacher in the most recent course in the same content area content area for which the student is attempting the Georgia Milestones Assessment.
- If the student does not reach the performance level of Distinguished when attempting to test-out, they will be required to enroll and complete the associated course to receive credit and will retake the End of Course.

Grade Scale

For students in kindergarten, student performance is assessed using the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills 2.0 (GKIDS 2.0).

For students in grades 1–12, student performance is graded using the following scale:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 90% and above | A |
| 80%-89% | B |
| 70%-79% | C |
| Below 70% | F |

Professional Qualifications of Teachers

In compliance with the requirements of *Every Student Succeed Act*, parents are entitled to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher.

The following information may be requested:

1. has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
3. is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
4. whether the child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning the qualifications of your child's teacher and/or paraprofessional, please contact the school principal.

All Georgia paraprofessionals must hold a valid state license issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, (based on state certification rule 505-2-.18).

Promotion Policy

Grades 1-8

To be promoted from one grade to another, a student must pass all but one subject, satisfy requirements of policy IHE, and satisfy attendance requirements. Students in grade 3, 5, and 8 must have passed the appropriate Georgia Milestones Assessment. If a student receives services through the Exceptional Services Department or has been retained before, a special committee will determine appropriate placement.

Grades 9-12

Students must meet the following minimal number of credits to be promoted to the next grade level:

6 credits to be promoted from 9th to 10th grade

12 credits to be promoted from 10th to 11th grade

18 credits to be promoted from 11th to 12th grade

Students must also meet attendance requirements.

Student Support

Student's needs are monitored and addressed through the Bryan County Schools Multi-Tiered System of Support. All students in Bryan County participate in evidence-based instruction that is developed based on state-approved grade level standards. This general education learning also includes universal screenings, differentiation of instruction, and progress monitoring using multiple formative assessments. The instruction provided at Tier 1 is standards-based using the core curriculum. For students who are not making appropriate progress toward grade level mastery, Needs Based Learning will occur at Tier 2. In this tier, in addition to Tier 1 supports, students participate in learning that is different by including a standard intervention protocol process for identifying and providing research-based interventions. Movement between Tiers 1 and 2 are fluid and flexible. When students continue to struggle in the general education curriculum, Tier 3 – Student Support Team interventions should occur. These interventions are in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports and include intensive, formalized problem solving to identify individual student needs. Targeted research-based interventions are tailored to individual student needs and frequent progress monitoring and analysis of student response to interventions also occur. Based on the review of progress monitoring data, students who are determined as not making adequate progress with the individual interventions provided at Tier 3 may be referred for a comprehensive evaluation to determine eligibility for special education and related services. Additional information can be provided by contacting the Bryan County Teaching and Learning Department at 912-851-4000 and by visiting the GA Department of Education website at www.gadoe.org.

Prior to consideration of services under IDEA, various interventions must be used documented, described, and discussed. In limited instances, the Student Support Team may make an immediate recommendation to determine eligibility. These cases are those in which the necessity for services is so clear that use of other options would be non-productive or harmful to the child and are well documented.

Title I, Parental Involvement Plan

The Board recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family. To effectively educate students, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Parent and family involvement is an ongoing process that assists the teachers in meeting their obligations to the child. As their child's first teacher, the parent helps to promote clear, two-way

communication between the home and the school.

The Board and all Bryan County public schools shall abide by and support all rules and regulations pertaining to Title I, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, and Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver approved Feb. 9, 2012. A written plan for Title I parental involvement that establishes programs and practices to enhance parental involvement and reflects the needs of students and families will be jointly developed by parents and school staff. The plan will be unique to each school and will include a home/school compact. The plan will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the parental involvement program.

The Superintendent or his designee shall supervise the development and annual review of the Bryan County Public Schools Title I Parental Involvement Policy to be incorporated into the plan developed pursuant to 20 U.S.C.A. § 6312. The Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be developed jointly with, approved by, and distributed to parents. The Title I Parental Involvement plan shall establish Bryan County Public Schools expectations for parental involvement and shall describe how Bryan County Public Schools will:

- 1) Involve parents in development of the plan required under 20 U.S.C.A. § 6312 and the process of school review and improvement;
- 2) Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- 3) Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- 4) Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other instructional pre-K through 12 programs;
- 5) Annually evaluate, with the involvement of parents, the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Plan in improving the academic quality of the schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any minority background). The findings of said evaluation should assist in designing strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the Title I Parental Involvement Plan.

