HELP KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

NO CELL PHONES in School Zones

It’s the Law.

It is unlawful to use a cell phone (including texting) while driving through a school zone during school hours and when students are present.

FLASHING RED
KIDS AHEAD

It’s the Law.

It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus whenever its red lights are flashing.

Arkansas motorists are encouraged to obey all traffic laws whenever they are near a school bus.
# 2023-24 District Calendar

**ALTERNATIVE CALENDAR (BASED ON INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS VS. DAYS)**

## SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS
- Labor Day: Sept 4
- Fall Break: Oct 20-23
- Professional Development: Oct 24
- Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov 20-24
- Christmas Holiday: Dec 21-Jan 3
- Dr. Martin Luther King Day: Jan 15
- Professional Development: Mar 15
- Spring Break: Mar 18-22
- Solar Eclipse: Apr 8**
- Memorial Day: May 27

*AMI days are not available with an alternate calendar. Five snow days are built into the calendar. If more than five days are missed, days will be added at the end of the school year.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
- **Early Dismissal ALL Students (2pm)**
  - **September 28, 2-7:30pm**
    - (Middle, JH & High School)
  - **October 19, 2-7:30pm**
    - (Elementary)
  - **February 15, 2-7:30pm**
    - (Middle, JH & High School)
  - **March 14, 2-7:30pm**
    - (Elementary)

## APP
- Stay Connected, Stay Informed
- **STAY BRYANT.**
- Documents: Events: Staff Directory: Alerts

## SOCIAL MEDIA
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Spotify](#)

## WEBSITE
- [bryantschools.org](#)

## GRADING PERIODS
- 1st Quarter (ends 10/12)
- 2nd Quarter (ends 12/20)
- 3rd Quarter (ends 3/8)
- 4th Quarter (ends 5/21)*

## FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS: MONDAY, AUGUST 14

### JULY 2023

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## LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS: WEDNESDAY, MAY 21*

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**A total solar eclipse will occur on April 8, 2024. With our area inside the path of totality, thousands of visitors are expected in our community making travel difficult for buses and other school traffic.**
VISION
Bryant Public Schools will be the state’s premier provider of educational services.

MISSION STATEMENT
Bryant Public Schools create opportunities for academic and personal success to ensure all students are future ready.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
This handbook contains policies for students at all elementary schools in the Bryant Public Schools including discipline, homework and attendance policies. Also included is a summary of our district parental involvement plan. These policies will be enforced. Parents and/or students should read them carefully. Please contact the building principal or assistant principal if clarification is needed. By our signatures below, we signify that we have access to a copy of the Secondary Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook. We understand that these policies will be enforced.

Student’s Signature______________________________ Date________________

Parent’s Signature______________________________ Date________________

To access a copy of the secondary handbook online visit: bryantschools.org/parents/handbooks.
Media, Publications, Video, Internet Consent and Release Agreement for Parents/Guardians and Students

Parents, guardians and students who attend or participate in Bryant School District programs or events are occasionally asked to be part of county, statewide and/or national publicity, promotion, marketing and/or public relations activities or projects, and/or appear in educational and curriculum material developed by the District.

In order to guarantee you and your child’s privacy and ensure your agreement to participate, the Bryant School District asks that you sign and return this form.

By your signature on this form, you approve the Bryant School District, should it choose, to use you and/or your child’s name, picture (still or video), art, written work, voice, or verbal statements in any educational and/or promotional printed or electronic piece that furthers the District’s educational and/or public relations efforts during this and subsequent years. This includes but is not limited to external news media outlets (printed and/or broadcast), District website, online social media accounts, brochures, displays, newsletters, curriculum guides, purchased advertisements or other means of communicating with the public about District programs and services. The pictures, recordings, articles, copy or other means of communications may or may not personally identify you or your child.

AGREEMENT

The Bryant School District agrees that your or your child’s name, picture, art, written work, voice, verbal statements, or portraits (video or still) will only be used for the District’s public relations, public information, promotion, publicity and marketing efforts and/or to support its educational programs.

By signing below, the Parent/Guardian and Youth understand and agree that
- No monetary consideration shall be paid;
- Consent and release have been given without coercion or duress;
- This agreement is binding upon heirs and/or future legal representatives

If the Parent/Guardian and/or Youth wish to rescind this agreement, they may do so at any time with written notice.

Youth’s Name ___________________________ Grade __________________

Youth’s Signature (if at least 18 years old) ___________________________ Date __________________

Parent/Guardian Name (print) ___________________________ Parent/Guardian Signature Date __________________

Each student should have a copy of this form at the school the child will be attending.
OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

I, the undersigned, being a parent of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the disclosure of publication by the Bryant Public Schools of directory information, as defined in district policy, concerning the student named below.

I understand that the participation by the below-named student in any interscholastic activity, including athletics and school clubs, may make the publication of some directory information unavoidable, and the publication of such information in other forms, such as telephone directories, church directories, etc., is not within the control of the District.

I understand that this form must be filed with the office of the appropriate building principal within ten (10) school days from the beginning of the school year or the date the student is enrolled in school in order for the District to be bound by this objection. Failure to file this form within that time is a specific grant of permission to publish such information.

I understand that this form must be filed with the office of the appropriate building principal within ten (10) school days from the beginning of the school year or the date the student is enrolled in school in order for the District to be bound by this objection. Failure to file this form within that time is a specific grant of permission to publish such information.

I object and wish to deny the disclosure or publication of directory information as follows:

___ All public and school sources
Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), AND result in the student’s directory information NOT being included in the school’s yearbook and other school publications.

___ All public sources
Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), but permit the student’s directory information to be included in the school’s yearbook and other school publications.

Name of Student (print) ___________________________ Grade ___________________________

Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older) ___________________________
Date of Submission ___________________________

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally requires the Bryant School District to obtain a parent or guardian’s written consent prior to disclosing personally identifiable information (PII) from a student’s education records. One of the exceptions to this general rule applies to “directory information.” Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of 18) objects, directory information may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, a student’s name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, his/her placement on the honor role (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities; among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. Directory information also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student’s ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user’s identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. A parent or guardian may opt out of the District’s disclosure of directory information by signing the form below. For additional information about FERPA, please review Bryant School District Board Policy #4.13.
The Bryant Public School District Student Handbook is designed to acquaint students and their parents with the policies and regulations necessary to provide a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment for all students.

In addition to the handbook, you will receive a school resource guide with information that is uniquely applicable to that school.
Please visit bryantschools.org for the appropriate school resource guide:

Bryant Middle School
bryantschools.org/bms

Bethel Middle School
bryantschools.org/bems

Bryant Junior High School
bryantschools.org/bjhs

Bryant High School
bryantschools.org/bhs

Parents Right-to-Know

In accordance with ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW, the Bryant School District is notifying every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s classroom teacher. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s classroom teachers including, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If at any time your child has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher not highly qualified, the school will notify you.

WARNING: DO NOT BRING WEAPONS TO SCHOOL.

If you should unintentionally bring a knife, gun (including air gun or pellet gun), or other weapon (or look- alike weapon) to school, turn it over to school officials immediately. If turned in immediately to a school official (if the weapon is not a firearm), school officials may waive disciplinary consequences depending on the circumstances involved.
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MESSAGE

The Bryant School Board would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Bryant Public Schools.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the administration operates in a manner that reflects sound and cost-efficient management principles. This oversight role includes monitoring the District’s compliance with all relevant state and federal guidelines. Ultimately, our goal is to facilitate each student receiving a quality, comprehensive education.

The Board also performs some specific functions regarding student disciplinary action and a variety of personnel measures. These activities are a part of a specific chain of command that must be adhered to in order to guarantee that the rights of all staff, faculty, and students are protected.

It is important for all patrons of the school district to understand that the authority and responsibility of the Board Members exist only on a collective basis. Individually they have no authority.

If you have a concern regarding your child, contact his/her teacher(s). If you still have a concern regarding your child and his/her education, contact the teacher’s supervisor. (This is typically the principal.)

If you still have concerns regarding your child, contact the Superintendent of Schools. If at this level a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, the Board may become involved as indicated by policy.

The Bryant School Board members consider it a vital element of the role to reflect the desires of the community with respect to the school system. Listed below are the names of the school board members. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact any board member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nelly Valentin</td>
<td>787-603-4402 <a href="mailto:bryantzone3@gmail.com">bryantzone3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Scott Walsh</td>
<td>501-847-9282 <a href="mailto:dscottwalsh@yahoo.com">dscottwalsh@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Craig Leone</td>
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We are sure that you will find all teachers, administrators and staff members willing to assist you in resolving any problems that may arise.
GENERAL POLICIES
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bryant Secondary Schools may offer before/after school remediation and tutoring programs as part of the district’s Response to Intervention plan. For more information, please contact your child’s teacher, school counselor, or principal.

BULLYING

“Bullying” means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of a person.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:
Policy 4.43 - Bullying

BUS TRANSPORTATION

In order to maintain a safe and orderly atmosphere on all Bryant Public School buses the following rules have been established and must be followed to retain bus privileges.

SCHOOL BUS RULES

1. Follow the directions of the driver. Students are under the direct supervision of the driver while on the bus.
2. Remain properly seated at all times. Follow the directions of the driver as to when it is appropriate to stand on the bus.
3. Keep hands, feet, all body parts, and objects to yourself.
4. Do not use profanity, rude language, rude gestures, or tease/bully anyone on the bus.
5. Do not litter, write on, or damage the bus in any way.
6. Large items will be permitted only if they fit in the student’s lap (instruments, athletic gear, etc.). Students must not block the aisle with any books, musical instruments, athletic gear, objects, legs, or feet.
7. All school handbook rules and school board policies are to be followed at all times.
8. Ride only the bus to which you are assigned. Visitors are not permitted on any buses.
9. Do not distract the driver’s attention or disturb other riders on the bus.

MEETING THE BUS

1. Be at the bus stop 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
2. Do not stand or play in the roadway. Stand back at least ten (10) feet from the bus stop and do not approach the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is open.
3. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has given you directions before crossing a street to enter the bus.
4. Never push or shove others while standing in line or loading.
5. Respect the property rights of others while waiting for the bus. Do not gather under carports, on porches, or on lawns without permission.
6. Students shall not use earbuds or headphones while loading or unloading the school bus. This includes any time a student transitions to and from the school bus while on the bus lot.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE BUS

1. Enter and leave the bus quickly and in an orderly manner.
2. Do not enter or leave the school bus by the back door except in the case of an emergency or unless directed by the driver to do so.
3. If you must cross the street after leaving the bus, go to a point on the shoulder of the street ten (10) feet in front of the bus and wait until the driver has signaled you to cross.
4. If you drop any object (book, paper, pencil) while leaving the bus, do not attempt to retrieve the object until the bus has left the scene and the street is clear of other vehicles.
5. Students shall not use earbuds or headphones while loading or unloading the school bus. This includes any time a student transitions to and from the school bus while on the bus lot.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In an emergency, students should remain calm and quiet and listen for instructions from the driver. If the driver is unable to conduct emergency measures, students should follow the procedures below in leaving the bus:

1. If the exit is through the front door, students sitting in the front seat to the left of the aisle will move out first, followed by those in the right front seat and proceed in this manner until all seats are emptied.
2. If the exit is through the rear emergency door, those students sitting next to the aisle will leave first, beginning with those students in the rear of the bus.
3. If a rapid exit is necessary and it is possible to exit from both doors, students in the rear half of the bus should move out the back, and those in the front half of the bus should move out the front door.
4. In the event of an accident resulting in injury, persons injured should, if possible, be moved only under competent medical supervision.
5. If the bus should be overturned, students are to move immediately off the roadway to a safe distance from traffic. They should NOT cross the road unless instructed by the driver.
6. In the event of a tornado or other natural disaster, students should follow the instructions of the bus driver regarding emergency procedures.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF BUS RULES

Students who violate bus rules will be subject to the following consequences without limitation:

1. First bus discipline report - written warning
2. Second bus discipline report- five day bus suspension
3. Third Bus discipline report- ten day bus suspension
5. Severe Clause: A student who distracts a bus driver from his/her responsibility of safely driving the bus or who engages in conduct endangering other students such as but not limited to fighting, smoking, or disrespect toward the bus driver will receive an immediate suspension from riding if a severe infraction occurs. Suspension time for a severe infraction may result in the denial of bus riding
privileges for the remainder of the year.

