

Brandywine Heights Elementary School

Student-Parent Handbook 2023-2024



Brandywine Heights Elementary School

445 W. Barkley St. ∞ Tipton, PA 19562 ∞ 610-682-5171

Brandywine Heights Area School District

200 West Weis Street ∞ Tipton, PA 19562 ∞ 610-682-5100

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General Elementary School Directory

Elementary School Office Staff

Ms. Stephanie Kelly	Principal	Ext. 4000
Mrs. Amy Adams	Administrative Asst. to the Principal	Ext. 4001
Mrs. Kiersty Fritch	Administrative Asst. to the Principal/Attendance Secretary	Ext. 4002

Guidance Office Staff

Mr. Douglas Felegy	School Counselor	Ext. 4003
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Health Room

Mrs. Jennifer Fodor	District School Nurse	Ext. 2020
Mrs. Susan Kristan	Elementary School Nurse	Ext. 4005
Mrs. Kimberly Unger	Elementary School Nurse	Ext. 4004

Elementary School Schedules

K-3 School Hours

- 8:30 – Students may enter building and proceed to cafeteria for breakfast
- 8:45 – Students may report to their class, students marked late at 8:45
- 3:25 – Students dismissed

Pre-K School Hours

- 8:45 – Students are dropped off at back entrance near small playground. Parents/guardians park behind the gym.
- 2:15 – Students dismissed to parents/guardians at back entrance near small playground. Parents/guardians park behind the gym.

Early Dismissal Schedule

The Brandywine Heights Area School District calendar for the 2023-2024 school year includes eleven early dismissal days for students. Elementary school students will be dismissed at 1:05 on seven of those days. The last student day is also the eighth early dismissal, however, student dismissal will occur at 11:35am (breakfast will be available, no lunches served). Pre-K Counts students will not dismiss early on any of the dates listed.