Valedictorian, Salutatorian & Honor Graduate

Class ranking for the purpose of deciding valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined by a quality point system at the completion of four years (eight semesters) of high school. In the event of a tie, the student with the highest GPA for all four years (eight semesters) will be named the valedictorian. This average can be taken to the number of decimal points required to break the tie. Students who transfer into the Bryan County School System must be enrolled in a Bryan County High school for at least two consecutive semesters (entire senior year) to be eligible to be named the valedictorian or salutatorian. Letter Grade Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment Honors Courses, Accelerated Courses Regular Courses "A" (90- 100) 5 4.5 4 "B" (80- 89) 4 3.5 3 "C" (70- 79) 3 2.5 2 "F" (Below 70) 0 0 0
*If a student has earned .5 credit for a course, multiply the quality points earned by .5.

Students who transfer into the Bryan County School System must be enrolled in a Bryan County High school for at least two consecutive semesters (entire senior year) to be eligible to be named the valedictorian or salutatorian.

| <i>Letter Grade</i> | <i>Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment</i> | <i>Honors Courses, Accelerated Courses</i> | <i>Regular Courses</i> |
|------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <i>"A" (90-100)</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>4.5</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>"B" (80-89)</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>3.5</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>"C" (70-79)</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>2.5</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>"F" (Below 70)</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> |

*If a student has earned .5 credit for a course, multiply the quality points earned by .5.

The distinction of Honor Graduate will be awarded to graduating seniors who have a weighted cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) for all courses attempted of at least 4.0 on a 5.0 scale. Grades on all courses attempted will be considered in the computation, including those courses taken for high school credit in middle school, courses taken during evening school, or summer school. The divisor shall be the total number of classes attempted.

Incoming class of 2019-2020

Class ranking for the purpose of deciding valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined by weighted Grade Point Average at the completion of seven semesters of high school. The student with the highest weighted GPA will be the valedictorian, and the student with the second highest

weighted GPA will be the salutatorian. The total number of credits used for this determination shall not exceed 28, and A/B courses in progress at the end of the seventh semester shall be considered using the grade reported at the end of the seventh semester. If a student has greater than 28 credits, courses furthest from the graduation date shall be eliminated until a total of 28 credits is reached. In the event of a tie, the following actions will take place, in order given, to break the tie:

- Eliminate lowest elective grade furthest from graduation date
- Eliminate lowest non-weighted core grade furthest from graduation date
- Extend decimal of GPA as far as necessary to break tie

dual enrollment courses shall not be excluded from valedictorian or salutatorian determinations unless the student moves into the Bryan County School System after his or her sophomore year and has not taken any courses on site at a Bryan County Schools high school.

In order to eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian student must take at least one class on campus each semester of their senior year.

Georgia has adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (O.C.G.A. 20-17-1, et. Seq.) which may impact provisions in this Rule. See Policy JG, Educational Opportunity for Military Children, for more information.

Grade Point conversion incoming class 2019

| <i>Letter Grade</i> | <i>Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment courses at Research/ Comprehensive Universities*</i> | <i>Honors, Accelerated courses</i> | <i>Regular courses</i> |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>"A" (90-100)</i> | 5 | 4.5 | 4 |
| <i>"B" / (80-89)</i> | 4 | 3.5 | 3 |
| <i>"C" / (70-79)</i> | 3 | 2.5 | 2 |
| <i>"F" / (below 70)</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**** Research Universities: Augusta University, Georgia Tech Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, University of Georgia***

****Comprehensive Universities: Georgia Southern University, Kennesaw State University, University of West Georgia, Valdosta State University***

****Dual Enrollment courses taken at post-secondary institutions that are not classified as a Research or Comprehensive University receive no additional weight.***

Students who transfer into the Bryan County School System must be enrolled in a Bryan County Schools high school for at least two consecutive semesters to be eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian. A student taking one or more