*suspension from one Bryant bus is a suspension from all buses operated by Bryant Public Schools. *If a student rides the bus under suspension then the discipline automatically moves to the next progression of bus discipline.

Please visit the website for information concerning bus stops:

bryantschools.org/transportation

To view additional information regarding transportation, click on the link below:

Policy 4.19 - Conduct to and from School—Transportation Eligibility

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING LAWS
It is the policy of the Bryant School District to comply with the state’s Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Laws and with the mandatory reporting section of those laws. Any mandated reporter, as defined by law, who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes reasonable results of abuse or neglect, shall immediately report to the Department of Human Services as required by law.

CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL
Student instructional time will be protected and disruptions will be kept to a minimum; however, there are times parents need to communicate with their children during the school day. When this occurs, parents should register with the administrative office of the student’s school.

To view the full policy including contact by non-custodial parents, law enforcement, and social services, please see Appendix:

Policy 4.15 – Contact With Students While at School

APPROPRIATE DEVICE USE/ INTERNET SAFETY POLICY
The Bryant School District is pleased to provide to students access to electronic devices and the district Internet for instructional purposes. Students must adhere to appropriate use policies and Internet safety procedures to continue this privilege.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

Policy 4.29 – Internet Safety and Electronic Device Use Policy

COUNSELING SERVICES
The district school based mental health department, Connection Company, provides school based mental health services to individuals, families, and groups when referred by each school’s guidance counselor. For more information, contact your school’s guidance counselor.

Connection Company
bryantschools.org/special-education/connection-company

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE
Students attending school in the Bryant School District may exercise their right of expression within the framework of the publications policy.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

Policy 4.14 – Student Publications and the Distribution of Literature
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to a student’s admission to school, the parent or guardian shall provide the school with an official, up-to-date immunization record. For all information regarding requirements for enrollment in the Bryant Public Schools, To view the full policies, please click on the links below:

Policy 4.1 – Residence Requirements Policy
Policy 4.2 Entrance Requirements
Policy 4.2.1 – Student Attendance Zones and Interdistrict Transfers
Policy 4.4 – Student Interdistrict Transfers (“Legal” Transfers and “Board-to-Board’ Transfers)
Policy 4.5 – School Choice (Under Other Arkansas Laws)
Policy 4.6 – Homeschooling
Policy 4.52 – Students Who Are Foster Children

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Bryant High School welcomes foreign exchange students to our campus. Our students will benefit from having the opportunity to learn about other countries, their cultures, and their customs from these exchange students. However, to ensure a smooth transition and an equally rewarding educational experience during their tenure at Bryant High School, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. Approved agencies must be included on the Advisory List by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. In addition, the foreign exchange students must have a local contact person and will reside in the Bryant School District.
2. A maximum of one (1) international exchange student per fifty (50) students ratio per the school’s average daily membership will be utilized to determine the limits of total number of foreign exchange students. Each student will be required to attend the full academic year. Before the beginning of the academic semester, a three-week notice is required when a foreign exchange student is planning to enroll in a public school.
3. Students shall be fluent in the English language as demonstrated on the Michigan test or a comparable language assessment with a score of 70% or higher. Students must be able to speak and write English.
4. Exchange students are encouraged to enroll as sophomores or juniors.
5. Approved agencies shall be required to provide all paperwork for school official signatures at the time they are seeking the available slot for the exchange student.
6. Failure to abide by the above requirements will eliminate the respective agency from placing students in Bryant High School for the next school year.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Extracurricular and non-instructional activities are defined as activities occurring outside class time and for which credit towards graduation or promotion is not awarded. These activities should be planned so that the instructional program is not interrupted. Extracurricular and non-instructional activities should supplement the instructional program and afford opportunities for social exchange, enrichment of individual personal resources and wholesome competition.

These activities shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Bryant School District. Students must meet Arkansas Activities Association and Bryant School District eligibility requirements in order to participate in AAA-sanctioned, extra-curricular activities.
All clubs and organizations will have on file in the principal’s office a constitution and/or by-laws, etc., governing membership and eligibility for students in that organization (student council, drill team, cheerleaders, etc.). More clubs or organizations may become available as student interest so warrants.

Students who are absent during all or part of the day shall not participate in any school activity on that day or night without prior permission from the principal. Permission may be granted in extreme extenuating circumstances.

If there is a class period during the instructional day designated for a particular sport/activity, students participating in that sport/activity must be enrolled in that class. This includes homeschooled students who participate in high school sports.

Supplemental Instructional Program (SIP) – Probationary Status:

Any student that has less than a 2.0 GPA and more than a 1.5 GPA for the previous term and desires to participate in an extracurricular program will be permitted to do so under the Supplemental Instruction Program. The parents and student will be notified about the SIP by the sponsor of the organization. If the student and parents choose not to participate in the program, then the student will be allowed to practice with the organization, but will not be permitted to participate in the competition. Probationary status is limited to one term both at the Middle School, Junior High and High School.

For more information about extra-curricular activities, please click on the link below: Policy 4.56 – Extracurricular Activities – Secondary Schools

PARENT CENTER

The Bryant School District is committed to provide families with the resources and support needed to help their children be successful. The Bryant Parent Center provides materials and also provides parents a space to learn more about their child’s at-home learning. Parents can come to the center for educational materials, training, meetings, and referrals to other community services.

bryantschools.org/parent-center

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

Bryant Public Schools recognizes the shared responsibility of the school and family during the time your child spends in school. Engaging parents is very essential to improving student achievement. Effectively engaging parents and families in the education of their children has the potential to be far greater in the success of a child than any other type of educational reform.

Bryant Public Schools recognize:

- That a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school;
- That to support the goal of the schools to educate all students effectively, the individual schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners;
That although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they are an integral component of a school’s ability to provide for the educational success of their children; That engaging parents is essential to improve students achievement; and That our schools will foster and support active parental involvement.

With this in mind, Bryant Public Schools shall:

- Support partnerships with schools, parents, and the community.
- Assist schools in implementing effective parental involvement.
- Help build each school’s capacity for parental involvement.
- Survey parents and evaluate their responses to help improve the educational programs at the schools.
- Involve parents in developing each school’s improvement plan.
- Provide informational materials to parents to assist them in being involved with their child’s education.

To view the Parental Involvement Plan for each individual school, visit Bryant Public Schools website at www.bryantschools.org.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below: Policy 6.11 – Parental/Community Involvement

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Healthy meals are an important part of a student’s academic success. Breakfast and lunch are provided for any student wishing to participate in the school’s food service program. Applications for free/reduced lunches will be provided at the beginning of the school year, but can be requested at any time. Meal prices are available at bryantschools.org/page/food-service.

The first week of school will be used to set up student accounts. Students should bring lunch money on the first day of school. Students are encouraged to prepay for meals.

ONLINE MEAL PAYMENT

Parents/Guardians may choose to make deposits into their student’s meal accounts using EZSchoolPay. There is a fee associated with using this system. More information can be found at EZSchoolPay.com.

CHARGING MEALS

A meal may be charged twice, not to exceed a total of $4.50. The account must be paid before another charge may be made. The school district does not want any child to go without a meal; therefore, the District’s policy is that the cafeteria will provide an alternative meal to students who do not have lunch.
money and who cannot charge additional meals to their accounts. Students will not be allowed to charge meals or bring a check as a form of payment for food in the cafeteria after May 1.

CASH PAYMENT
No change will be made in the lunch line, deposits only. Any student who disposes of a school tray will be charged a replacement fee (current value) for the tray.

You may call the Food Service office at 653-5414 to answer any questions concerning your student’s meal account.

For more information regarding food service prepayment, meal charges, and alternative meals, please click on the links below:
Policy 4.51 – Food Service Prepayment
Policy 7.17.1 – Food Service Prepayment

FOOD AND DRINK BROUGHT FROM HOME
Students may bring food and drinks to school for their own use. Students may only bring drinks to school in clear containers. No glass containers are allowed.

Food drop off/deliveries will not be allowed. Students may not order or receive food or drinks from commercial businesses on campus. Except for extenuating circumstances, parents may obtain prior approval from the site administration. Principals have the discretion to further restrict this provision should circumstances warrant.

HOME SCHOOL
A “home school” is a school conducted primarily by parents or legal guardians for their own children. Parents or guardians who plan to homeschool must file written notice by completing and returning the printed current year “Notice of Intent and Waiver” forms to the public school superintendent’s office of their local school district by August 15 for the beginning of each school year, or by December 15 for the spring semester, or fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the child from the local school district during the school year and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. Parents or guardians must sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their child(ren) during the time that the parent chooses to home school.

Completed documents must be submitted to the superintendent’s office.

For information about enrollment in the Bryant School District after homeschooling a student, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.6 - HomeSchooling

HOSPITAL AND/OR HOMEBOUND PROGRAM
Hospital and/or Homebound instruction is the instructional setting which is considered to be the most restrictive within the continuum of services. For students receiving instruction within the hospital or homebound setting, the individual educational program (IEP) and subsequent placement must be reviewed every three months. Services are provided by an appropriately trained teacher to meet the needs of those disabled students who are unable to attend school due to health reasons. To request information regarding hospital and/or homebound
services, parents need to contact the Office of Special Education at 847-5660.

HYDRATION

Bryant Public Schools seeks to promote drinking water availability as an essential component of student wellness by improving access to free, safe drinking water in varied locations on its school campuses. Bryant Public Schools encourages students and employees to consume water throughout the school day and to choose water over less healthy drinks.

Consistent with other provisions of this handbook, Bryant Public Schools allows students and employees to carry clear, plastic water bottles while on campus. Bryant Public Schools provides students and employees with access to clean, safe drinking water on school property throughout the school day and during before- and after-school activities.

Bryant Public Schools will allow students to refill water bottles at water bottle filling stations and fountains before school and in between classes, and to take water bottles into the classroom (provided that the water bottle is capped to prevent spills). Water is not permitted in close proximity to technology equipment, during science labs, or in the library. Bryant Public Schools reserves the right to limit a student’s possession of a water bottle if the student’s possession of the water bottle serves to disrupt the school environment or if the student uses the water bottle in any manner other than to remain hydrated during the school day.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Under certain conditions, it may be determined that our schools will be closed because it is unsafe to operate school buses. Announcements of school closing will be made as follows:

1. On local television stations
2. On the Bryant School District website (bryantschools.org)
3. On Bryant School District social media channels (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)
4. By electronic notification through email, phone, or text

The approved district calendar will provide an explanation of how missed days will be made up due to inclement weather.

Please see page 6 to view the approved district calendar.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (AMI) PLAN

AMI, or Alternative Methods of Instruction, plan is implemented on days when school is canceled due to emergency or exceptional circumstances. Using AMI students complete activities and assignments at home rather than making up instructional days in the classroom. AMI days are intended to be for short term closures.

When the school closing is announced via Apptegy, the district website and social media, the message will also indicate an AMI day.

Description of AMI Assignments
If possible, K-5 student activities will be posted online prior to AMI day. Parents may request a paper copy if needed. Assignments are given for the core content areas (math, literacy, science, and social studies) and aligned to state standards. These assignments provide practice for skills already taught in school (reinforcement) or enrichment learning activities. A
variety of assignments will be provided and may include hands-on activities that can use readily available, house-hold items. Elementary teachers will monitor their classroom communication tool for parent messages about assignments.

If possible, 6-12 students will receive assignments and have access to instruction through Google Classroom for each class prior to AMI day. Parents may request a paper copy if needed. These assignments are aligned to state standards for each course. These assignments may continue the learning, provide practice and/or reinforcement of previous learning, or extended learning. Secondary teachers will monitor their Google Classroom for messages from students who are completing assignments at home and respond promptly. Teachers will monitor classroom communication tool to assist with assignments.