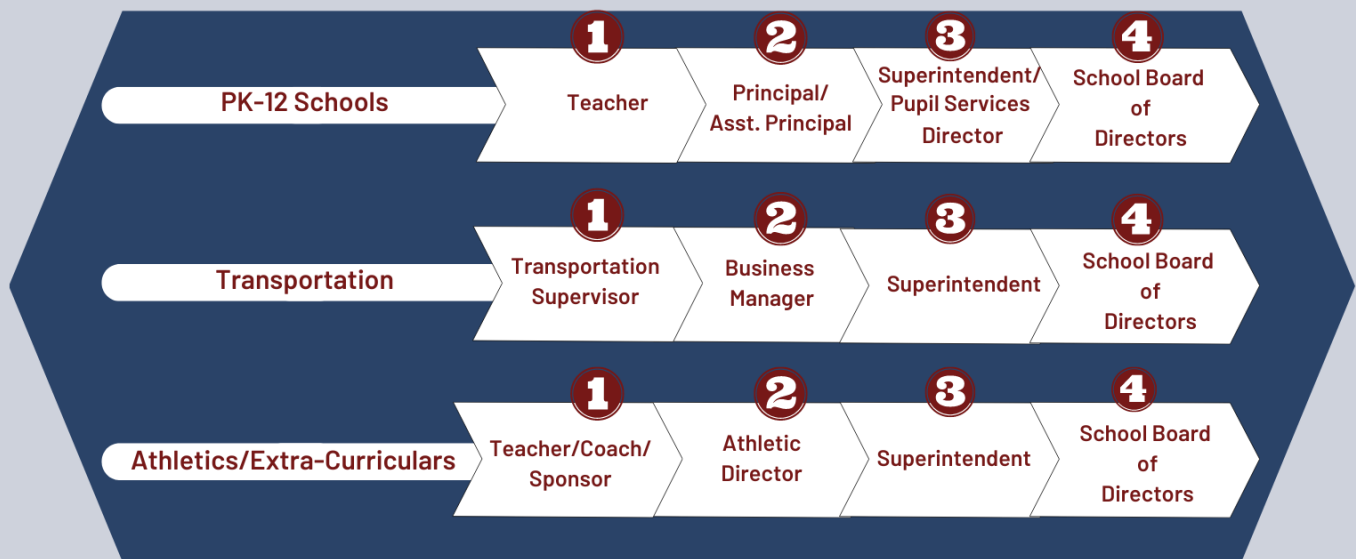
Late Start/Delay Schedule

In case of a two-hour delay due to inclement weather, elementary students in grades K-3 will report at 10:30 a.m. Pre-K will report at 10:45 a.m. In case of a three hour delay due to inclement weather, elementary students in grades K-3 will report at 11:30 a.m. Pre-K will report at 11:45 a.m.



ADDRESSING A CONCERN

BHASD values clear, effective, and transparent communication with its parents, guardians, students, staff and community members. Please utilize the steps below to efficiently resolve any concerns that may arise.



Each step of the process will:

- Address the concern
- Present solutions for the concern
- Establish follow-up dates to determine success/next steps

**School Counselor and/or IEP case manager can participate in any/all steps of the process*

Student Life

Academics

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

All users of the district network and internet access shall read and follow the guidelines. Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in loss of access privileges and/or disciplinary action. Please access the district homepage to view the full policy at www.bhasd.org.

INTERVENTION

The Brandywine Heights Elementary School offers comprehensive intervention services for academics, behavior, and social and emotional needs. Students who work with our intervention specialists receive tiered supports to assist students in turning areas of need into areas of strength. Should you like to learn more about Intervention services, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Snyder, Intervention Specialist at jensny@bhasd.org.

CHEATING

Academic dishonesty (cheating) is the use of inappropriate and unacknowledged materials, information, translation, or study aids in any academic exercise. Assistance from other people is restricted or forbidden unless explicitly authorized by the instructor for particular assignments. Cheating is any attempt by a student to substitute the product of another, in whole or in part, as his or her own work. It involves any attempt by the student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones/personal devices are permitted during the school day on a limited basis; however cell phones are to be away during instructional time unless otherwise requested by the teacher. Phones will be permitted in specific instructional areas during the day, however phone use will not be allowed in locker/changing rooms or in student restrooms per school board policy. Telephone calls are not to be made or received during instructional time. Students are not permitted to audio or video record at any time unless approved by a faculty member or administrator for a course or activity, and when approved must have expressed consent of all parties involved in the recording. The school is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of electronic items. A cell phone or personal device may be confiscated at an administrators' discretion at any time, or for repeated infractions in relation to device usage. Parents may be required to come to school to retrieve a confiscated device in the case of severe or repeated infractions. All regulations and requests have been created in accordance with School Board policy No. 237.

FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips provide for an extended learning opportunity for students outside of the school setting. During these trips, BHES students are expected to comply with all rules and regulations of the BHES handbook and are expected to comport themselves as representatives of the values of the Brandywine Heights Elementary School. A student may be denied participation if he/she has exhibited a pattern of misbehavior which an administrator deems likely to reoccur. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students will have as many days as they are absent to make up the work you have missed. Teachers will provide the make up work upon return or request if sooner than return. .

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are loaned to students for their use during the school years. Students are responsible for all textbooks that they are assigned. Students will be charged for all textbooks that are damaged, lost or stolen. Restitution must be made prior to the end of the school year. Students may be fined for damage to textbooks beyond normal wear and tear, as determined by the teacher and administration.

Building and Grounds

BUILDING HOURS

Main doors into the main lobby open at 8:30 AM. Inside doors are unlocked at 8:45 for all students and students are permitted to go to designated locations (cafeteria or homeroom).

CAFETERIA

In order that the cafeteria may serve as a place where students can purchase a nutritious meal, which can be eaten in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, we must have full student cooperation. Students will be seated by homeroom while in the cafeteria. There will be opportunities throughout the year for “free seating,” where students can sit with students in different homerooms. We expect, at all times, that common courtesy and good manners will be part of all students’ behavior while dining in the cafeteria. Any behavior which falls outside of these boundaries will be addressed as a learning opportunity before consequences are assigned.