Legal Information

Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination

As required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Bryan County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities; in access to them; in the treatment of individuals; or in any aspect of its operations and provides equal access to the Boys Scouts and other designated youth groups. Bryan County School System's Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) department does not discriminate in enrollment or access to any of the available programs located in middle or high schools. The challenging CTAE curriculum, in conjunction with core academics, provides a robust academic skills and hands-on experience. Program offerings include Broadcast/Video Production, Business and Computer Science, Construction, Culinary Arts, Engineering and Technology, Education, Graphic Communication and Design, Government and Public Safety including JROTC, Healthcare Science, Journalism and Marketing Education. Program offerings vary by school location. The lack of English language skills shall not be a barrier to admission or participation in the district's activities and programs. The Bryan County School System also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

Any student or employee who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon his or her race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sex should promptly report the same to the school principal or directly to the contacts listed below.

Trey Robertson, Assistant Superintendent

Bryan County Board of Education

8810 Highway 280 East

Black Creek, Georgia 31308

(912) 851-4000

Inquiries concerning the application of Title II, Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, or the Americans With Disabilities Act to the policies of the Bryan County Board of Education may be addressed to the person listed above, who can assist with processing complaints, questions, or requests for additional information.

Bryan County School System Complaint Procedure for Title II; Title IX; and Section 504

Any employee, applicant for employment, or other person who believes he or she has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy must make a complaint in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints made to the School District regarding alleged discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin in violation of Title VI; religion or sex in violation of Title VII; sex in violation of Title IX; disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, or on the basis of age in violation of the ADEA, will be processed in accordance with the following procedure:

Any employee, applicant for employment, or other person with a complaint alleging a violation as described above shall promptly notify, in writing or orally, either the principal for his/her school or the appropriate coordinator designated from time to time by the Board of Education. If the complaint is oral, either the coordinator or school principal to whom the complaint is made shall promptly prepare a memorandum or written statement of the complaint as made to him or her by the complainant and shall have the complainant read and sign the memorandum or statement if it accurately reflects the complaint made. If the complaint is made to a school principal, he or she shall be responsible for notifying the appropriate coordinator of the complaint.

If the alleged offending individual is the coordinator designated by the Board of Education, the complaint shall either be made by the complainant to the Superintendent or, if the complaint is initially made to the school principal, reported by the principal to the Superintendent. If the alleged offending individual is the Superintendent, the complaint shall be made to the designated coordinator, who shall, without further investigation, report the complaint to the Board chairperson.

The coordinator or his or her designee shall have fifteen work days to gather all information relevant to the complaint made, review the information, determine the facts relating to the complaint, review the action requested by the complainant, and attempt to resolve the complaint with the complainant and any other persons involved. The coordinator or designee shall prepare a written response to the complaint detailing any action to be taken in response to the complaint and the time frame in which such action will be taken and copies of this response shall be furnished to the complainant, the appropriate coordinator and the Superintendent or his or her designee.

If the complaint is not resolved at the conclusion of this fifteen-day period or if the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, the complainant shall have the right, within five work days of receiving a copy of the written response, to have the complaint referred to the Superintendent of Schools. If the alleged offending individual is the Superintendent, the complainant may have the complaint referred to the Board of Education, rather than the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall have fifteen work days to review the complaint and the response of the coordinator or designee and attempt to resolve the complaint. The Superintendent shall furnish to the complainant a written response setting forth either his or her approval of the action recommended by the coordinator or designee or the action to be taken by the School District in response to the complaint in lieu of that recommended by the coordinator or designee and the time frame in which such action shall be taken.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the response of the Superintendent, then the complainant shall have the right, within fifteen work days of the receipt of the written response of the Superintendent, to have the complaint referred to the Board of Education. In order to have the Board review the Superintendent's decision, the complainant must file with the Superintendent a written statement setting forth the reasons he or she disagrees with the response of the Superintendent and the action the complainant is requesting the School District to take. The complainant shall also include in the written response a request that his or her complaint be referred to the Board of Education.

Within thirty work days of receipt of the written request of the complainant, the Superintendent shall present the matter to the Board of Education at its regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The Board shall review the original complaint, the response of the coordinator or designee, the response of the Superintendent, and the response of the complainant. In addition, the Board may, but is not required to, hear directly from any individuals with knowledge of any relevant facts relating to the complaint.