9-12 students who take classes via distance learning (Virtual Arkansas, Google Classroom, Edgenuity, Buzz Academy) continue their learning as current practice based on class requirements. Our Virtual Learning Facilitator will communicate with those facilitators who teach our students so that they are aware of our AMI days, but the learning requirements are posted each week.

For students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) the impact of AMI days needs to be considered on an individual basis at each annual review. While almost all IEP students will be able to participate in the district AMI plan, in rare cases the IEP team may need to develop an alternate method of instruction provision and document it in the IEP.

AMI Attendance

Students will have up to 3 days following an AMI day(s) to complete their assignments. Students who complete the AMI assignments will be counted present. Students who do not complete the AMI assignments will be counted absent. The principal will make the final decision on excused/unexcused absences, in accordance with the district handbook.

MOBILE APP

Bryant Public Schools offers a mobile app for the latest news and events. Download the free app in the iTunes App Store® or Google Play by searching for “Bryant Public Schools”.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION

The Bryant School District subscribes in principle to the statements of policy on library philosophy as expressed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights. Whenever a student or a student’s parent(s) find books or other teaching materials offensive, they should contact the administrator of the school to determine the availability of a reasonable accommodation to the parent’s concerns.

To view the policies in their entirety, click on the links below:
Policy 5.5 – Selection of Instructional Materials
Policy 5.6 - Challenge to Instructional/Supplemental Materials
Instructional Materials Challenge process
Instructional Materials Challenge Form

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in the Bryant School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national
origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to youth groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, etc.

Inquiries concerning discrimination may be directed to the Director of Human Resources/Legal Affairs, who may be reached at 847-5600. If a student or parent believes he/she has been discriminated against based on any grounds named in this policy, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Report the alleged incident to the principal as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days, after the event(s) in question. If the report involves the principal, it may be made to the deputy superintendent.
2. The report will be investigated and, when possible, the complainant will be advised of what action, if any, has been taken to resolve the issue.
3. If the student or parent is not satisfied with the principal’s resolution of the complaint, he or she may appeal to the deputy superintendent.
4. If the student or parent is not satisfied with the deputy superintendent’s resolution of the complaint, or if the complaint was originally made to the deputy superintendent, he or she may appeal to the superintendent. The appeal must be made in writing within ten days.
5. (10) working days from the decision of the deputy superintendent. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

Additional information about the Bryant School District’s Equal Educational Opportunity policy may be found in the Appendix:
Policy 4.11 – Equal Educational Opportunity

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

There will be no campaigning by anyone on school property, including the display of campaign materials, during normal school hours as it interrupts student learning. This does not include students campaigning for offices in school-sponsored clubs and organizations. Additional information regarding political activities may be found at the following links:
Policy 4.12 – Student Organizations/Equal Access
Policy 6.18 – Political Activity

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (SURVEYS)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires the Bryant School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. The activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”): Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent; Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family; Sex behavior or attitudes; Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as lawyers, doctors, or ministers; Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or Income, other than required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.
The Bryant School District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as the opportunity to review the surveys.

Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS

The Bryant School District will not administer, or permit to be administered, a questionnaire or survey that requests or requires a student to supply any personal identifying information unless written permission is obtained from the student’s parent or legal guardian prior to the administration of the questionnaire or survey.

To obtain written permission to administer a questionnaire or survey that requests or requires a student to supply any personal identifying information, the Bryant School District will give the student’s parent or legal guardian an opportunity to review the questionnaire or survey and will give the parent or guardian written notice specifying:

1. How the questionnaire or survey will be administered to the student;
2. How the results of the questionnaire or survey will be utilized; and
3. The persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed questionnaire or survey.

A student’s parent or legal guardian may refuse to allow the student to participate in any specified questionnaire or survey.

PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS/DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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

To view district policies related to FERPA, including the annual notification of rights under FERPA, please click on the links below:

Policy 4.13 - Privacy of Student Records/Directory Information
Policy 5.25 - Marketing of Personal Information
Bryant Public Schools Annual Notification of Rights Under FERPA

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education students entering the district will receive services according to their current Individual Education Plan (IEP) while records are gathered to confirm eligibility for services according to state and federal regulations. A full continuum of service options and related services are available to meet the needs of identified students from 3-21 years of age. Information regarding district special education services to include a notice of procedural rights may be found on the Bryant School District Special Education website.

Policy 4.49 – Special Education

PARENTAL NOTICE

This notice is to inform you of your rights and protections under Part B of the Individuals with
Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as a parent of a child with a disability, so that you can make an informed decision about whether you should give consent to allow the school district to access your or your child’s public benefits or insurance, such as Medicaid, to help pay for health services provided by the school district. This notice must be provided before the school district obtains your consent for the first time and annually thereafter. These rights include:

1. **Your Child’s Confidential Information Cannot be Disclosed Without Your Consent** - under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the IDEA, parental consent must be obtained before the school district discloses your child’s personally identifiable information to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, for the purpose of billing for Medicaid reimbursement. The personally identifiable information that may be disclosed could include: student’s name, date of birth, social security number, Medicaid ID, disability, IEP and evaluations, type of service(s), times and dates services were delivered, and progress notes.

2. **Your Child Has a Right to Special Education and Related Services at No Cost to You** this means that, with regard to services required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to an eligible child under IDEA, the school district:
3. May not require parents to sign up for, or enroll in, public benefits or insurance programs in order for their child to receive FAPE;
4. May not require parents to incur an out-of-pocket expense such as the payment of a deductible or co-pay amount incurred in filing a claim for services provided, but may pay the cost that the parents otherwise would be required to pay;
5. May not use a child’s benefits under a public benefits or insurance program if that use would:
   a. Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit;
   b. Result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the child outside of the time the child is in school
   c. Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuance of benefits or insurance; or
   d. Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on total health-related expenditures.
6. **You May Withdraw Consent at Any Time** – once you have given consent for disclosure of confidential information about your child to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, you have a legal right under the FERPA and IDEA regulations to withdraw that consent at any time.
7. **If You Refuse Consent, or Withdraw Consent, the School District Must Still Provide Required Services at No Cost to You** – if you refuse to provide consent for the disclosure of personally identifiable information for the purpose of billing Medicaid, or, if you give consent but then later withdraw consent, that does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services under IDEA are provided at no cost to the parents.

**FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS NOTIFICATION**
Bryant Public Schools abides by all federal non-discriminatory laws.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
- Civil Rights section 0
- Policy 4.11- Equal Educational Opportunity

**PARENT NOTIFICATION**
All of our schools use the Blackboard MyConnect parent notification system to send
automated phone calls, e-mail messages and SMS text messages to parents/guardians of students currently enrolled in our district.

**IMPORTANT:** The contact information provided at the beginning of the school year is used in this system. Contact your child’s school office at any time during the year to update your information.

**SCHOOL CRISIS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Each school is required to develop and maintain a handbook of emergency policies and procedures to help protect and sustain life of students and staff and prevent and/or minimize personal injury and/or damage to school facilities.

Bryant Public Schools has the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

When an emergency has occurred at school, parents and guardians may obtain critical information through one of the following:

1. By electronic notification through email, phone, or text
2. On local television stations
3. On the Bryant School District website (bryantschools.org)
4. On Bryant School District social media channels (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)

**SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

The Bryant School District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
**Policy 4.32 – Search, Seizure, and Interrogations**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Bryant School District is committed to having an academic environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
**Policy 4.27 – Student Sexual Harassment**

**TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The use of tobacco, intoxicants, or drugs in any form, including vapes, by students or adults on any school property/building owned and operated by the Bryant School District is prohibited. Students shall not be in possession of tobacco or tobacco products on school property.

To view the policy in its entirety, please see Appendix:
Policy 4.23 - Tobacco and Tobacco Products

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The use of drugs and alcohol by students or adults on any school property/building owned and operated by the Bryant School District is prohibited. Students shall not be in possession of drugs or alcohol on school property.

To view this policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.24 – Drugs and Alcohol

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER STUDENT MONITORING

Bryant Public Schools has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras at school and on school buses.

To view this policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.48 – Video Surveillance and Other Student Monitoring

DRUG POLICY

A student shall not (a) sell or distribute legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, and/or look-alike drugs, (b) purchase, use, possess, or be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, narcotics, hallucinogens, and/or illegal drugs, or (c) misuse over-the-counter or prescription medications.

Any student who sells or distributes drugs (legal or illegal), look-alike drugs (items represented as controlled substances), or alcoholic beverages at school or at any school sponsored activity on or off campus will be disciplined under the “Management for Discipline Problems” section of this handbook.

A student shall not purchase, use, or possess rolling paper, roach clips, pipes, or any other drug paraphernalia, or be under the influence of look-alike drugs.

Any student, who uses, possesses, purchases, or is under the influence of illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, alcohol, or hallucinates at school or at school sponsored activity on or off campus will be disciplined under the “Management for Discipline Problems” section of this handbook.

The law enforcement agency will be notified of any criminal activity with full cooperation from school officials.

DRUG TESTING/CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY

The Bryant School District recognizes that chemical abuse or misuse is a significant health problem for students, detrimentally affecting overall health, behavior, learning ability, reflexes, and the total development of each individual. Chemical abuse or misuse includes, but is not limited to, the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and the abuse or misuse of legal drugs and medications.

PURPOSE OF A CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY:

1. To allow the student participants involved in extracurricular activities
representing Bryant schools to know that we are concerned about their total well being. We are not interested in prosecuting the students; instead, we are interested in helping the student who has a problem.

2. To emphasize concerns for the health of students in areas of safety while participating in activities and the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on their health.

3. To confirm and support state laws that restrain the use of such mood-altering chemicals.

4. To assist students representing Bryant Schools in extracurricular activities who are abusing or misusing chemical substances.

5. To assist students representing Bryant Schools in extracurricular activities who desire to resist peer pressure that directs them toward the abuse or misuse of chemical substances.

6. To establish a standard of conduct for students representing Bryant Schools in extracurricular activities who are considered leaders and standard bearers among their peers.

7. To work with the parents to assist in keeping their children free from mood-altering chemicals.

8. To assist students who should be referred for assistance or evaluation regarding their use of mood-altering chemicals.

9. To deter chemical abuse or misuse by students in extracurricular activities through the use of random drug testing.

10. Extracurricular activities are defined as those areas of instruction or student activity not falling within the scope of what would be considered the “regular” or “core” curriculum. These areas include (but are not limited to) the following: sports/athletics, band, choir, clubs/organizations, quiz bowl, etc.

SCOPE

The reasonable suspicion provisions of this Policy apply to all students representing Bryant Schools in the grades 7-12. The random testing provisions of the Policy apply to all students representing Bryant Schools. Bryant School representatives include all students who represent Bryant Schools during or after the school day. These representatives must obtain a consent form from their custodial parent/legal guardian as a condition of participation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Illegal Drugs—Illegal drugs are defined as drugs, or the synthetic or generic equivalent or derivative of drugs, which are illegal under federal, state or local laws including, but not limited to, marijuana, heroin, hashish, cocaine, hallucinogens, depressants, and stimulants not prescribed for any other drug-like substance, the use, possession or sale of which is unlawful. Illegal drugs include steroids and its derivatives or related substances, which are not used in a manner prescribed for the student by a physician.

Alcohol—is defined as ethyl alcohol or any beverage containing ethyl alcohol.

Prescribed Medications—Prescribed medication is defined as any drug or medication prescribed by a physician for uses authorized by the physician.

REASONABLE SUSPICION PROVISIONS

General
The use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol by a student on property under the control of the District or prior to entering property controlled by the District or at a District-sponsored event where the illegal drug or alcohol has the possibility of impairing the student is a violation of the student handbook rules.