LOST AND FOUND

Student articles that are lost and found will be placed outside the cafeteria in bins labeled “Lost and Found.” Students who are missing items should check the bins and the office. Lost and Found items will be placed on display during Open House in the Spring for families to see and take what belongs to them.

SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

Bus transportation is provided for students in grades 9 -12. Inappropriate behavior on the bus or at the bus stop will result in disciplinary action.

Governor Wolf signed [Senate Bill 1077](#) (Sen. Vogel, R-Beaver) into law, making it Act 56 of 2016. The bill permits those school districts engaging in audio recording on school busses to fulfill the notification requirement, which originally required an annual notice to be mailed home to each student, by including the policy in a student handbook and in any other publication of the school entity that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct for the school entity as well as posting a notice of the policy on the district website.

The law went into effect on August 22, 2016.

Counseling Services

GUIDANCE OFFICE

The guidance office is available to all students throughout their school day. Our counselors are available to assist both students and their families with any questions or concerns related to school or home life.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued four times, at nine-week intervals. Any questions concerning the report card should be directed to the main office at 610-682-5171. Please see the district calendar or website for approximate dates.

STUDENT TRANSFER

As soon as a student is aware that he/she will be transferring to another school, parents/guardians should contact the main office or guidance office. A request for records will be sent from the new school, which will prompt BHES to send records and withdraw the student from our rosters.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS STUDENT RESOURCES

The Brandywine Heights Area School District believes that homeless youth should have access to free and appropriate public education and wishes to limit the barriers that homeless students may face. Our goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while children are in homeless situations.

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and nighttime residence, which include students living in the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings.
7. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
8. Living as runaway children.
9. Being abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

Unaccompanied youth include any child who is "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian." This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.

For additional information or resources visit the [Pupil Service Website](#). Should you have any questions, you may contact our Office of Pupil Services at (610) 682-5181.

School Nurse Procedures

MANDATED HEALTH SERVICES & EXAMS

The Pennsylvania School Code requires that school districts provide the following health services for school aged children:

- Vision screening annually
- Hearing screenings in eleventh grade
- Height, weight, and BMI measurement annually and reported to parents
- Maintenance of medical records, including immunizations
- Mandated eleventh grade medical examinations

Completed forms for private medical examinations are due to the school nurse by September 15th or the examination may be completed by the school district.

PASSES

All students must request to visit the nurse throughout the school day. The staff member supervising the student will either assist the student with their concern or provide them permission to visit the health room with a pass. A true emergency or any life threatening illness or injury is an exception; therefore, the student should report directly to the nurse regardless of a pass.

MEDICATION

Students are not permitted to carry any medication, including over-the-counter medication drugs, on them during the school day. If medication is needed during the school day, a Medication Administration form must be completed and signed by both the prescribing physician and the parent. This form is for both prescription and over-the-counter medications to be given during the school day. This form is available on the district website. Asthma rescue inhalers and Epi-pen emergency epinephrine are the two exceptions that can be carried at school. BUT a Medication Administration form must still be completed and signed by both the prescribing physician and the parent.

ILLNESS

The Brandywine Heights School District DOES NOT provide cold, sinus or allergy medications, or cough drops. When your child is not feeling well, please take the time to assess whether your child should come to school or stay at home. If you decide to send your child to school, there are PA State Guidelines and Brandywine Heights Standing Orders the nurse must follow that will determine if your child will stay in school or be sent home.

STUDENT INJURIES

The District places a high priority on the safety and well-being of its students and desires to foster a safe environment for its students. Therefore, all efforts will be made to ensure the safety of students. However, recognizing that accidents and injuries do occur, the Administration requires that all injuries occurring at school or during school activities shall be reported to the school nurse. These, in turn, will be reported to the Administration through the periodic reports from the School Nurse which include information on the immediate care provided, if notification to the child's parent or guardian occurred and, where appropriate, information regarding emergency transportation for the child. Parents and guardians do need to be aware that, in undertaking these efforts on behalf of the safety of District students, the District is not intending to increase its legal responsibility for pupil accidents occurring on the premises or during school-sponsored events away from the building and grounds. All accidents, injuries, and incidents considered no-fault of the District shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians insurance plan of which the student is a member.

