



# Braden Middle School

## 2023-2024

# Student/Parent Handbook

**Mr. Nikolas Rubesich - Principal**  
**Mrs. Ashley Brent - Assistant Principal**  
**Mrs. Shannon Riley - Guidance Counselor**  
**Mrs. Cathleen Diemer - Administrative Assistant**

**UPDATED AUGUST 10, 2023**

Welcome to Braden Middle School! We wish you success and enjoyment here as you pursue another goal in life. The purpose of this booklet is to provide information which serves as a guide in providing facts about school rules, regulations, policies, programs and services. Both students and parents are urged to read all information so misunderstanding may be avoided. Obviously not everything can be covered in this document. Students are urged to ask teachers, counselors and administration for clarification. The best intentions of any document are meaningless unless people make it work. Acceptance by all students is needed in order to make Braden a better environment in which to learn. All of us, students and faculty, are proud of Braden. A sincere effort by each will assure continued success.

### **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

The Buckeye Local School District provides an educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the school district's compliance officer:

Superintendent 440-998-4411

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in Administrative Guideline #2260 found at **[www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)**. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The compliance officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the district's programs and facilities.

A student can access special education services through the proper procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by federal (IDEA) and state law. Contact Special Education Supervisor to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs

## **PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW**

The Buckeye Local Schools wishes to notify all parents in all buildings that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers:

- If the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area taught;
- If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which state qualifications or licensing criteria are waived;
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification and field of discipline;
- Whether the student is provided services by a paraprofessional and if so, their qualifications.

The district also provides the following notifications to parents of students in Title I schools as necessary:

- Timely notice that the student has been assigned to be taught, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified";
- Information on the level of achievement of the student in each of the state's academic assessments.

**The district also provides parents with the option to be informed prior to any application of a pesticide made to school property during the school year. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students and staff, but you will be notified following any such application. Prior Notification of Pesticide application request forms will be available in the beginning of the year packet provided to students.**

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The school's rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.

- Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, tornado, safety drills and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, he/she must notify a staff person immediately.
- State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file.
- Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the school office.

## **ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL**

In general, state law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides unless enrolling under the district's open enrollment policy. New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parents or legal guardians. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A birth certificate or similar document
- Court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate)
- Driver's license
- Proof of residency, i.e. utility bills (water, electric, gas, landline phone)
- Proof of immunizations

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the district's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the district. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not yet expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the district's schools during the period of expulsion or removal until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the district had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the district.

## **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL**

The school counseling office must be notified if a student intends to withdraw from school. The student will be given an official withdrawal form to be signed by each of his/her teachers (and the librarian and athletic director), which will show that all books/materials/equipment/uniforms have been returned and fees paid. Parents/guardians signature is required on the withdrawal form. No transcripts/records will be released until all obligations are fulfilled.

## **SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE**

Classes are in session from 7:22 a.m. to 2:05 p.m. Students are required to be in school on time for their first class. Students may not leave during the school day without permission from the main office.

Warning Bell	7:20
Homeroom	7:22 - 7:27
Period 1	7:27 - 8:13
Period 2	8:16 - 9:02
Period 3	9:05 - 9:51
Period 4	9:54 - 10:40

Period 5	10:43 - 11:31
Period 6	11:34 - 12:21
Period 7	12:24 - 1:13
Period 8	1:16 - 2:05

All students should leave the building promptly after school is dismissed in the afternoon. There should be no students in the building after 2:05 p.m. unless they are supervised by a teacher/advisor/coach.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS**

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations, schoolmessenger (robocall) as well as the Buckeye Schools webpage:

Channels 3, 5, 8  
Stations 97.1 and 102.5 FM  
[www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)

### **SCHOOL ASSIGNED TEXTBOOKS / MATERIALS**

- Each student is responsible for books issued and will be required to pay for any books damaged, lost or stolen. For one's own protection, each student should put his/her name in the front of each book and keep a list of book numbers issued to him/her.
- If a student withdraws from school, it is his/her responsibility to return these books to the teachers who issued them. No grades/transcripts/records will be forwarded for a withdrawn student until all obligations to Braden Middle School are met.