The Board of Education will either uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent or require the School District to take some other action in response to the complaint. A copy of the action of the Board will be furnished to the complainant, either as a part of the minutes of the Board of Education or as a separate written

statement. The Board shall be the final reviewing authority within the School District.

This policy is not intended to deprive any employee of any right they may have to file a grievance pursuant to any other policy of the local Board of Education, specifically the policy designed to implement Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-2-989.5, where appropriate. This policy is not intended to provide an alternative process for resolving evaluation and employment disputes where there already exists a due process procedure mandated by state law or State Department of Education regulations, specifically including, but not limited to, hearings to be conducted pursuant to the Fair Dismissal Act of Georgia. The complainant retains at all times the right to contact the Office of Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or any other appropriate state or federal agency with regard to any allegations that the system has violated the statutes described above.

No reprisal shall occur as a result of reporting unlawful discrimination or harassment under this policy, and any attempt to retaliate against a complainant shall be disciplined as is appropriate.

The confidentiality of any individual making a complaint or report in accordance with this policy, to the extent it is reasonably possible and in compliance with law, shall be protected, although the discovery of the truth and the elimination of unlawful harassment shall be the overriding consideration.

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sex in its employment practices. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and all accompanying regulations.

The following person has been designated as the employee responsible for coordinating the Board's efforts to implement this non-discrimination policy.

Jason Rogers, Assistant Superintendent
Bryan County Board of Education
8810 Highway 280 East
Black Creek, Georgia 31308
912-851-4000

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("Title II"); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"); or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") formal complaints may be filed with the United States Department of Education.

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
Customer Service Hotline 800.421.3481
Fax: 202-453-6012
TDD: 877.521.2172
Email: OCR@ed.gov
Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Office for Civil Rights, Region IV
61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 19T10
Atlanta, GA 30303-8927
Telephone: 404-974-9406
Fax: 404-974-9471
Email: OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Parents have certain rights with respect to student educational records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These rights transfer to the student when the student becomes an "Eligible Student" upon reaching the age of 18 or attending a school beyond the high school level. The rights of Parents and/or Eligible Students are summarized as follows:

- The right to inspect and review student educational records maintained by the school. A Parent or Eligible Student seeking to inspect and review educational records should submit a written request to the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled or last attended.
- Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal or appropriate school official, clearly identify the part of the record they would like changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request.
- The right to notice of what information the school has designated as directory information and a reasonable

time after such notice to inform the school that the designated information should not be released without prior consent. See the following section for information on the release of directory information.

- The right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in student educational records (other than directory information), except to the extent FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. Disclosures for which the consent of the Parent or Eligible Student is not required include the following:
 - a) to school officials with a legitimate educational interest. A school official is any school employee or any contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other person who performs school system services or functions that would otherwise be completed by school employees. A legitimate educational interest is a need that arises out of a school official's role in providing educational services, including instruction, evaluation, therapy, etc., to a student, or out of the performance of administrative, supervisory, clerical, or other responsibilities prescribed by the school system;
 - b) to other school systems in which the student seeks or intends to enroll as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer;
 - c) to specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - d) in connection with the student's application for financial aid;
 - e) to state and local officials pursuant to State law;
 - f) to organizations conducting studies on behalf of the school;
 - g) to accrediting organizations;
 - h) to parents of a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
 - i) to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and
 - j) in compliance with judicial order or pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena when the educational agency makes reasonable effort to notify the Parent or Eligible Student in advance of the compliance. In limited circumstances, an order or subpoena may require the District to disclose information without notifying the Parent or Eligible Student.
- A Parent or Eligible Student who believes his or her rights under FERPA may have been violated may file a complaint by writing to the Family Policy Compliance

Office. Complaints must contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of FERPA occurred. Complaints should be sent to:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Harassment Statement

It is the policy of the Bryan County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, ethnicity, color, disability, religious belief, or national origin in educational programs and activities, nor in admissions to facilities operated by the Bryan County Board of Education, or in the employment practices of the school system. It is the express policy of the Bryan County School Board to comply with all laws and regulations relating to discrimination now in effect or hereafter enacted.