Attendance Policies and Procedures

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

As part of the requirements from Pennsylvania's Department of Education for the 2019-2020 school year, a truancy elimination and absence reduction plan will be implemented to help reduce chronic absenteeism. Supports and services will be in place for students and families.

This plan is intended to be a support mechanism for parents and families to ensure students are able to be successful in their academic studies through increased attendance in school.

According to the Pennsylvania School Code, all children between the ages of 6 and 18 are required to attend school. Therefore, attendance in school is extremely important, and consequences of unexcused absences from school will be severe and may include citation and fines. With this in mind, the school district requires that TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR A YEAR'S WORK, A STUDENT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ATTENDANCE 170 DAYS. The absences listed below will be considered EXEMPT from this policy, when accompanied by correct documentation:

- doctor's or dentist's written excuse
- approved medical or dental appointments
- school authorized field trips or activities
- school related athletic events
- approved educational travel
- suspension from school
- personal bereavement – copy of funeral card or newspaper clipping
- religious holidays
- approved emergency

ABSENCE TYPES

1. **Exempt** – Absences listed on this page when accompanied by the correct documentation. These absences are not counted when determining whether the student is out of compliance with the state attendance laws.
2. **Non-exempt** absences are those accompanied with a written excuse blank or submitted electronically from the parent or guardian within three (3) days of the absence. These are legal absences but will be counted towards the 10-day limit. Electronic excuses can be submitted by accessing the High School page on the district website, and then by utilizing the attendance button on the school page.
3. **Unexcused** – An absence, which is not accompanied by a written or electronic excuse within three (3) days of the absence. A maximum of 3 unexcused absences are allowed before citations are issued to both students and parents. The district justice may levy a fine of up to \$300 a day for unexcused absences.

It is the students' responsibility to know and account for his/her absence record. The following is the sequential procedure for dealing with student absences.

DISTRICT INITIATED DISMISSALS, ARRIVALS, AND CLOSINGS

In event of inclement weather or a mechanical breakdown, school may be closed, dismissed early, or the starting time delayed. School closing, delayed starting time or early dismissal will be announced over the radio and TV, via pre-recorded messages or the district Website. If no report is heard, it can be assumed that school will be in regular session. Please do not call the school. Telephone lines must be kept open for emergencies. School cancellations may alter the school calendar with respect to required days of attendance.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

Students who arrive after 8:45 a.m. must sign-in at the elementary school office. Like absences, tardiness can fall into one of three categories:

- **Exempt** – If a student arrives late to school and has a document indicating they were involved in an activity that the district identifies as "exempt", the student is excused and no discipline is assigned.
- **Excused** – If a student arrives late and brings a valid, written excuse, upon their arrival, from a parent/guardian, the student is excused and no discipline is assigned. A maximum of ten instances are allowed per school year.
- **Unexcused** – If a student arrives late with no written explanation or exceeds the maximum number of allowable excused tardies, the student is not excused and will be assigned the appropriate discipline.
 - 4-9 tardies = 1 detention
 - 10+ tardies = Admin. discretion

Passes: If a student must leave school early for an appointment, he/she must present a written note from his/her parent or guardian to the office, in the morning before school starts. The written note must contain the date, time of dismissal, a valid reason for early dismissal, and the signature of the parent or guardian.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Parents/guardians are notified of their child's absence daily.