- A student in possession, purchasing or buying, or under the influence of a chemical substance will be dealt with according to the management for student discipline section of the student handbook.
- “Under the influence of a chemical substance” is defined as being controlled by or affected by a chemical substance, which causes a student to be visually exhibiting physical manifestations, abnormal physical behavior, diminished motor skills, etc. Elevated blood pressure, erratic heart rate, slow pupil reaction, etc., may be evaluated by a licensed medical professional.

**Reasonable Suspicion**

A reasonable suspicion is a reasonable determination by an administrator or other District employee that:

1. A student has used, possessed, or sold illegal drugs on District property; or
2. A student has used illegal drugs off District property but is on District property or a District-sponsored event while under the influence of the illegal drugs; or
3. Student has used or possessed alcohol off District property but is on District property or at a District-sponsored event while under the influence of alcohol; or
4. Student is abusing or misusing prescription medications on District property; or
5. A student has misused a prescription medication off District property but is on District property or at a District-sponsored event while under the influence of the prescribed medication. Examples of reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to:

- Eyewitness evidence by a District official, administrator, or employee; Eyewitness evidence of another person plus additional evidence;
- Individualized suspicion by an employee of the District, which is based upon a reasonable determination and/or reasonably reliable evidence.
- Under the influence of a chemical substance is defined as being controlled by or affected by a chemical substance, which causes a student to exhibit physical manifestations, abnormal physical behavior, diminished motor skills, etc. Elevated blood pressure, erratic heart rate, slow pupil reaction, etc. may be evaluated by a licensed medical professional.
- “In the possession of a chemical substance” is defined as having any chemical substance on or about one’s person or personal property.

**Random Testing Provisions**

The use or possession of illegal drugs during school activities or prior to school activities where the illegal drug has the possibility of impairing the participant is a violation of this policy.

- Any student undergoing medical treatment prescribed by a physician that includes the use of any drug or medication capable of affecting the student’s mental or physical capabilities must notify the appropriate coach/sponsor or administrator.
• A student’s failure to notify the appropriate coach/sponsor or administrator that the student is undergoing medical treatment, which includes the use of any drug or medication capable of affecting the student’s mental and physical abilities, is a violation of this policy. The penalty for this violation shall be the same as an initial positive test result under the random testing provisions.

**Procedure**

• **Type of Testing**—Urinalysis is the method utilized to test for the presence of chemicals in the body.

• **Selection Process**—When students are participating in school activities, including practice and scheduled events they will be subject to a drug test chosen either by random selection or because of reasonable suspicion (which is defined in section 786.4 of district policies) that the student may be violating the district drug policy. The students will supply their coach/sponsor with a student identification number when they become a member of the group. The student identification number will be sent to a designated medical laboratory representing the group in which the student is a member. The laboratory will generate a random selection of the ID numbers according to the percentage that the school requires for that period of testing. If a student is absent on the day of the test or is unable to provide a specimen it will be his/her responsibility to give a urine sample to the designated location within 48 hours of the original test date. If a student’s number has been randomly selected three times during the random selection process, then the next number of the coaches/sponsors list will be asked to give a urine sample.

• **Refusal to Submit to Random Drug Testing**—Any participant who refuses to submit to a drug test or participates in the falsification of a submitted specimen shall not be allowed to participate in any school activity for one (1) calendar year.

• **Use of Positive Tests**—Upon receipt of a positive test result, a student may request a retest at his/her expense. The student must request the retest within 24 hours of the receipt of the positive result. The retest must be performed from the original sample by another SAMHSA certified laboratory. If the results are confirmed as positive, the student will be placed on probation for 20 school days. The student will not be allowed to participate until he/she receives a negative test for chemicals.

**If the result of the laboratory re-test is positive, the student shall be considered to have had a positive result. If the laboratory test is negative for the suspected substance or substances, the student shall be considered to have had a negative result.**

1. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the student and the student’s custodial parents/legal guardians.
2. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall schedule a conference with the student’s custodial parents/legal guardians to explain the results.
3. The student must get a drug and alcohol assessment by a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor within the 20 school day probationary period or the probationary period will be extended until the assessment is completed. The assessment will involve an interview with the student and the parents. During the interview the counselor will look at the history of chemical use as well as other signs and symptoms to determine the next step.
4. The student will be placed on probation for twenty school days. The word probation
means that a student is not permitted to practice and is not allowed to represent the school in public competition or performances, travel with the activity group, or to accompany the activity group in any fashion at a public event. After twenty-one school days the student will be tested again at the student’s own expense and a written copy of the results will be given to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If this test is negative, probation will be lifted. If the twenty-one day retest is positive, the student will not be allowed to continue in school activities for one (1) calendar year. He or she cannot participate in any activity representing the Bryant Schools. To regain eligibility for participation purposes for the next calendar year, a student must have a negative chemical screening test. This must be administered by the doctor’s office at the student’s expense.

5. For those students who test positive, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the appropriate coach/sponsor that the student shall be on probation for twenty-one school days. Exception: Steroids or similar chemicals that could take more than twenty school days to leave a student’s system. In this case a doctor’s written opinion is requested at the student’s expense.

6. This policy is for all students representing Bryant Schools entering into grade 7 through grade 12.

**Analysis of Urine Specimens**

- All testing of urine specimens will be done in compliance with applicable current federal guidelines as written by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health Services. All testing will be administered using a Rapid 9 panel Drug Screen Cup (amp, coc, meth, opi, thc,bar, bzo, pcp, mtd) and any initial “non negative” specimens will be sent to Global Lab Solutions for a MRO review with the student and their Parent/Guardian.

- All test results from the laboratory shall be communicated to the Superintendent or his/her designee. To ensure proper testing procedures, United States Department of Health and Human Services Standards as defined by NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) certified laboratories will be followed. All Chemical Screening Tests shall be performed by a medical laboratory that is designated by the district.

- **Consent** - All students who desire to participate in activities will be required to sign a form consenting to the testing. The form must be co-signed by the student’s custodial parent/legal guardian. No student shall be allowed to participate in any activity until both student and custodial parent/legal guardian have signed the consent form and returned to the principal’s office.

- **Cost of Chemical Testing** - The district will pay the random selection testing. Any second test or test requested by the parent will be at the parent’s own expense.

**ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS**

Under federal law, we are required to provide annual notification to parents, students, and staff members about asbestos in school buildings and the district procedures being used to maintain it safely. While many schools/buildings in the district are asbestos-free, it can be found in several locations in the district.

A copy of the district Asbestos Management Plan can be found at each school, as well as in the District Maintenance Office. This plan gives the location of asbestos-containing materials at schools where it exists and the
methods/procedures being used to maintain it safely. Any questions concerning our asbestos plan can be directed to the District Maintenance Director at 501-847-5640.

HEALTH SERVICES

Our Health Services Department has a licensed nurse supervising medical care in every school to assist you in meeting the health needs of your child.

Medical & Information Card (HIPAA/FERPA)
A Medical & Information Card must be completed annually and updated as needed by the parent or guardian. It is important for the parent to bring to the nurse’s attention any medical concerns either physical or emotional. The nurse may need to share this information to ensure the safety and welfare of your child, but also to possibly modify activities if needed.

Parent Contact
A parent/legal guardian will be notified by either email, phone call, text or yellow portion of the Health Room Assessment Form which will be given to the student to take home. Any communication from parent to nurse outside of school hours will be addressed the following school day. Some minor needs such as: lost tooth box or replacement of band aids may not require parent contact.

Chronic Illness/Individual Health Care Plan
Contact your school nurse if your student has a diagnosis of Asthma, Diabetes, Seizures, Anaphylaxis, or any other medically diagnosed health condition. An Individual Health Care Plan will need to be developed and kept on file. Check with your school nurse to see if your student’s condition qualifies for this.

In order to receive care, all medications, medical treatments, and procedures must have a signed-written medical order from an Arkansas licensed medical provider. These are valid for one year from the signature date.

Acute Illness
If a student develops a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above, is vomiting, and/or has diarrhea, the school nurse or nurse delegate will notify parents to promptly (within the hour) remove the child from school.

Students should be symptom free for 24 hours, which is one entire school day from the day of dismissal, without requiring medication for fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other symptoms prior to returning to school. If the school nurse determines that a student is too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to the other students, the school nurse or designee will attempt to notify the parent or legal guardian for pick up. If a student is ill and should not participate in physical activities, a note is required from the parent. Continued physical limitations (3 days), will require a medical provider’s written excuse and kept on file. If a student requires dismissal from school due to an illness, and does not go through the nurse, the absence will not count as medically excused unless a medical provider note is obtained.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:
Policy 4.36 – Student Illness/Accident
Injured Students
The following procedures will be followed when students are injured:

- If, at any time, either in the school building or on the school campus a student is suspected of having serious injury the principal and/or other school personnel are directed to do what is expedient and safe for the injured student.
- The school nurse should be contacted immediately, during school hours, followed by a call notifying the parents/guardian and/or 911 if necessary.
- An injury/accident report shall be filed providing details of the nature of the accident. The school assumes no financial responsibility for treatment.
- Emergency Services will be contacted at the discretion of the school nurse or other designated school official.

Pass to See the School Nurse
Students needing to see the school nurse must get a Health Room Assessment Form completed by school staff. The nurse will give the student a pass to return to class.

Flu Shot Clinics
In conjunction with the Saline County Health Unit and according to the guideline set forth by the state of Arkansas, flu shot clinics are held at each school within the school district. This is on a voluntary basis and written parental permission is required to take part in this clinic.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

When your child is absent due to chicken pox (varicella), measles, influenza, pertussis, COVID, etc. the parent/guardian should call their school nurse with the information. Written documentation from a medical provider should accompany your child when they are cleared to return to school. The school nurse will inform the Arkansas Department of Health of all cases that are reportable and will follow their protocol.

Head Lice
Students found with active head lice are to be excluded from school until appropriate proof is provided that the student has been adequately treated. The students will not be excluded from school because of nits in the hair. Decisions concerning head lice will be made by the school nurse. One (1) day excused absence will be allowed for the treatment of head lice. A parent should accompany the student to school to be readmitted. After more than two occurrences of head lice, a referral may be made to the school social service worker to contact the parent by phone call or personal visit to offer lice prevention training.

Policy 4.34 Communicable Disease and Parasites

HEALTH SCREENINGS
Health screenings are state mandated and listed below:
**Hearing and Vision Screenings** are provided as required by Arkansas state law for students in grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, transfer students, and students by teacher or parent request. Parents will be notified if further examination by a doctor is indicated.

**Height and Weights** are assessed according to Arkansas state law to determine Body Mass Index (BMI). These results can be requested by the parent/guardian. Parents may submit a written request for their student(s) to be exempt from BMI screenings.

**Scoliosis** (curvature of the spine) screenings are required by Arkansas state law. Students are exempt from this screening only if written notification from a parent is received prior to screening. Parents will be sent an informative letter stating the need to see a licensed physician if their student fails the screening.

To review additional screening requirements, please click on the links below:

- **Policy 4.41 – Physical Examinations or Screenings**
- **Policy 4.41F – Objection to Physical Examinations or Screenings**
- **Parent/Guardian Objection to Health Screenings and/or Medicaid Billing**

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

In order for a student to attend school, the following immunization guidelines must be followed. Failure to meet these requirements will result in your child's exclusion from school according to Arkansas State Law.

Periodically, statewide changes are made to the immunization requirements and additional immunizations may be necessary. When this occurs, the Bryant School District will notify parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten - 12th Grade</td>
<td>DTap/DT /Td</td>
<td>4 doses - with 1 on/after 4th birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>3 doses - with 1 on/after 4th birthday, 6 months between last two doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>2 doses - dose 1 on/after 1st birthday and dose 2 at least 28 days after dose 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3 doses - allowance for 2 dose schedule with specified age and spacing - see law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>2 doses - dose 1 on/after 1st birthday and dose 2 at least 28 days after dose 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students meeting the age or grade level criteria below are required to have the following additional immunizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten and 1st Grade</td>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>1 dose on/after 1st birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 11 or older on/before September 1st</td>
<td>Tdap</td>
<td>1 dose - any student 11-21 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meningococcal 1st dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Secondary Handbook 2023-24**

| Age 16 on/before September 1st | Meningococcal | 2nd dose - at least 8 weeks after 1st does OR 1st dose - if missed 7th grade dose |

**Immunization Exemption in the State of Arkansas:**
Parents may obtain information from the Arkansas Department of Health at https://onlineimmunizationexemption.adh.arkansas.gov or call (501)661-2000

To view full policy for immunization requirements, please click on the link below:

*Policy 4.57 – Immunizations*

**FOOD ALLERGIES**
A doctor’s note is required to be on file with the school nurse stating the student’s allergies to any food item before a food substitution can be made.