The Bryan County Board of Education does not and will not tolerate harassment of our students or employees. The term “harassment” includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, and other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual’s race, ethnicity, color, gender, religious belief, nationality, citizenship, age, or disability. “Harassment” also includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, unwelcome or offensive touching, and other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Violations of this policy will subject an employee to disciplinary action up to and including immediate employment termination. Students violating this policy may be disciplined up to and including expulsion from school.

Student Complaints and Grievances

The Bryan County Board of Education is committed to providing an environment free of sexual harassment and all forms of harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, nationality, or disability. If a student believes he or she is being mistreated on account of race, color, religion, gender, nationality, or disability, the student may utilize the following three-step procedure.

Step I:

If a student has a complaint of discrimination or unfair treatment, they should report their concern to the principal, the local school’s Title IX coordinator, teachers, counselors, or other school administrators. If a student is not satisfied with the complaint’s resolution, the student or their parent may request a meeting with the principal, following which, the principal will inform the parent in writing of their decision regarding the complaint.

Step II:

If, after meeting with the school principal, the student is not satisfied with the principal’s decision, a written appeal may be submitted to the Grievance Coordinator, Dr. Trey Robertson, within 10 working days of the receipt of the principal’s decision.

The appeal must cite specific reasons for reconsideration of the complaint, stating precisely the source of dissatisfaction, and be limited to the matter under review.

Step III: For assistance with the student complaint or grievance process, you may contact the district Division of Operations & Student Services, Bryan County Public Schools. *Retaliation on account of filing a complaint at any level is strictly prohibited.*

Parents and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment affords Parents and Eligible Students rights and protections regarding instructional materials used in educational programs, surveys administered to students, and the conduct of certain physical examinations. The rights and protections established by the PPRA include:

- **Instructional Materials.** The Parent or Eligible Student has the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student; and
- **Surveys.** The Parent or Eligible Student has the right to inspect any survey created by a third party, prior to the administration or distribution of the survey and the right to opt the student out of participation in any such survey. In addition, before a student may be required to submit to a survey revealing “Protected Information,” the written consent of the Parent or the consent of the Eligible Student is required. Finally, a minor student may not volunteer to submit to a survey revealing “Protected Information” without providing the Parent of the student with prior written notice of the administration of the survey and an opportunity to opt out of the survey. “Protected Information” falls into the following categories:
 - 1) Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 - 2) Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
 - 3) Sexual behaviors and attitudes;
 - 4) Any self-incriminating behavior;
 - 5) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - 6) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships,

- such as those of with lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- 7) Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); or
 - 8) Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.

Physical Examinations. Parents have the right to notice of any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student. Exceptions include hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law.

The Bryan County Board of Education has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect students' privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution procedures.

The Bryan County Board of Education will notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually and after any substantive changes. Individual schools will directly notify parents and students, at least annually, at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution and the opportunity to opt of said services.

Family Policy Compliance Office

U. S. Department Education

100 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Release of Directory Information

FERPA permits the District to disclose information designated as Directory Information without the consent of the Parent or Eligible Student. Directory Information is data which is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy when distributed.

Among the purposes that the Directory Information exception facilitates is the release of student information in athletic and extracurricular programs, yearbooks, honor roll and other recognition lists, graduation programs, media releases, etc.

Bryan County Public Schools has designated the following information as "Directory Information": name, address, telephone number, date of birth, electronic mail (e-mail) address, photograph, audio recordings, video recordings, grade level, years of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of

members of athletic teams, and honors and awards received. Unless the Parent or Eligible Student decides to opt out of Directory Information disclosure, the items as indicated above may be distributed to appropriate legitimate agencies identified by the District, including, but not limited to, PTA, colleges, and military recruiters. You have the right to refuse this disclosure. In order to opt, you must notify your student's principal in writing within 10 days of receipt of this handbook. The written notice must include:

- (1) the name of the student;
- (2) a statement that the parent/guardian or eligible student is opting out of the disclosure of Directory Information under FERPA; and
- (3) signed and dated by the parent, guardian, or eligible student. *

**Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt out of the release of directory information.*

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Section 504 provides: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance"

To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment. Section 504 requires that school districts provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualified students in their jurisdictions who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

CHILD FIND RESPONSIBILITY: Under Child Find for Section 504, a school district is obligated to identify students who are disabled and may need related services or accommodations because of their disability. Section 504 eligibility and the need for an accommodation plan are separate determinations. OCR (Office of Civil Rights) has indicated that a student does not have to demonstrate a need for related services or accommodations in order to be Section 504 eligible. Even if a student does not need a 504

Accommodation Plan, he/she can be determined eligible and receive procedural safeguards, periodic reevaluation, manifestation determination and the nondiscrimination protections of Section 504. Should the need for 504 Accommodation Plan develop, the team would reconvene and develop an appropriate plan.