Notification to parents/guardians regarding unlawful absences will adhere to the following steps:

- First Unlawful Absence: A letter will be sent to parents/guardians notifying them of the unlawful absence from school via regular mail. Legal penalties established by law for violation of compulsory attendance will be included.
- Second Unlawful Absence: A letter will be sent to parent/guardians notifying them of the second unlawful absence from school via regular mail. Legal penalties established by law for violation of compulsory attendance will be included.
- Third Unlawful Absence: A letter will be sent to parent/guardians notifying them of the third unlawful absence from school through CERTIFIED mail and will include legal penalties established by law for violation of compulsory attendance. It will also notify parents that they will be liable without further notice.
- After Seventh Accumulated Non-Exempt Absence: A notice is mailed to parents with the dates and total number of nonexempt absences listed and notice of consequences when non-exempt absences exceed 10 for the year.
- After Tenth Accumulated Non-Exempt Absence: A notice is sent to parents by certified mail of their child's impending loss of credit for courses. A parent conference will be necessary to inform the parent as to the number and dates of nonexempt absences and also consequences of additional absences. All absences beyond 10 cumulative days require an official excuse from a physician, court, religious institution, or other approved institution. Otherwise, the absence will be marked illegal.

In addition to the above procedure, for students 17 years of age and under, after six unlawful absences a truancy citation may be issued in accordance with Pennsylvania School Code.

PROCEDURES FOR AN ABSENCE

DAY OF AN ABSENCE

1. Parents/Guardians are required to call the attendance phone line, (610) 682-5171, ext. 4002 before 9:00 AM.
2. Leave a message stating your name, your child's name, the date and the reason for the absence. This phone call does not take the place of a written excuse. The school district is required by law to receive a written or electronic excuse from a parent/guardian.
3. If your child is absent and you do not report to the school, a call will be made home to inform you of the absence.
4. Upon your child's return to school, a written excuse stating the reason for the absence must be submitted.

FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE

1. Have your parent or guardian write a note, complete an electronic excuse, or fill in an excuse blank, which can be acquired here in the Main Office. Include the current date, the date(s) of your absence(s), the reason for the absence, and your signature.
2. Fill out the electronic excuse form, give your excuse blank, and/or parent note to the attendance office within three (3) school days of your return to school. It must be dated and signed. After three (3) days, the note will be accepted but not credited. This applies to any and all excuses, including exempt absences.

PRECEDING A PLANNED ABSENCE

Education Travel Form

- All requests for Educational Travel must be approved by the building Principal and Superintendent prior to the extended absence. The form must be completed online in the Parent Portal and submitted at least 10 days prior to the trip. The Superintendent will respond to your request through either email or mail. For Educational travel information please view the District and School Information on the Parent Resources page of our website.
<https://www.bhasd.org/page/parents>

Student Dress and Grooming (SBP 221)

These rules and procedures have been developed according to the Board policy regarding student dress and grooming (SBP 221). However, solutions to situations not specifically covered are the responsibility of building level administrators. Appropriate decisions will be made based on the intent and spirit of board policy. Students and parents are expected to exercise careful judgment in the selection of appropriate attire for school. This will help prepare students for appropriate dress and appearance expectations as they advance from the school environment and begin facing adult responsibilities.

BACKPACKS AND WINTER COATS

All students are to leave winter coats and backpacks in their classroom closet. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the administration.

FOOTWEAR

1. Safe footwear should be worn at all times.

GENERAL DRESS GUIDELINES

Apparel that is judged to be unhealthy or unsanitary is unacceptable.

1. Any type of shirt, top, skirt, dress, pants, shorts, etc. must reflect modesty. Clothing cannot be see-through or excessively revealing.
2. Each student is expected to maintain good personal hygiene.
3. Excessively baggy clothing that poses a safety hazard.
4. Undergarments should not be exposed nor any other clothing that proves to be a safety hazard.
5. Clothing, patches, buttons, pins jewelry, backpacks and exposed tattoos are not permitted if they fall into the following categories: have sexually suggestive writing/pictures, advocate violence, advertise or promote the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, have innuendos or obscene language, or are disrespectful.
6. Pants should not be excessively baggy, be tear away, or be a costume.
7. Coats, jackets or garments designed for protection from the outside weather are not to be worn during the school day.

HEADWEAR

Hats, caps, bandanas, sunglasses, visors, sweatbands, hoods and other head coverings are not permitted unless for documented health or religious reasons.