**MEDICATIONS**
School nurses are not permitted to diagnose medical conditions or prescribe medications, including over-the-counter medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc.). All actions by school nurses shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice act and the rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. To the extent that this policy is in conflict with federal or state laws or regulations the federal or state laws or regulations shall control.

*Policy 4.35 – Student Medications*

To view all health services policies in their entirety, please click on the links below:

*Policy 4.34 – Communicable Diseases and Parasites*
*Policy 4.35 – Student Medications*
*Policy 4.36 – Student Illness/Accident*
*Policy 4.41 – Physical Examinations or Screenings*
*Policy 4.41F – Objection to Physical Examinations or Screenings*
*Policy 4.57 – Immunizations*

**CELL PHONE AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES**
Students may bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school to use according to the following policies:

1. Cell phones and other devices must be kept on silent and stored out of sight during the school day.
2. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices to photograph, live stream, audio record, or video record other students or employees is forbidden and could result in consequences up to and including expulsion from school. The exception to this would be when photographs or videos are being made by students for instructional purposes by permission of and under the supervision of the student’s teacher.
3. Students violating this policy will be subject to having their device confiscated in addition to other consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion.
BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STOLEN, LOST, OR DESTROYED CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, OR ACCESSORIES. Arkansas law prohibits all drivers from using hand held cell phones in school zones at any time. This also prohibits all drivers from text messaging while in school zones.

No person may use any cell phone or electronic device to live stream (or otherwise transmit), photograph, audio record, or video record the words, likeness, image or actions of any other person on school grounds during school hours unless such activities are approved in advance by the teacher, school principal or a Bryant School District administrator. This policy does not apply to a parent, guardian, or family member who photographs or records their own child, ward, or family member during a public, school-sponsored event.

For more information on the use of cell phones and other communication devices, click below:
Policy 4.15 – Contact with Students While at School
Policy 4.18 – Prohibited Conduct
Policy 4.47 – Possession and Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices
Policy 6.5 – Visitors to the Schools

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
The school requires immediate notification of change of address, email, and/or telephone numbers so that the parent can be notified in case of an emergency.

CLOSED CAMPUS
After you arrive on campus in the mornings, you are not to leave the campus under any circumstances unless you have checked out through the office. If you ride a bus, you are not to leave after arriving.

If you drive on campus, you are not to leave after arriving. Neither are you to get into a vehicle with a friend and leave. Students are also reminded not to leave campus to go to a friend’s car.

CONDUCT AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC EVENTS
1. Students will be expected to conduct themselves at school activities in the same manner as during school hours.
2. Any action by the student, which draws attention away from said event, will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to the following items: obscene or rude language, remarks, cheers, and actions that are directed toward any active participants, coaches, or officials.
3. Signs or any other paraphernalia unless cleared with the administration and athletic director are forbidden at school activities. Bryant School officials have the responsibility and authority to determine inappropriate behavior.
4. The same disciplinary action will be taken for misconduct at school activities as would apply during school hours. Misbehavior may result in the dismissal from all school activities for the remainder of the school year.
ATHLETIC EVENTS

The following rules apply to all athletic events:

1. No one will be permitted to stand along the sidelines/court except those who are serving in an official capacity. This includes players, managers, cheerleaders, and others whom the coach may deem necessary.
2. It is expected that people are attending games for the purpose of observing the games.
3. Therefore, youngsters will not be allowed to play in any areas on or near the football field/gym floor.
4. No re-admittance will be allowed.
5. Passes may be used only one time for admittance to each game.
6. Musical instruments or noisemakers are not permitted except for organized bands.
7. The host school may display stationery banners that are not controversial or derogatory. Hand-held banners are not allowed.
8. Students who dress in an unusual manner or paint their faces will not be allowed to attend the activity. Bryant School District administrators may grant exceptions to this prohibition for themed events.
9. Any derogatory chants or calls (Hog Call, etc.) made to the opponent’s players, cheerleaders, drill team members, or fans is a display of poor sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. Actions such as turning backs when the other team is introduced and holding up newspapers during introductions will not be tolerated.
10. Students should win with character and lose with dignity.

Any Bryant student behaving inappropriate at home or away games is subject to disciplinary consequences.

DRESS CODE

In order to enhance high standards in our schools, we must encourage neatness, cleanliness, and decency in personal dress and appearance of all students and school personnel. In view of this, all students will be expected to be dressed and groomed as to present a respectable image in keeping with current style and good taste.

Dress and appearance must not present health and safety hazards or cause disruption of the educational process. When dress and grooming substantially disrupt the learning process for the individual student or other students or disrupts the learning climate of the school, it becomes subject to disciplinary action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirts</td>
<td>● Must have sleeves at least 2 inches wide or the width of 3 fingers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Prohibited Shirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Open back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Halter tops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Mesh tops, sheer blouses, see through material (unless an acceptable undergarment coverage meets dress code bras &amp; sports bras must not be exposed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Muscle shirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Rules for body exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Students may not wear any garment that exposes the body between the shoulder and four (4) inches above the knee (including front, side and back).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ No cleavage or breast exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ No revealing midriff (even when arms are raised)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ No open sides or open back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pants, shorts
- Spandex and Lycra shorts, tight fitting cotton shorts, leggings, jeggings, and yoga pants may be worn only with a longer shirt that provides front and back coverage.
- Legging, jeggings, or yoga pants with mesh or sheer fabric, 4 inches above the knee, will not be allowed.
- Top of the waistband must be no lower than the top of the hipbone, no sagging pants, undergarments must not be exposed.

### Skirts, dresses
- 4 inches above the knee not allowed
- Dresses must have sleeves at least 2 inches wide or the width of 3 fingers.
- Dresses must not be open backed or show cleavage.

### Loungewear
- Pajamas, blankets, and house shoes may not be worn/used without administrative approval.

### Offensive clothing
- No clothing, hats, backpacks, personal items, or jewelry:
  - Display emblems, insignias, badges or other symbols if the message is intended to mock, ridicule, or otherwise demean or provoke others because of race, religion, national origin, or other individual views.
  - Advertises drugs, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco, violence, hate themes, gang affiliation, obscenities or presents double messages or negative connotations may not be worn.
  - Inflict physical injury to another person or deemed as a weapon
  - With the exception of earrings and a nose stud, no visible body piercings will be allowed.

### Other
- Halloween-type outfits (wigs, costumes, masks, face paint, etc.) may not be worn without administrative approval.
- Students are to wear PE clothing only in PE class.
- No trench coats
- Hats or hood are not allowed on campus.
- No long belts, spiked accessories, sunglasses, bandanas, or chains
- No tattoos displaying defamatory writing, racist, obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, marijuana, or alcohol
- No bare feet in the interest of safety and hygiene. (Health Code violation)
- No shoes with rollers (heelys).
- Students are not to write/mark on their bodies or clothing or the bodies or clothing of others.
- Personal grooming items (make-up, perfume/cologne, combs, etc.) are not to be used during class time, in the cafeteria, or in the hallway.

Students who do not comply with these guidelines will receive appropriate disciplinary action. Since styles, fashions, and fads change, the administration may make decisions regarding other modes of dress that are considered inappropriate. If a student’s teacher is concerned with a possible violation of the previous guidelines, this concern must be expressed to the appropriate administrator. The student will then be called in for consultation and possible disciplinary action.

Final decision of wearing apparel will be at the discretion of the administration. Exceptions to the above rules and regulations may be approved for special occasions by the administration.

### DRIVING PERMIT APPLICATION

Every application for an instructional permit license shall be made upon a form found in the principal’s or counselor’s office. To get an Instructional Permit for License the student must:

1. Be 14 years old.
2. Be enrolled and be in regular attendance, and have at least a 2.0 grade point average for the previous semester.
3. “Regular Attendance” is defined as being in compliance with the established written policy of the school concerning truancy. A term is an official grading period and is when the Bryant School District records
grades on the student’s permanent transcript.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Board formulates and adopts policies to achieve the District’s vision and elects a Superintendent to implement its policies. The administrative functions of the District are delegated to the Superintendent who is responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the District. Individuals with comments concerning personnel, curriculum, discipline (including specific discipline policies), coaching, or the day to day management of the schools need to address those complaints according to the following sequence:

- Teacher, coach, or other staff member against whom the concern is directed
- Assistant Principal/Principal
- Deputy Superintendent
- Superintendent

Other than in the few instances where statutorily allowed or required, student discipline and personnel matters may not be discussed in Board meetings. Individuals with concerns regarding such matters need to follow the sequence outlined above.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students assume sole responsibility for loss or damage to any personal belongings such as garments, equipment, books, cell phones, electronic devices, etc. The school will, in every way possible, endeavor to protect all personal properties, but the school is not liable for any losses. Large sums of money and jewelry of either real or keepsake value should not be brought to school. In case of emergency, money and valuables should be brought to the office for safekeeping.

PROHIBITED CLUBS, GANGS, FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS

Students shall not participate in secret societies and organizations of any kind while on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or while on the way to or from school. Gangs, hate groups, cults, or similar groups, whether organized in the community or in other settings, are prohibited on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity. Students found in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.26 – Gangs, Secret Societies, or Similar Groups

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)

School Resource Officers will be in use throughout the district to provide additional security and to serve as an instructional resource to our students. While the role of SROs is not to enforce student discipline policies, they do have the authority to enforce existing laws and may assist school administrators when needed to help maintain a safe school environment.

VISITOR POLICY

All visitors must check in at the principal’s office and obtain a “Visitor’s Pass.”
ATTENDANCE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR GRADES 6–12

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Definitions:
- “Reside” means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.
- “Resident” means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.
- “Residential address” means the physical location where the student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a legal guardian, person having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The full policy concerning student residency may be found in the Appendix:
Policy 4.1 – Residence Requirements

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the District and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parents or guardians for school attendance purposes. In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District’s schools separate and apart from his or her parents, guardians, or other persons having lawful control of him or her under an order of a court, the person must actually reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance. However, a student previously enrolled in the district who is placed under the legal guardianship of a non-custodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools.

A child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education co-op to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and his/her child or ward reside outside the district.

A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Every parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through
seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy, within
the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions:

- The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
- The child is being homeschooled and the conditions of policy have been met.
- The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school
  year and the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the
  child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver
  form prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education must be signed
  and on file with the District administrative office.
- The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined
  by the State Board of Education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary
  vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or
  four-year institution of higher education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to
  enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201(b).
- If any student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with
  this policy, the requirements of the student’s IEP or 504 Plan take
  precedence.

ABSENCES

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the
absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement
to the principal or designee upon his/her return to school. All documentation for excused
absences must be submitted within five (5) days of returning to school.