School assigned books or other materials, whether lost or stolen, remain the responsibility of the student to whom the book or material was originally assigned to.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Buckeye Local Board of Education believes that regular attendance leads to high academic achievement. Class attendance is the primary responsibility of the student and parents or guardian.

The statute governing school attendance in Ohio is specific and leaves little option for school authorities to excuse children from school. The following constitute reasons for excused absences from school.

1. **Personal illness.** On the third consecutive day a physician's certificate will be required. Medical documents must be submitted within the grading period of the absence.
2. **Illness in the family.** This absence condition applies to students in grades 9-12; verified by medical documentation.
3. **Quarantine of the home** by proper health officials.
4. **Death of a relative.** The absence arising from this condition is limited to a period of three days unless a reasonable cause may be shown by the applicant child for a longer absence.
5. **Students needed at home due to absence of parent/guardian.** Any absence arising because of this condition shall not extend for a period longer than that for which the parent/guardian was absent.
6. **Observation of religious holidays** consistent with the student's creed or belief.
7. **Emergency.** Any emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the administration constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school.
8. **Physician-documented appointment.**
9. **Court-documented appointment.**
10. **College visitation/armed services testing** (limited to juniors and seniors, two days per year, college or military documented).
11. **Family vacation.** When parents request the absence of a student for family vacation (with immediate family; may include hunting), such absence will be considered excused. A written request for absence must be made at least one week prior to leaving. A student excused under this provision is responsible for obtaining his/her assignments prior to leaving and submitting the completed work no later than two days after returning unless arrangements have been made with the teacher. When parents take a student out of school without prior arrangement, the absence will be considered unexcused.
12. **A school-sponsored activity**, i.e. field trips, athletic contests, assemblies, student government, service project, or school-sponsored extracurricular activities will not be counted in a student's absence total. However, the student must acquire teacher permission and arrange to the teacher's satisfaction for make-up work prior to being excused. Students will not be excused unless prior arrangements have been made and the administrative office has been properly informed.

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) missing the bus; (2) no transportation or breakdown of transportation; (3) over-sleeping; (4) cosmetics appointments (permanent, haircut, tanning, etc.); (5) non-family babysitting; (6) job interview; (7) family vacation (no prior notification to school); (8) student portraits; (9) private driver education/driver test; (11) work.

- Students may be cited to juvenile court if absences exceed the number of hours determined as truant. This may include medical excused absences.

**Truancy:** A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive school hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year.

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to take any of the following intervention actions:

- Assign the student to a truancy intervention program
- Provide counseling to the student
- Request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- Request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- Notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- Take appropriate legal action
- Assignment to an alternative school

### **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**

On each morning of an absence, the student's parent or guardian must telephone the school **ATTENDANCE LINE 440-990-3125** between 6AM and 9AM and give a reason for the child's absence. If a call is not received, a written excuse stating the reason for the absence must be given by the parent/guardian upon the student's return to school. If a call is not made the day of the absence, the school will call and/or send a postcard or the Resource Officer. Parents/guardians may receive a call at work when a student is absent and no reason has been given for the student's absence. **Note:** A student arriving at school after 7:22 a.m. will be considered tardy.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Students who are absent from school with a valid excuse shall be given the opportunity to make up missed work.

- The student should contact his/her teacher as soon as possible to obtain assignments.
- The number of days for completion of make-up work will be equivalent to the number of excused days of absence.
- If a student misses a teacher's test due to an excused absence, he/she should make arrangements with the teacher to take the test at another time.

### **EARLY DISMISSALS**

Appointments with the doctor, dentist, etc. should not ordinarily be made during school time. In case of necessity, however, the student must bring a note signed by the parent/guardian to the attendance window outside the main office prior to the start of school stating the date, time and reason it will be necessary for him/her to leave school. Upon returning from the appointment, a dated note from the doctor's office must be presented in the main office in order to gain an excused pass. If a note is not presented, an unexcused absence will be given and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file to attend school. A complete Medical Authorization Form must also be on file with the coach / advisor in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from state immunization requirements. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting state requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunization or authorized waiver. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the building principal.