JEWELRY

Spiked jewelry, wallet chains, choker chains, or any jewelry that could cause injury or constitute a hazard is not permitted.



Bullet: PROUD

The Bullet PROUD philosophy is based on clear COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION with others, and RESPONSIBILITY. These skills along with being PREPARED, RESPECTFUL, taking OWNERSHIP, being UNDERSTANDING, and DETERMINED shape the Brandywine Heights learner.



Prepared

There are various ways students can demonstrate being prepared. Students are RESPONSIBLE for coming to class with all their materials and listening to instructions given by the teacher.



Respectful

Appropriate interactions with peers and staff must reflect this daily. Students can demonstrate RESPECT by raising their hands, using pleasant tones, obeying expectations, cleaning up areas, and using manners.



Ownership

Ownership over one's actions and behaviors is critical in the learning process. Through reflection, dialogue and PROBLEM-SOLVING students connect new skills to ideas. They demonstrate HOPEFULNESS by making self-selected choices and establishing goals.



Understanding

By demonstrating, explaining, applying or interpreting information, students will THINK CRITICALLY. This skill taps into concepts, prior knowledge, metacognition, CREATIVITY, differences, motivation, and learning communities.



Determined

Determination is a positive emotional feeling that involves PERSEVERING towards a difficult goal in spite of obstacles. By being brave, confident, decisive, focused and hardworking, students will develop ADAPTABILITY skills and the INITIATIVE needed to succeed in life.

			returning to class * Face forward with hands to yourself				
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Student Discipline

STUDENT RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES (SBP 235)

The Board has the authority and responsibility to establish reasonable rules and regulations for the conduct and deportment of district students. At the same time, no student shall be deprived of equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence and free expression and association, in accordance with Board policy and school rules.

Attendant upon the rights established for each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others; obedience to properly constituted school authority; and compliance with the policy, rules and regulations of this district.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (SBP 218)

The building administrator shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the district and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL (SBP 233)

SUSPENSIONS

Any administrator in charge of a school within the district may temporarily suspend any pupil without a hearing for a period not to exceed three (3) school days on account of disobedience or misconduct, which shall include violation of penal laws or regulations adopted by the school district. The violations shall be cause for suspension, or if the presence of the student in the opinion of the administrator is detrimental to the welfare of the school on account of incorrigibility, truancy, insubordination, or other bad conduct. No student shall be suspended unless he/she has been informed of the reasons for the suspension.

A student may be immediately removed if his/her conduct disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school, endangers fellow students, teachers or school officials, or damages property. In such an event, an attempt will be made to contact the parents immediately.

Following any suspension, the administrator in charge shall send by mail to the parents a notice of the suspension setting forth its parameters:

1. The reason for the suspension.
2. The length of the suspension.
3. Any conditions for returning to school.

Students suspended from school are excluded from participation in school activities during the time of their suspension. This includes weekends if the suspension involves a Friday.

EXPLUSIONS

Expulsion means the removal of a student from the school. This is a very serious step which should only be recommended for the most serious infractions and for habitual suspension infractions. The requirement of due process of law must be strictly adhered to. Only the Board of School Directors can expel a student after a due process hearing is held.

School Board Policies

On an annual basis, the Board requires dissemination of certain of its policies related to student discipline. A copy of the full text of each of these policies may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's office. You may also visit <http://www.bhasd.org/school-board/school-board-policies/>. Excerpts and/or summaries of each of the policies follow.

BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING (SBP 238)

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate in its schools. The district, its schools, and the school community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance, and will not tolerate any behaviors that infringe on the safety of any student. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and cyberbullying in any form are not tolerated. Toward that end, bullying and cyberbullying are prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and activities, on school buses and other school-sponsored transportation as well as at school bus stops.

Bullying should mean any intentional and repeated occurrences of unwelcomed and hurtful words, acts, or other behaviors, such as name-calling, threatening, and shunning, committed by one or more individuals against another.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the School District by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images or Web site postings (including blogs).