EVALUATION AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION: An evaluation under Section 504 is not necessarily a comprehensive evaluation as required under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 504 evaluations draw upon a variety of sources and may include cumulative record and work sample review; observational data; interviews with student, parent and/or school personnel; and/or administration of formal assessment measures. A physician's medical diagnosis alone is insufficient to suffice as an evaluation. Although a medical diagnosis is one source of data to consider, it is neither required nor sufficient for establishing eligibility under Section 504. The Section 504 team may request medical documentation to assist in determining eligibility. The 504 team should always include persons knowledgeable about the student, interpretation of evaluation data, and the placement options available.

SECTION 504 ACCOMMODATION PLAN (504 PLAN): A student who is eligible for Section 504 and requires related services or accommodations in order for his/her educational needs to be met as adequately as those of nondisabled peers will have a **Section 504 Accommodation Plan** developed. The goal of the plan is to provide reasonable accommodations that ensure a student with a disability has the opportunity to participate and access the general education curriculum and extracurricular activities to the same extent as a nondisabled peer. This does not guarantee equal outcome, but provides equal opportunity, so that if appropriate effort is applied, a student will benefit the same as nondisabled peers. The 504 Plan will be developed by the Section 504 team and will be based upon the individual student's educational needs and least restrictive environment. For a diabetic student, whose endocrine system does not function properly and is at risk of serious health problems, and even death, if not properly treated, the 504 Plan may include, but is not limited to: monitoring of blood glucose levels, permission to carry and use blood glucose monitoring supplies, snacks, water, and insulin as per the student's Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP), and frequent restroom breaks.

STUDENTS WITH DIABETES: Students with school-developed health plans may need to be referred for 504

evaluations. It is the responsibility of the school nurse or another BCS staff member to initiate the Section 504 referral; it is not the responsibility of the parent to do so, although they may also initiate the referral. After a 504 evaluation and eligibility determination, a 504 Accommodation Plan may be written to reflect needed accommodations, including those indicated in the student's Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP). It is important to note that a diabetic student need not exhibit limitations in learning in order to be referred for a Section 504 evaluation.

TRAINING TO ADDRESS MEDICAL NEEDS: Bryan County Schools will provide training by qualified medical personnel to staff who educate, serve, supervise, or transport students. Training for staff (includes, but is not limited to, administrators, school nurses, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals, substitute bus drivers, and staff supervising students on field trips or other off-campus locations), will address the needs of students with medical conditions requiring school-developed health plans and/or Section 504 Accommodation Plans. Detailed information will be provided with regard to addressing the needs of students with diabetes, including diabetic and emergency care and a review of a protocol reflecting required written notification by the school nurse to the parent/guardian one week in advance of a student needing medical and other related supplies. If supplies are not received within three calendar days, then the school nurse will follow-up with a phone call or email (parent-provided email address). All notifications must be documented by the school nurse. If a parent, guardian, or adult student has a question about their rights under Section 504, they may contact the district's designated Section 504 representative at 912-851-4000.

Sexual Misconduct

"20-2-751.7(a) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student which shall not prohibit the ability of a student to report the incident to law enforcement authorities. Each local school system shall be required to implement and follow such state mandated process and shall include the mandated process in the student handbooks and in employee handbooks or policies."

a) Any student (*or parent or friend of a student*) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school

system employee is urged to make a verbal report of the act to their teacher, counselor, or an administrator at their school.

- b) Any teacher, counselor, or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make a verbal report of the incident immediately to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee, within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the verbal and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*
- c) Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make a verbal report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the alleged sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent.

"Sexual Abuse" means a person's employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing or coercing any minor who is not that person's spouse to engage in any sexual act as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5.