### **STUDENT MEDICATION**

Only the school nurse or the principal's designee will administer medication to students during school hours when the parent cannot be at school to administer the medication, in compliance with the following regulations.

Written instructions signed by both the parent/guardian and physician are required, including the child's name and address, the school in which the child is enrolled, name and purpose of the medication, time and dosage to be administered, beginning and ending dates to be administered; notation of any severe or adverse reactions that should be reported to the physician, including telephone numbers where he/she can be reached in an emergency; special instructions (storage, sterile conditions).

Forms can be found on the district website. Search for form 5330f1-f4.

### **STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY**

The school nurse's schedule is posted on the clinic door. Students should have a pass signed by the teacher of the class he/she is missing before reporting to the clinic. Ill students referred to the clinic when the nurse is not available must

report to the main office. If a student becomes ill in class, the teacher designee should accompany the student to the clinic or main office. Hall passes are necessary except in cases which are considered emergencies in nature.

Students who are ill must report to the clinic or main office. Being in the restroom because of illness will not be accepted as permission for being out of class. Do not, under any circumstances, try to go home alone. The nurse or office will notify parents/guardians to make arrangements for transportation home. Since parents/guardians are not always accessible, the information on the student emergency card will be used to contact a responsible person or the student's doctor when a parent/guardian cannot be located. Therefore, this information must be listed on the emergency card and kept current.

### **BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS**

The school district seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and takes appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, he/she must immediately notify his/her teacher, who will contact the main office/nurse and assist the student in completing the requisite documents.

The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by his/her physician or health service.

### **STUDENT INSURANCE**

The school does not purchase insurance coverage for students. Enrollment information for Student Accident Insurance will be handed out early in the school year. Remember, student-purchased insurance operates only if the injury is reported immediately after it occurs.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- All visitors must report to the office when they arrive at school.
- All visitors are given and required to wear a building pass while they are in the building.
- As many unneeded outside doors as possible are locked during the school day.
- Portions of the building that will not be needed after the regular school days are closed off.

### **FIRE DRILLS**

Whenever the fire alarm rings students should go promptly to the proper exit as posted and as directed by the teacher. All should be quiet so that any instructions which are necessary may be easily heard. Go quickly, but safely, in single file - no running and no talking. During the drill students are expected to remain orderly and to follow the directions of teachers and administrators.

### **TORNADO DRILLS**

Specific locations on the ground floor of the building are posted in each classroom as the assigned area for each class to report to during tornado drills/alerts. Students are to kneel against the wall as shown on the diagrammed instructions when they are requested to do so and follow the directions of teachers.

### **SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS**

School safety drills shall be conducted at least three times during the school year to provide students with instruction in procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in the school building or rapidly evacuated in response to a threat to the school.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

#### **Grading Procedures/Grade Reporting**

1. Report cards are issued at the end of each grade period. Each student is expected to take his/her report card home for examination by parents/guardians. If there are questions about the grades, the teacher or teachers involved should be contacted.
2. Parent-teacher conferences are held three times each year. Interim reports may be requested by the faculty or parents/guardians.
3. Progress reports for those who are failing a course will be issued by individual teacher's midway through each grading period. Interim reports must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher. Following the end of the first semester, parents/guardians of students who are in danger of failing for the term in any course or courses are notified by letter from the guidance department.
4. Grades used at the secondary school are

<b>A</b>	Excellent (90-100)
<b>B</b>	Good (80-89)
<b>C</b>	Average (70-79)
<b>D</b>	Poor (60-69)
<b>F</b>	Failing (0-59)
<b>I</b>	Incomplete

5. Information on other factors of grading will be provided by individual classroom teachers.

### **BUS STUDENTS**

If a student is transported by school bus, he/she must ride the bus assigned. The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and its passengers and is required to assign seats. This is no different from the teacher. Behavior on the bus is to be what is expected of a student in a classroom and the Student Conduct Code applies. Discipline problems on the bus will be handled as discipline problems in school. **Note:** Buses may be equipped with video cameras; videotape could be used for disciplinary purposes. Violation of the conduct code may result in loss of riding privileges and include other penalties.