- Student illness (note from medical professional required)
- Death or serious illness in their immediate family
- Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student’s faith;
- Attendance at an appointment with a government agency
- Attendance at a medical appointment
- Attendance due to pregnancy (prenatal and postnatal medical care) or medical/illness
  of a child whose parent is enrolled in the district, and reasonable amount of time to
  accommodate a lactating student’s need to express breastmilk
- Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal; or Participation in an FFA, FCCLA, FHA,
  or 4-H sanctioned activity;
- Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students, or voting with parent.
- Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member
  of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned
  from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional
  excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
- Absences granted, at the Superintendent or designee’s discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old
  students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic
  combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).
- Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered
  on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day
  the student is serving as a page.
- Absences for students excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during
  a disease outbreak because the student has an immunization waiver or whose
  immunizations are not up to date.
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences not defined above shall be considered as unexcused absences. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

- Notification shall be made for all absences by the automated phone system in the evening in which such absence occurred. It is the parents’ obligation to ensure the school office has all current phone numbers.
- When a student receives three (3) unexcused absences, his/her parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be notified through a mailed letter. It is the parents’ obligation to ensure the school office has a current mailing address.
- When a student receives five (5) unexcused absences, parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be contacted by the principal or his/her designee.
- When a student receives six (6) unexcused absences per semester, the school shall notify the parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis by certified mail. The letter will communicate that any additional unexcused absences will result in the school notifying the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and a possible loss of credit.
- When a student receives seven (7) unexcused absences per semester, the school shall notify the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. The parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis shall be contacted to schedule a meeting to determine appropriate actions. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) in which they have eight (8) unexcused absences.

At any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district’s administration for special arrangements to address the student’s unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement to include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement’s requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student’s parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.

Policy 4.7 Absences

DRIVER’S INFORMATION

The school shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student’s operator’s license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the code.

Applicants for an instruction permit or for a driver’s license by persons less than eighteen years old on October 1 of any year are required to provide proof of a high school diploma or enrollment and regular attendance in an adult education program or a public, private, or parochial school prior to receiving an instruction permit. To be issued a driver’s license, a student enrolled in school shall present proof of a “C” average for the previous semester or similar equivalent grading period for which grades are reported as part of the student’s permanent record.

Students classified as a Senior may be granted waivers from the mandatory attendance
requirement. Waivers granted require students to participate in an internship program.

POLICY FOR ADMITTANCE TO CLASS AFTER ABSENCE

When a student is absent from school, whether all day or partial, he/she must check in with office personnel. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure. Official documentation (medical, court, etc.) will become a part of the student’s attendance records and must be submitted within five school days after returning from the absence. The normal time allowed to makeup work will be one (1) day per absence.

CHECKING OUT POLICY

High School parents or guardians must send a note with the child, call, or come in person to check out a student. Students checking out must have a note from their parent(s). The note must include the date, time to be released, and a parent/guardian signature. A student may not use the phone to call and check out without the approval of the principal. Students may not check out during the lunch period unless a note is sent by a parent and then only on a very limited basis as deemed necessary by the principal. Leaving to get food is not considered a necessary reason.

Jr. High and Middle School parents or guardians are required to come to school to check students out.

ATTENDANCE SPECIFICATIONS

- **Senior/Junior College and Career Visit**: Two days are allowed to visit a college or job site as long as the student provides adequate documentation of the visit upon his/her return to school. Prior permission from the principal is required. Documentation must include: the date, the letterhead of the institution or company, the student’s name. No photocopied notes will be accepted. These visits are not considered absences and will not count against exemptions. Work missed because of these absences must be made up by the student.
- Days that students are suspended from school for disciplinary reasons will not be counted toward the days allowed before a truancy petition is filed.
- Students that are suspended will be allowed to make up their work during their suspension. Students are expected to attend school while serving a bus suspension. Absences that result solely from not being able to ride the bus to and from school will be considered as unexcused days.
- Students who are more than five (5) minutes late to class will be considered absent. Students leaving class five (5) or more minutes before class is over will be considered absent. Frequent check out of classes will not be permitted.
- Students participating in approved school trips or functions will not be considered absent.
- Upon written request from parents or guardians, students may make up work missed in classes while observing religious or specific holy days, which are not school related. Such absences, if approved by the principal or his/her designee in advance, will not result in loss of credit.
- Students who are absent during all or part of the day shall not participate in any school activity on that day or night without prior permission from the principal or assistant principal. Permission may be granted in extreme extenuating circumstances.
A referral to DHS for educational neglect shall be made and/or a truancy petition will be filed with the Saline County Juvenile Court for ALL STUDENTS with excessive absences or tardies. If excessive absences or tardies continue, a Families in Need of Services petition (FINS) could be filed.

- Parental Signature Cards will be required for all students and will be kept on file in the attendance office.
- When an absence or tardy exceeds the number of days allowed by policy, a parent must request a conference with the administration prior to the absence to determine if it will be excused or unexcused. Depending on the length of the leave and if the absence will be considered excused, homework may or may not be given to students in advance.
- The school administration has the right to verify the authenticity of medical notes if they appear suspicious or fraudulent.

TARDIES

Tardy shall be defined as a student not being in his/her classroom when the tardy bell begins to ring. A student who is more than ten (10) minutes late to school, or five (5) minutes late to a class without a valid excuse will be marked absent and will be dealt with under the Management for Discipline Problems section of this handbook. Excessive tardies could result in a truancy referral.
ACADEMIC POLICIES

SCHEDULING
Secondary students and parents will be given the opportunity to request courses for the next school year in Home Access Center (HAC). There will be a window of time set each year for students and parents to enter course requests. Students will be given a verification sheet which will show the courses that were requested. At that time, students will be given an opportunity to make any changes to their course requests. A parent signature will be required on each student’s verification sheet.

Middle school students and their parents will be given the opportunity to review/request courses for the next school year during Career Academic Planning (CAP) conferences.

Dates will be set each year for students to pick up class schedules. At that time, schedules should be checked for accuracy making sure that all classes needed for graduation have been scheduled. Some changes may need to take place at this time if conflicts occurred during the scheduling process.

Counselors will be available on schedule pick up days to discuss conflicts, errors, etc.

ADDING OR DROPPING CLASSES
If a schedule change is requested, students must obtain a schedule change form from the Counseling Center. A parent signature will be required before the change will be considered.

Students have four days at the beginning of the year to turn in a schedule change form for a change to be considered. Administrative approval is required for all AP course changes.

CAP (CAREER ACADEMIC PLANNING)
At Bryant Public Schools, we believe it is never too soon for students to start preparing for their future. We encourage students to make choices that will lead to academic success and career opportunities.

Parents play a critical role in their student’s education. As a partner in your student’s education, we support parents by providing tools and resources to guide your student toward becoming college and career ready.

Beginning in eighth grade, students will create their personalized Student Success Plan (SSP) in their career development class that will be used throughout high school. Later in this guide, we will share the essential components of the SSP.

Bryant educators are fully committed to helping all students find their career interest and utilize their plan to pursue their academic and career goals. This Career and Academic Planning (CAP) tool will provide a roadmap from sixth grade to graduation for your student. In this guide, you will discover numerous resources and QR codes linking you to helpful information along your student’s secondary journey.
Policy 4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

GRADING

Grades assigned to students for performance in a course shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed academic objectives of the course. Grades that reflect other educational objectives such as those contained in the learner outcomes and curriculum frameworks may also be given.

Bonus points shall NOT be given or denied for non-academic endeavors such as returning progress reports, providing classroom supplies, redemption of restroom passes, etc. Granting bonus points through such measures is considered grade inflation.

To view this policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 5.15 – Grading

HOMEWORK

The Bryant School District believes homework should be an integral part of the instructional program and a means by which students are provided extended time to master learning concepts and objectives.

To view the this policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 5.14 - Homework

PARENT /TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher communication is crucial to student success in school. Parents are strongly encouraged to make every effort possible to attend both parent/teacher conferences each year. If parents are unable to attend, they should contact all of their child's teachers by email or phone.

Additional information related to parent/teacher conferences may be found at the following links:
Policy 4.15 – Contact with Students While at School
Policy 6.5 – Visitors to the Schools

REMEDIATION and ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (AIP)

All students must participate in appropriate standardized state testing as established by the State Board of Education. Each student identified as not scoring at the proficient level or higher for the required grades and content on the state required assessment shall participate in a remediation program to address the specific needs of that child. School personnel in conjunction with parents shall develop an appropriate individualized academic improvement plan (AIP) for those identified students.

SECTION 504

Many students have conditions or disorders that are not readily apparent to others. They may include conditions such as specific learning disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy and allergies. Hidden
disabilities such as low vision, poor hearing, heart disease or chronic illness may not be obvious, but if they substantially limit that child’s ability to receive an appropriate education as defined by Section 504, they may be considered to have an “impairment” under Section 504 standards. Students with such conditions may qualify for a 504 plan with accommodations appropriate to their situation. Please see the school resource books for specific information regarding the 504 coordinator to obtain more information or assistance.

HONOR ROLL (Middle School Only)

An honor roll list will be published for each grading period. The honor roll will consist of students who earned grades of 80% percent or above (A’s and/or B’s) on report cards in all courses taken during the preceding grading period.

MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS

Students may make up missed work while participating in school functions or reasons listed in the Attendance Policy. It is the student’s responsibility to request and complete makeup assignments upon returning to school and to see that makeup work is done in the allowed time. Makeup days are equal to the number of days missed. If makeup work is not requested and submitted within five (5) days of returning from an absence, points may be adjusted accordingly.

Any major project or test assigned prior to an absence and due during the absence will be due the first day the student returns to school.

Assignments may be requested through the main office only after a student has missed three (3) consecutive days.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

In general, it shall be the policy of the district to allow students to progress according to their chronological age. This is not to be interpreted to mean a pupil shall be promoted solely on the basis that he/she is in a certain group or that poor or substandard work will be accepted. Decisions concerning promotion and retention shall be based on a student’s academic growth and achievement.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.55 – Student Promotion and Retention

TEXTBOOKS

Students may be issued textbooks, materials or equipment the first week of school/the semester. Students are responsible for keeping up with their materials at all times. At the conclusion of the school year, we will ask all students to return their book, materials, or equipment. Those students who do not return these materials will be charged a replacement fine equal to the cost of the books, material, or equipment. Even if the book, materials or equipment are used, students may be charged the original price. Fines may be assessed accordingly for damaged materials. Pricing information can be obtained from the office.

ARKANSAS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Arkansas Scholars program encourages academic achievement by high school students (grades 9 – 12). It begins with in-class presentations made to second term eighth graders by
local business leaders. Through a slide presentation and discussion, the students are told what businesses look for in employees, salaries for various jobs, and the importance of doing well in school.

The students are asked to set and to meet the following four goals for grades nine through twelve:

1. Make a “C” or above in all academic courses.
2. Achieve a 95% or better attendance record.
3. Complete the Smart Core Curriculum.
4. Complete high school in eight consecutive semesters.

Students who meet the above goals will be designated as official Arkansas Scholars and a seal will be placed on their high school diploma.

COURSE CATALOG
Please visit the website to view the high school course catalog in its entirety:
High School Course Catalog bryantschools.org/bhs

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS
High school students in grades 10-12 will be required to take comprehensive term exams on the dates specified by the principal. Students in middle school and the ninth grade will not participate in semester exams. Exams are to be administered at the specified times and will not be administered early. In order for a student to be eligible to make up a term exam, the student must have an excused absence verifying the reason for the absence. The principal and/or teacher will specify the day or days to make up all mid-term and term exams.

FIRST SEMESTER
All students may take semester exams for ALL courses in which they are enrolled. There are no exemption options available for the first semester.

SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTION

1. Students with an “A” average in a course are eligible for an exemption if the number of unexcused absences does not exceed four (4).
2. Students with a “B” average in a course are eligible for an exemption if the number of unexcused absences does not exceed three (3).
3. Students with a “C” average in a course are eligible for an exemption if the number of unexcused absences does not exceed two (2).

Additional Policies
1. All exemptions are monitored on a class-by-class basis and teachers will enter all semester test scores into the Teacher Access Center.
2. Only unexcused absences will count against students.
3. Students incurring in-school or out-of-school suspension will forfeit the exemption privilege.
4. Finals will count as 10% of a student’s overall term grade.
5. Any student qualifying for exemption may choose to take the final exam in order to better his/her overall grade. The exam score cannot lower the student’s overall grade.
6. A high school student that attends concurrent classes is a college student and must abide by the rules, regulations, and deadlines of that institution of higher education.
7. AP students who take an AP exam may be exempt from the semester exam in that class.