"Sexual Misconduct" includes behavior by an educator that is directed at a student and intended to sexually arouse the educator or the child. Sexual misconduct by an educator may include, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

- 1) Making sexual comments, jokes or gestures;
- 2) Showing or displaying sexual pictures, photographs, illustrations, or messages;
- 3) Writing sexual messages/graffiti on notes or the Internet;
- 4) Spreading sexual rumors;
- 5) Unnecessarily supervising students as they dress, shower or use restroom areas at school;

- 6) Flashing or "mooning" students;
- 7) Touching, excessively hugging or grabbing students in a sexual manner;
- 8) Forcing a student to make a sign of physical affection or any movement sexual in nature;
- 9) Talking or asking about a student's developing body, sexuality, dating habits, etc.;
- 10) Talking repeatedly about sexual activities or sexual fantasies;
- 11) Making fun of the student's physical attributes; or
- 12) Calling the students by a sexual name.

Miscellaneous District Information

Electronic Media for Students

Bryan County School System recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. However, they also can become a major distraction to the learning environment and are vulnerable to theft.

Elementary School Guidelines

Elementary Students shall not have cell phones or any other communication device turned on during school hours unless by a doctor's request. It is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health. These students shall have a written plan including the doctor's written verification for cell phone use which has been approved by the school administrator and which is on file in the school office.

1st Offense-Students will have their cell phone taken away and returned at the end of the day.

2nd Offense-Students will have their cell phone taken and locked up in the office until a parent can come to school to retrieve it.

3rd Offense-Students will no longer be allowed to bring a cell phone to school until a parent conference with the administration is held.

Subsequent Offense(s) - (defiance) - Additional parent contact and more severe disciplinary action -including but not limited to suspension.

Bryan County Schools are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen phones, CD players, smart watches, iPods or electronic gaming devices.

Middle/ High School Guidelines

Each schools' administration determines the guidelines for appropriate use of cell phones and any other communication device inside their own building.

The Bryan County School District is a member institute of the Google Apps for Education program. With this initiative, all elementary through high school Bryan County students are enrolled in this program which provides students and teachers with access to online tools such as digital storage, word processing, and a collaborative email system for classes. The overall goal of this program is to provide a digital educational resource that appropriately serves the students throughout their tenure in the Bryan County School System.

Financial Procedures

Bryan County Schools has partnered with

MyPaymentsPlus.com to offer an online payment system to parents and students. With MyPaymentsPlus, parents can easily enroll your student in school activities and pay for school related items such as cub/class dues, yearbooks, field trips, senior fees, after school program care, and other activities. This portal allows parents to manage their student account from the convenience of their home or on your mobile device. Please visit www.MyPaymentsPlus.com to enroll and register for an account.

Parents and students may continue to remit cash or checks for the payment of school fees and dues. All monies collected will be deposited in a timely manner and your student will be issued a receipt if the payment is \$10 or greater. In the event a check is returned from the bank as insufficient, notification will be made as soon as the school is notified by the bank. The school will attempt to redeposit the check once and then additional steps (certified letter, court collection process or collection processing organization) may be utilized. A check collection fee may be charged to the maker of the check. This fee may be the maximum amount allowed by state law.

Money and Valuable Objects

Please do not bring large amounts of money to school. All valuable articles should be in possession of the owner at all times. The school cannot accept responsibility for stolen or lost money or other articles.

Other Services to Students

No deliveries of flowers, balloons, or other such items can be accepted at school because of safety concerns and because of resulting disruptions to instruction.

Photography/Digital Media

Unless the parent/guardian requests otherwise, pictures and/or recordings of students may be taken by the news media, individual schools, partnering colleges and universities or the school system during the school day or at school events. Such pictures and/or recordings of students may appear on school and school system website, on Bryan County School's social media pages/site or in other public places.

If the parent/guardian wishes to prohibit the taking of any picture and/or audiovisual recording of their child by the news media, the school, or the school system, notification must be filed, in writing, within 30 days of the beginning of the school year or the date of enrollment. Pictures and/or recordings that identify students as receiving specialized instruction or services provided through an Individualized

Education Program will not be publicly displayed. Regardless of parental consent or notification, the school system has the right to record students with video cameras for safety, instructional purposes, and at extracurricular activities.