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PARAPHERNALIA (SBP 227)

Any pupil in possession of controlled substances (drugs or alcohol) on school grounds or on a school vehicle will receive a suspension from school with a parent conference required for rein-statement. Expulsion from school will be considered in any case concerning the possession of controlled substances.

Any pupil who supplies or sells any controlled substance on school property will be recommended to the Superintendent for an expulsion hearing.

HAZING (SBP 247)

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the District and are prohibited at all times.

Hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board.

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

SEARCHES (SBP 226)

In order to protect the welfare of all students, school administration may find it necessary to search students, student lockers, student automobiles, and/or student possessions. Students and parents are hereby notified that the Brandywine Heights Area School District is the sole owner of all student lockers located in the school, that these lockers are given as a courtesy to our students, and that all lockers are subject to search at any time, by administration, staff, police and canines. Students choosing to park on School District property are hereby notified that Brandywine Heights Area School District is the sole owner of the parking lot, that permission to park an automobile is a courtesy extended to our students, and that any vehicle parked on our parking lots is subject to search at any time by school authorities. In the event of a search, school officials will use the following guidelines:

- There should be "reasonable suspicion" of contraband or other materials dangerous to the health, safety, and welfare of students.
- Searches may include:
 - LOCKERS - All lockers belong to the school district and are subject to search at any time.
 - AUTOMOBILES - Any automobile driven to school by a student, or parked on school property or an adjacent street, or at another school with which Brandywine Heights Area School District is engaged in an activity, is subject to search.
 - PERSONAL BELONGINGS - Handbags, wallets, book bags, gym bags, and similar items are subject to search.
- Electronic devices confiscated from students.
- In the case of a personal search, the student will be informed in advance of the reason for the search.
- Although the police may not be involved in the search, they will be notified if the search results in the seizure of any illegal or look-alike substances.

TOBACCO/NICOTINE (SBP 222)

The Brandywine Heights Area School District administration and staff are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all students during normal school hours and during school sponsored activities. Because we are concerned about the health, safety and welfare of our students, smoking and/or possession of tobacco, tobacco products such as smokeless tobacco, nicotine and nicotine delivery products are prohibited in or about Brandywine Heights Area School District property or on school buses. Students taking part in any Brandywine Heights Area School District activity such as field trips are also expected to abide by this regulation.

It is recognized that the purchase of tobacco products by minors is unlawful and that the Surgeon General of the United States has indicated that the use of tobacco products is hazardous to one's health. Therefore, in keeping with the Brandywine Heights Area School District's "smoke free" policy, the use or possession of tobacco products by students in the buildings, on school buses, vans or other forms of transportation or on or about school grounds is prohibited.

Violation of this policy shall result in the following penalties:

- First Offense: Mandatory one (1) day suspension from school and prosecution initiated by the administration before the local District Justice.
- Second Offense: Mandatory three (3) day suspension from school and prosecution before the District Justice.
- Third Offense: Mandatory ten (10) day suspension from school and prosecution before the District Justice.

If circumstances warrant, actual observation of use is not necessary for students to be disciplined.

UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT (SBP 248)

The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students and third parties by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers and third parties in the schools. Harassment shall consist of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion when such conduct:

- a. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.
- b. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance.
- c. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities.

Sexual Harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances; a request for sexual favors; and other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- a. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status.
- b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or work decisions affecting the individual.
- c. Such conduct deprives a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment.
- d. Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

WEAPONS (SBP 218.1)

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Weapons should include but not be limited to: loaded or unloaded firearms (including any pellet guns, B.B. guns or look-alike firearms); a knife, metal knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchuck stick, straight razor, explosives, firecrackers, noxious, irritating or poisonous gasses, poisons, slingshot, or any other tool, instrument, implement or chemical capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death.

Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student, in the student's locker, under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.

The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process

SBP = School Board Policy

SCE = State Code Equivalent for Safe Schools database

Safety

Video Surveillance Notification

- To ensure the safety and security of all students, staff and visitors, security cameras are utilized throughout the buildings and grounds, as well as District transportation.

FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents of eligible students should submit to the School principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write to the School Principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(Optional) Upon request, the School disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920

Special Education Services

Special Education is a program designed for students whose needs cannot be met in the regular education program. These programs include services for students with learning, mental and physical disabilities, as well as mentally gifted students. All special education programs are in compliance with guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES POLICY NO. 113

Each student with a disability who is a resident of the district shall be provided quality education programs and services that meet the student's needs for educational, instructional, transitional, and related services. The special education program shall be designed to comply with law; conform to district goals; and integrate programs of special education with the regular instructional program of the schools, consistent with the interests of the student with a disability and other students.

Requests for individual psychological testing can be made by a parent, teacher, or school nurse to the elementary principal. A certified school psychologist will make the evaluation of the child and the report will be discussed with the parent and/or teacher. All information regarding special education services shall remain confidential.

Brandywine Heights Area School District's Director of Pupil Service is Mrs. Mandi Kercher. She can be contacted at manker@bhasd.org and (610) 682-5100 extension 1400.

Educational programs (full-time, supplemental, itinerant) are available in the District or by contract with support agencies for students with a disability. Your child may be eligible for Special Education if your child:

- Has an intellectual disability, emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, a hearing impairment, deafness, a visual impairment (including blindness), autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, and
- Needs special education as determined by an evaluation team

Your child must meet both qualifications in order to be eligible for special education.

Services provided for children will depend upon the amount and type of special education instruction or support based on their individual needs and is suited to their unique abilities. Specific programs and services are provided for students who are in need of:

- Autistic Support – For children who require services in the areas of communication, social skills, or behavior.
- Learning Support – For children whose greatest need of support is in the areas of reading, writing, math, or speaking or listening related to academics.
- Life Skills Support – For children whose greatest need is to learn functional, academic, vocational, and independent living skills that will provide support to help them live and work independently.
- Emotional Support – For children whose greatest need is for social, emotional, and behavioral help.
- Deaf or Hearing Impaired Support – For children who require services related to deafness or hearing impairment. The IEP for these students must include a communication plan to address language and communication needs.
- Blind or Visually Impaired Support – For children who require services related to visual impairment or blindness. The IEP for these students must address the extent to which Braille will be taught and used.
- Speech and Language Support – For children who have speech and language impairment and require services to develop communication skills.
- Physical Support – For children who have a physical disability and require services in functional motor skill development.
- Multi-Disabilities Support – For children with more than one disability, the combination of which results in severe impairment, and who require services in academic, functional, or vocational skills.

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to building principals or Mrs. Mandi Kercher, Director of Pupil Services, at (610) 682-5181. For additional information or resources visit the [Pupil Services Website](#).

District Office Staff

Mr. Andrew Potteiger	Superintendent
Mr. Robert Farina	Assistant to the Superintendent
Mrs. Mandi Kercher	Director of Pupil Services
Ms. Nicole DelGuerico	Business Manager
Mrs. Sarah Conrad	Director of Athletics and Facilities
Mrs. Carolyn Hanych	Director of Virtual Academy
Mr. Michael Wetzel	Director of Building and Grounds
Ms. Carly Worman	Director of Teaching and Learning

School Board of Directors

Mr. Michael Wagaman	President
Mrs. Alexis Eisenhart	Vice President
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Mr. Brian Hohenshilt	Member
Mrs. Elizabeth Huhn	Member
Mr. Matthew Reitenauer	Member
Mr. Zachary Stubits	Member
Mrs. Laura Walizer	Member

Alma Mater

Brandywine, Dear Brandywine	Brandywine, Dear Brandywine
To thee we will be faithful	Your guiding light will lead the way
For all the things you gave to us,	To future light of great success
We will be always grateful.	From happiness we cannot stray.
Behind your walls are memories	You taught us strength to find the way
Of days and joys and reveries.	To love each other every day.
Though years may go, we will return	Brandywine, we sing to thee
For thoughts of you we'll always yearn.	With loving praise and loyalty.