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

These programs offer advanced coursework to help prepare students for advanced secondary courses and post-secondary coursework at the college/university level. AP classes offer students the opportunity to earn college credit while attending high school through participating colleges/universities if they make a qualifying score on a content-knowledge exam. Students in these courses receive quality points (weighted credit) on a 5-point scale due to the more rigorous coursework and testing requirements that are associated with these programs. Teachers of AP courses must meet training requirements and must be recertified at least every 5 years to teach these courses. AP exams are given during May each year.

Advanced Placement courses will be weighted in the computation of class rank. These courses have A=5.00, B=4.00, C=3.00, D=2.00, and F=0.

A qualifying score (3+) now guarantees college credit to students in Arkansas (public institutions).

ADHE posted additional information about the AP Credit Policy, including a list of which course credits students can earn by each exam at the following link: [https://adhe.edu/institutions/advanced-placement-ap-policy](https://adhe.edu/institutions/advanced-placement-ap-policy).

For Advanced Placement students to earn the 5.0 grading scale, they must take the AP exam.

ARKANSAS CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

Students who score a 19 on the ACT or ACT equivalent and complete the FAFSA are eligible for the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship.

CLASS RANK

At the conclusion of the ninth grade, and at the end of each semester thereafter, Bryant High School students will be given a rank in class based on the cumulative grade point average of all classes taken ninth through twelfth grades, using the Arkansas Department of Education point system for regular classes and the honors point system for Advanced Placement classes.
GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND RANK-IN-CLASS PROCEDURE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Regular &amp; Advanced Classes</th>
<th>AP Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%- 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%- 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%- 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%- 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0%- 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS
A student will advance from one grade to the next in accordance with the completion of required courses and the earning of sufficient credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Credits required to be considered on-time by end of each grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE/CONCURRENT/DUAL CREDIT

Any Bryant student who has successfully completed the eighth grade and who enrolls in an institution of higher learning shall, upon successful completion of the course, have it count toward the required units for high school graduation. Three semester hours of college concurrent credit taken by a student in grades 9-12 shall be the equivalent of one unit of high school credit in the same subject area. For those concurrent credit/AP blended courses, additional college credit hours will be determined by the institution of higher education. The college course must meet standards associated with the course offered at Bryant High school which are approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Must be pre-approved by principal or designee.

1. Bryant High School students who are enrolled in a college course, which is held on BHS Campus, are to adhere to the BHS policies and procedures.
2. Concurrent credit courses will most likely be a course needed to meet graduation requirements; therefore loss of credit for the course may affect graduation. These college classes are based on a 4.0 grading scale.
3. A high school student that attends concurrent classes is a college student and must abide by the rules, regulations, and deadlines of the institute of higher education.

*Concurrent Credit*
bryantschools.org/bhs

CREDIT RECOVERY

Guidelines for Credit Recovery for Students at Bryant High School Main Campus
Credit Recovery should be the last option. Our students deserve the quality instruction that our teachers provide. Credit Recovery does not give our students the solid foundation that is required for success in the next educational level.

1. Priority for Credit Recovery during the school day will be given to seniors.
2. For juniors and sophomores: Every attempt will be made toward re-enrollment in the course that was failed. This will be based on availability. If the class is unavailable, students will have the option to enroll in summer school.
3. A student may only retake a course in which they received a 59% or less.
4. In the instance of credit recovery, the original course grade will be FR (Failed but Recovered). Each attempt of the course will be listed on the transcript, and factored into the GPA for students in 9-12 grades.

DELAYED GRADUATION

Students who will reach 20 years of age prior to October 1 may establish eligibility for graduation in the previous academic year by meeting state requirements for high school graduation. Students meeting this criteria may reduce “Total Credits” to 22 by reducing “Electives”.

SMART CORE

SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are 18 years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate.

While Smart Core is the default option, both a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh grade, or when a 7-12 grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student’s permanent record.

Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the students’ permanent records. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades 6-12 and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy.

Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

To view policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.45 – Smart Core Curriculum and Graduation Requirements
Bryant SMART Core Waiver form link
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIORS

A total of 23 credits are required to graduate.

To be considered an honor graduate, 25 credits are required.

Arkansas Law requires:

- all students must pass the Arkansas civics exam with a score of at least 60% in order to graduate. This requirement shall not apply to those students exempt by law.
- ½ unit of Financial Literacy is required.
- A seal will be affixed to transcripts and diplomas of the graduates who earned a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and complete the core curriculum.

Bryant High School Seniors, who are transferred to a state facility CYS, DYS, state hospital, etc), and entered their senior year with a minimum of 17 credits, can be granted a diploma from Bryant High School at the discretion of the principal provided the state facility provides appropriate documentation that the student has successfully fulfilled all graduation requirements.

Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable based on prior approval from administration and alignment of Arkansas state standards.

Early graduates will be allowed to participate in prom and the graduation ceremony.

THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATE PATHWAY TO GRADUATION

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), who have significant cognitive disabilities, can earn a high school diploma by utilizing the Arkansas Alternate Pathways per Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This pathway will be implemented this year for ninth graders, adding an additional grade each year with full implementation for grades nine through twelve in the 2022-23 school year.

Incoming freshmen with IEPs who are not participating in Smart Core must either meet the requirements for the core pathway or alternate pathway in order to graduate.

ADE Alternate Pathway to Graduation link

GRADUATION SPEAKERS

Bryant High School traditionally allows the graduating seniors with the top two GPAs to speak at graduation from the Distinguished High Honor Graduate classification beginning with the class of 2022. If ties occur, we allow all the tied students to speak provided the numbers are reasonable. In order to prevent students from being penalized for taking a larger number of credit courses, all seniors who have cumulative grade point averages exceeding 4.0 will have their GPA re-figured on the number of credits required for graduation (23). Any grade lower than an “A” must be included in the (23) credits and all Advanced Placement grades will be counted in the (23) credits. This re-figured CGPA will be used to assign class rank to all students above a 4.0, and the top two (2) CGPAs will speak and have the distinction of being named
Participation and Salutatorian.

Honor Graduates:

Distinguished High Honor Graduate:
- Completes all local requirements for Smart Core as defined by the State Board of Education and the Bryant Board of Education
- Maintains a grade point average of 4.0
- Completes two (2) courses of the same foreign language
- Completes a minimum of six (6) AP courses

High Honor Graduate:
- Completes all local requirements for Smart Core as defined by the State Board of Education and the Bryant Board of Education
- Maintains a grade point average of 3.75 or above
- Completes two (2) courses of the same foreign language
- Completes a minimum of four (4) AP courses

Honor Graduate:
- Completes all local requirements for Smart Core as defined by the State Board of Education and the Bryant Board of Education
- Maintains a grade point average of 3.5 or above
- Completes two (2) courses of the same foreign language
- Completes a minimum of three (3) AP courses

*Graduation speaker requirements will stay the same as listed in the handbook.
*Students with all A’s will be given a medallion at graduation.

Honor Graduates will be named as soon as the final ranking has been calculated.

Participation in Commencement
- Have completed ALL graduation requirements by the last day of school for seniors.
- Are in attendance in good standing at Bryant High School during the spring semester or completed requirements at the end of the fall semester
- Students who have met BHS graduation requirements and are in attendance in good standing at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Arkansas School for the Blind, or approved special education day school or day treatment center.
- Students who do not ride the bus to and from graduation practice will not be allowed to participate in graduation without prior approval from the principal.
- Seniors who are subject to disciplinary action that results in an expulsion from school are ineligible to participate in commencement.
- Seniors who are found to have violated policies at the end of semester or during graduation practice, may not be allowed to participate in commencement.
- Seniors who, in lieu of expulsion, are attending the Bryant Alternative Learning Center prior to and including the last day of attendance for seniors at Bryant High School are ordinarily ineligible to participate in commencement; provided,
however, that no later than five (5) days prior to commencement such seniors may make a request to the Superintendent to be allowed to participate in commencement. The decision of the superintendent on the request will be made in the Superintendent’s sole discretion after consideration of the student’s academic and disciplinary record as a student in the Bryant Public Schools.
DISCIPLINE POLICIES

DEFINITIONS OF CONSEQUENCES

1. **Detention Hall:** This program is intended to provide an alternative to suspensions and may be used only for minor offenses. Any high school student may be assigned to detention hall on THREE (3) SEPARATE OCCASIONS PER SEMESTER OR NO MORE THAN SIX (6) PER YEAR. The student will be suspended when he/she exceeds these limitations. Students placed in detention hall will be given a set of rules to follow. Failure to report to detention hall will result in insubordination, further discipline. There is no limit on the number of times a middle school student may be assigned to detention hall.

2. **Expulsion:** Prohibition of a student from entering the school or school grounds (except for a prearranged conference with an administrator) until the end of the semester, the end of the current school year, or permanently (depending upon the severity of the offense) with loss of academic credit. This action shall be taken by the Board of Education only. Students who attend ALE in lieu of expulsion will not be permitted to attend any school events without written permission from the building administrator.

3. **Suspended Expulsions:** In appropriate cases when a student may ordinarily be recommended for expulsion, the Superintendent of Schools may request that the Bryant School Board suspend a recommended expulsion contingent upon the student meeting certain written requirements. The suspended expulsion will be entirely voluntary on the part of the student, school administrator, Superintendent of Schools, parents/guardians of the student and the Bryant School Board. A student or student’s parent/guardian may decline to agree to the terms of the suspended expulsion, in which case the Bryant School Board will hold a hearing on the recommended expulsion. Any written requirements for the student to serve the suspended expulsion will be reduced to writing and signed by the student, school administrator, Superintendent of Schools, parents/guardians of the student and the Bryant School Board President. Any suspended expulsion must be approved in advance by the Bryant School Board. If the student fails to meet any written requirement of the suspended expulsion, the Bryant School Board may give the Superintendent of Schools the authority to immediately remove the suspended expulsion and expel the student without further hearing.

4. **In School Suspension (ISS):** ISS is a short-term alternative learning situation designed to allow students to stay in school. The class is held in a designated classroom **at a designated campus.** A school administrator assigns time in ISS in lieu of out-of-school suspension. Regular classroom assignments will be maintained and credit for work will be given. Students must follow all rules in ISS in order to get credit for the time served. If a parent/guardian checks a student out of school before the student completes ISS, the student will complete ISS upon return to school.

5. **Because ISS constitutes a suspension, students will be allowed on school campus only during regular school hours. Attendance at any extracurricular activities while serving in ISS is strictly forbidden. If a student is assigned to ISS more than four (4) times during a semester, consequences could result in out of school suspension. Absent good cause shown, a student who is absent from school during a term of ISS will receive unexcused absences for all such days missed and will be required to serve any remaining ISS upon the student’s return. Absent good cause shown, and at the discretion of the school administrator, parents and guardians will be responsible for transporting their children/wards to and from school during days of ISS.**
6. **Probation:** Students, in some instances, may be placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the year. Certain rules specify at what step a student will be placed on probation. When a student has been referred to the office five (5) or more multiple times during the school year OR has committed a major offense, the student may be placed on probation. Probation may result in the student being recommended for a change of placement and/or recommended for expulsion. Prior to being placed on probation, the student’s records and behavior will be analyzed. The student will be called to the office for a conference, and a probationary letter will be mailed or hand-delivered to the parents concerning the conduct of the student. If further violations of student discipline policies occur, the administration may recommend a change of placement and/or recommend the student’s expulsion for the remainder of the school year with no credit.

7. **Reasonable Force:** The minimum amount of force necessary to stop or restrain a student from conducting himself/herself in an inappropriate manner or in a manner which could cause physical injury to an individual.

8. **Reasonable Suspicion:** Reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or school rules.

9. **Saturday Alternative School (SAS):** SAS is supervised study conducted on Saturdays and will be considered as an alternative to out-of-school suspension. SAS will not be offered for violations regarding drugs, alcohol, weapons, or abuse of school employees. Each session of SAS will equal one day of out-of-school suspension. Saturday School sessions will held at designated campuses from 7:30am to 11:30am. Absent good cause shown, a student who is absent from required SAS will receive unexcused absences for the day missed and will be required to serve any remaining SAS upon the student’s return. Absent good cause shown, and at the discretion of the school administrator, parents and guardians will be responsible for transporting their children/wards to and from school during days of SAS.