Posters, Invitations, and Announcements

- 1) All posters/announcements to be displayed must first be approved by the administration. An indication of that approval must be displayed on the poster/announcement.
- 2) The individual posting the posters/ announcements is responsible for removing them.
- 3) All party or event invitations have to be given class wide. School administration has final review of all such items.

School Nutrition Program Information

As a partner in education, the Bryan County's School Nutrition Program contributes to a successful academic experience and encourages a lifetime of healthy eating by providing each student with the affordable opportunity to consume meals that are nutritious, appealing, and served by caring professionals in a pleasant environment. Students pay **\$1.85 for breakfast** and **\$2.85 for lunch**. Free and reduced-price meals also are available. Breakfast is free for students who qualify for reduced-price meals. Qualifications and/or application procedures for free and reduced meals are available at the local school or on the school system's web site (www.bryan.k12.ga.us). You may pay for meals at the school (if using a check there is no minimum amount and a maximum of \$299), or you may place money in your child's account using debit or credit card by going to www.myschoolbucks.com.

No charges are allowed in grades 6-12. Limited charges are allowed in lower grades. Parents are encouraged to prepay for meals, prepayment is available in all schools.

Schools are not responsible for lost or stolen cash.

Food from outside restaurants, caterers, and other vendors cannot be brought to students.

Student Solicitations and Fundraising

The principal, superintendent, and the Board of Education must approve any fundraising project prior to its commencement. Individual student, staff, parent fundraising is not permitted.

School facilities are intended for use for programs for students, for staff, and for the community. Guidelines for community use of school facilities and forms for handling requests are available in school offices.

Transportation

Bus drivers are not permitted to wait for students who are tardy. Students are to be at the bus stop on time each day. Students must be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is due to arrive.

In order to transport items on a bus, students must be able to hold the item in his/her lap. Flowers, balloons, and other such items cannot be transported on the bus because of safety concerns. Parents must make provisions for transporting them.

Any parent, guardian, or person other than a student at the public school in question who has been advised that minor children are present and who continues to, insult, or abuse any public school teacher, public school administrator, or public school bus driver in the presence and hearing of a pupil while on the premises of any public school or public school bus may be ordered by any of the above designated school personnel to leave the school premises or school bus, and upon failure to do so, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 (O.C.G.A.20-2-

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Students are to ride only their assigned bus home or to their daycare provider. In emergency cases, the school will issue the student a bus pass for the student to present to the bus driver. Please provide information required on the bus pass for the administration.

Students should learn the proper school bus evacuation procedures. There are three basic types of evacuations. Evacuation instructions will be given and drills will be held as follows:

Type A: Evacuations through the entrance door. Students should file out in order, beginning with the seat nearest to the entrance door and ending with the seat farthest from the door.

Type B: Evacuations through the rear emergency door. Students should file out in order, beginning with the seat nearest the rear door.

Type C: Evacuations through both doors. Students should file out of the door nearest to them in order, beginning with the seats nearest the doors and ending with the seats farthest from the doors.

Visitors on School Property

- 1) Parents and other visitors shall register with the office secretary upon arriving on campus.
- 2) Food from outside restaurants cannot be brought to school for use during breakfast or lunch time.
- 3) The school shall not issue visitor permits except to those persons on school related business as sanctioned by the administration. Students are not permitted to bring visitors with them to school.
- 4) The principal or other faculty member shall direct any unauthorized visitor to leave the school property. Upon refusing to leave, or upon returning a second time, the school shall file appropriate charges with the local law enforcement agency. Disruption of school operations is a misdemeanor.
- 5) Parents (except as invited by the administration) and other nonstudents cannot ride buses. Appropriate charges may be filed upon a person's refusal to leave the bus.
- 6) Violations of safety, security, or health procedures will result in forfeiture of visitation privileges.

Volunteer Information

- 1) All individuals must complete the Parent Volunteer Training. The trainings will be hosted at the individual schools.
- 2) **ALL** parent volunteers **MUST** complete the Mandated Reporting Training every year. Please see designated Volunteer Coordinator in your school for future instructions.
- 3) All parents must complete the parent information form on Google doc. This will be on the school website to complete. If parent does not have access to a computer, the electronic form can be filled out at the school when completing the **Mandated Reporting PowerPoint**.
- 4) Once parent has completed training and/or mandated reporting power point, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator to begin volunteering.