10. **Suspension (Out of School):** Out of School suspensions prohibit a student from entering the school or school grounds (except for a prearranged conference with an administrator) for a period of time set by the principal of the school or the superintendent. Suspensions will not be longer than ten (10) days including the day on which the offense occurred. Suspension does not carry with it loss of credit for the semester, however, makeup work will be allowed and must be turned in within three (3) school days of the student’s return to class.

11. **Logical Consequences:** These are consequences created by a person in authority which are logically connected to the wrong. It is logical because it “fits” the offense. An example of this would be restitution (paying back what you owe). It is up to the administrator’s discretion to determine whether or not logical consequences may be substituted for a specified offense in the handbook.

12. **Withdrawal of Student Privileges:** Any activity that is deemed as a privilege to attend, not a school requirement. A few examples include, but not limited to include: graduation ceremony, prom, school dances, attend athletic events, etc.

**DISCIPLINE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

In disciplining the disabled, it is necessary that due process procedures mandated by P.L. 94-142, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Arkansas laws be followed by school officials.

**DUE PROCESS**

Students have the responsibility to know and obey school rules, to express grievances in a polite and hospitable respectful manner, and to give parents correct information concerning misconduct. Principals and teachers have the responsibility to follow
board-established policies and procedures in disciplinary actions against involving students. Principals are responsible for notifying and conferring with parents and students in cases involving suspension and expulsion recommendations. Once notified by school personnel, parents have the responsibility to call principals for a conference when needed and to arrange with proper school authorities for desired student hearings. Students are entitled to due process when the disciplinary procedure involves suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS
The following activities are considered major infractions of proper conduct and will subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school, and/or notification of law enforcement officials. The violations of a rule occur whether the conduct takes place on the school grounds at any time, off the school grounds, at a school supervised activity, function, or event, or en route to and from school. All disciplinary action taken because of rule violations begins with the first day of school and carries throughout the entire school year. The administration may exercise more extreme action in severe situations or in situations, which a student has been involved in other rule infractions. The administration reserves the right to prescribe different disciplinary action if needed. Disciplinary action taken at the end of the school year may require that the student’s consequences be completed after the last day of school. Any violation of Bryant School Board Policies may subject a student to discipline, up to, and including, expulsion.

MANAGEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Infraction</th>
<th>MINIMUM CONSEQUENCE</th>
<th>MAXIMUM CONSEQUENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Possession of a firearm, explosive, pistol, air gun, pellet gun, etc. Firearm means any device designed to expel a projectile by action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use, including such a device that is not loaded or lacks a clip to render it immediately operable. Any student who brings a firearm, airgun, pellet gun, or other weapon (or look-alike weapon) prohibited upon school campuses by law will be referred to the local criminal justice and/or juvenile delinquency system.</td>
<td>Recommended Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Possession of a weapon (or look-alike weapon), air gun, pellet gun, splat or orbeez gun, or instrument of crime that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual. Any student who brings a firearm, airgun, pellet gun, or other weapon (or look-alike weapon) prohibited upon school campuses by law will be referred to the local criminal justice and/or juvenile delinquency system. The superintendent has the discretion to modify the expulsion requirements for a student on a case-by-case basis.</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arson, bomb threat, inciting a riot, terroristic or death threat, threat with a weapon/gun, or cause a major safety disruption.</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Consequence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol – Selling, distributing an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, dab pens, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug to include any related drug paraphernalia. Prescription and nonprescription medications must be administered by the school nurse or designee.</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Physical Abuse, threat, or assault on a school employee</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sexual Assault: threats or use of force against another student/person</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Assault/Battery: threats or use of force towards another student to cause bodily harm.</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Verbal Abuse of a School Employee – Harassing, threatening, or inappropriate behavior directed toward any school employee. (profanely directed at staff)</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Refusal to be searched by an administrator or submit to a field sobriety test</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Disorderly conduct: no student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities</td>
<td>In-school suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol – Possession or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, dab pens, or the inappropriate use of prescription or over the counter drugs or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug to include any related drug paraphernalia. Prescription and nonprescription medications must be administered by the school nurse or designee.</td>
<td>Suspension Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sexual behavior, engaging in a sexual activity or performance of a sex act, including any unwanted and unwelcome physical behavior. Examples can include, but not limited to: petting, pinching, grabbing, indecent exposure, including but not limited to panty shots and scooping.</td>
<td>Suspension, Counseling Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Verbal sexual behavior, including any unwanted and unwelcome behavior. Examples can include, but not limited to: indecent gestures, sexual remarks, jokes, innuendoes, illustrations, cartoons, or making someone the target of sexual rumors.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Counseling Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pornography possession: Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically on a data storage device, in software, or in a hard copy image form.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Counseling Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Possession or use of fireworks, stink bombs, caps, paintballs, ammunition, poppers, etc. are not permitted on school property or at school sponsored events.</td>
<td>Parent Notification Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Consequence</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fighting: caused, attempted to cause, or threatened physical injury to another person. This includes inciting, challenging, or daring another student to fight. Unnecessary confrontation.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Multiple parties: fighting consisting of more than two people who are involved to cause, attempted to cause, or threatened physical injury to another person. This includes inciting, challenging, or daring another student to fight. Unnecessary confrontation.</td>
<td>Suspension, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Aiding and abetting a fight: failure to notify adults of an impending fight, sharing information about a fight, planning a fight, supporting a fight, etc. Witnesses who do not report the fight, get adult aide, seek intervention, and/or who stand around and video the fight.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bullying: involves intentional harassment, intimidation, threat toward an attribute of the person (including electronic-cyber acts) which cause or create physical harm, damage to property, interferes with education, hostile environment, or substantial disruption. Refer to the Bullying section and policy 4.43 of the student handbook.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Using racial slurs, written, electronic, or verbal</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Counseling Upon Return to School, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Gang related activities; (Use and/or drawing of gang signs, symbols, and paraphernalia.) Students will not participate in secret societies, organizations, gangs or similar groups, whether organized in the community or in other settings. These are prohibited on school grounds, any school sponsored activity, or while on the way to school. The following actions are prohibited by students: *Wearing or possessing clothing, bandanas, jewelry, symbol, or any other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang; *Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures, or handshakes representative of membership of a gang; *Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of a gang; *Extorting payment from an individual in return for protection from harm from any gang.</td>
<td>In-school suspension, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Consistent with School Board Policy 4.47, no student may use any electronic device to photograph, audio record, video record, or live stream (or otherwise transmit) the words, likeness, image or actions of any other person on school grounds or during school activity without permission. Refer to the Cell Phone and Other Communication Devices section and policy 4.47 of the Student Handbook.</td>
<td>Parent Notification, Expulsion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Absence Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Discipline Action</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Theft or willful destruction of school or personal property</td>
<td>Parent Notification; Restitution</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Intentionally missing class or not being present where one is supposed to be, or not going directly to class without reason or permission. Examples include, but are not limited to: attending the wrong lunch; presence in a parking lot without permission; not returning to class following travel time, leaving class without permission, leaving or returning to campus with or without a parent without signing in/out at the office, etc.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>In-school suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Unauthorized accessing, attempting to access, misuse of, or sending computer files, electronic accounts, email, social media, and software/platforms.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Use or possession of tobacco, including any tobacco or nicotine delivery system, vape, or product. Possession of smoking paraphernalia. Smoking paraphernalia includes without limitation matches, cigarette lighters, etc.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating a willful and intentional refusal to obey.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Verbal harassment, profanity, vulgar and/or insulting language, name calling, intimidation, etc.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Any disruption that interferes with normal school activity. Examples include, but are not limited to: horseplay, gambling, throwing of objects, unsafe driving.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Academic Dishonesty. Examples include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including artificial intelligence (AI) generated material), duplication or falsification of school records, or academic misconduct.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Students who are excessively late to class</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>In-school suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The selling/purchasing or exchanging of items not sponsored by the Bryant School District is prohibited.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Dress code violation: student will not be allowed back to class until the clothing is appropriate.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>See the Unexcused Absences section of the handbook. *3 unexcused absence: written notification to parent/guardian *5 unexcused absences: administration notification to parent/guardian *6 unexcused absences: certified letter notification to parent/guardian *7 unexcused absences: Office of the Prosecuting Attorney notified, possible loss of credit, meeting scheduled *8 unexcused absences: Possible loss of credit</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>In-school suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Violation of bus rules and procedures: All rules that are followed at school are also to be followed on the school bus and/or at the school bus stop. If a child breaks any rule(s) the violation(s) will be reported to the school administrator who will then follow the school’s student handbook. This violation will also count as one of the 4 bus discipline steps before a student is denied bus-riding privileges for the semester or year. Riding a bus while suspended will result in the suspension being doubled.</td>
<td>Parent Notification</td>
<td>In-school suspension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The school district reserves the right to punish behavior that is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules. The minimum will be a verbal reprimand and the maximum will be an expulsion recommendation. The building level administrator may choose withdrawal of student privileges and/or a more severe penalty at any time based on a student’s past disciplinary record or may reduce disciplinary sanctions when warranted.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The Bryant School District recognizes that all students have certain rights and responsibilities, and that these rights and responsibilities should be exercised within the framework of upholding the individual dignity of both students and other members of the education community.

To view the suspension and expulsion policies in their entirety, please click on the link below:
Policy 4.30 – Suspension from School
Policy 4.31 - Expulsion

PROBATION

Students, in some instances, may be placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the year. Certain rules specify at what step a student will be placed on probation. When a student has been referred to the office five (5) or more times during the school year OR has committed a major offense, the student may be placed on probation. Probation may result in the student being recommended for a change of placement and/or recommended for expulsion. Prior to being placed on probation, the student’s records and behavior will be analyzed. The student will be called to the office for a conference, and a probationary letter will be mailed or hand-delivered to the parents concerning the conduct of the student. If further violations of student discipline policies occur, the administration may recommend a change of placement and/or recommend the student’s expulsion for the remainder of the school year with no credit. The imposition of probation is entirely at the discretion of the administration or Bryant School Board.
INTERROGATIONS AND/OR REMOVAL FROM SCHOOL BY LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Students have the right to be advised of their rights, to know why they are being questioned, to remain silent, to know that anything he/she says may be held against him/her in court, for the interrogation to take place in the presence of an official school representative, and not to be removed from school unless he/she has been observed violating a law by a law enforcement officer and/or the official school representative is presented with a warrant or other order for arrest.

School administrators have the responsibility to notify parents of pending or past interrogations, to be present in the absence of parents during an interrogation and assure that the student is aware of his/her rights, and to notify parents immediately if the student is removed from the school by legal authority. (School administrators have the responsibility to initiate proceedings for removing students from the school by legal authorities when the student becomes uncontrollable and/or disruptive.)

Additional information may be found at the links below:
Policy 4.15 – Contact with Students While at School
Policy 4.32 – Search, Seizure, and Interrogations

WARNING: DO NOT BRING WEAPONS TO SCHOOL.
If you unintentionally bring a knife, gun (including air gun or pellet gun), or other weapon (or look-alike weapon) to school, turn it over to school officials immediately. If turned in immediately to a school official (if the weapon is not a firearm), school officials may waive disciplinary consequences depending on the circumstances involved.
Virtual Learning Addendum

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Virtual Arkansas is the digital provider for students who are enrolled in virtual learning. Virtual Arkansas and the Bryant School District will coordinate to provide structure and support for students. Students will be expected to participate in Zoom sessions, and other appropriate learning platforms for their specific course or grade level.

Virtual students will follow Bryant School District policies, handbooks, and procedures. Additionally, they will follow attendance, discipline, and grading policies in the Virtual Arkansas student handbook.

Board Policies

All policies can be found at bryantschools.org/policies.