#### **Student safety instruction policies include:**

- Students shall arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Students must wait in a location clear of traffic and away from the bus stop.
- Behavior at the school bus stop must not threaten the life, limb or property of any individual.
- Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat so the bus may safely resume motion.
- Students must remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear.
- Students must observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- Students must not use profane language.
- Students must refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
- Students must not use tobacco on the bus.
- Students must not have alcohol or drugs in their possession on the bus except for prescription medication required for a student.
- Students must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus.
- Students may carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps.
- Students must leave or board the bus at locations to which they have been assigned unless parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise. (See paragraph below.)
- Students must not put their head or arms out of bus windows.

#### **The State of Ohio requires that the following bus rules be followed.**

- Go directly to your assigned seat and remain seated.
- Obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- Keep aisles and exits clear
- Carry on objects must be held in your lap.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Never put your head, arms or legs out of the bus window.
- No profane or bad language.
- No eating or drinking.
- Do not damage seats or other property.

To ride a bus other than the one assigned, both students must have a written note from parents/guardians. Notes must be turned in to the main office before the start of the school day; bus passes will be ready for pick up during lunch periods. Notes must include bus number, destination and the reason for the request. Verbal requests and requests after school starts are not accepted unless designated by an administrator.

### **VIDEO EQUIPMENT**

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

### **CELL PHONE, COMMUNICATION DEVICE(S) POLICY**

We believe that having cell phones and any other device used as a communication tool, picture taking or video recording.(i.e. smart watches being used to send texts or messages) put away in locked lockers, so the device is physically off of the students, is the best practice. **Students may have them out in the morning before homeroom and after the dismissal bell at 2:05 PM. When the homeroom tardy bell rings at 7:22 AM, they must be off and in lockers until the end of the day.** If a student is late to school, they should (1) Go to the office for a tardy slip; (2). Go to their locker to place a cell phone/communication device; (3). Go to class and give the teacher their tardy slip.

We wholeheartedly understand that cell phones have become a vital part of parent and child communication during the school day. We realize this is the number one concern voiced by students and parents, therefore we created a well-organized and timely system for children and parents to communicate via school protocol. Students will be permitted to call a parent or guardian during non-academic class periods (i.e. lunch and study hall or before homeroom) using the landline phone in the office. If there's an emergency, students will be permitted to call from the office phone or from the nurse's clinic. If a parent or guardian needs to relay any information or has an emergency, they may call the office at

440-998-0550. The message will be delivered to the student and the student will be permitted to call a parent or guardian back as needed based on the individual situation.

**BOTH parents/guardians AND students must complete the area in FinalForms titled “Braden Middle School Student Handbook” by Friday, September 15, 2023.** The updated version of the Student Handbook is uploaded into FinalForms to read prior to completing the form. To avoid miscommunication, please make sure you and your child have read the Student Handbook that includes the new cell phone policy and violation consequences. The handbook was updated on August 17, 2022. We wish to share school policies with our Braden family in advance to avoid misunderstandings in the future.

### **CELL PHONE/COMMUNICATION DEVICE(S) CONSEQUENCE POLICY**

**If the phone/communication device is seen anytime after the 7:22 AM tardy bell or before the 2:05 PM dismissal bell it is immediately confiscated, put in an envelope, and sent to the office.** The staff member who confiscates the cell phone will place the device in the envelope, labeled with student name, teacher name, location of the confiscation, date/time of confiscation and sent to the office. Teachers will not be responsible for holding confiscated devices or issuing consequences. The Principal, Assistant Principal, Climate & Culture Coordinator, Student Success Coordinator or School Resource Officer will handle disciplinary measures related to cell phone policy violations.

**1st Time Violation:** The cell phone is held in the office in an envelope until the end of the day in the office. The student may retrieve their cell phone after 2:05 pm until 3:10 pm.

**2nd Time Violation:** The cell phone is held in the office in an envelope until the parent/guardian can arrange pick up after 2:05 PM and before 3:10 PM. If a parent/guardian cannot make it before 3:10 PM the day of confiscation, they may pick it up the next day starting at 7:00 AM.

**3rd Time Violation:** The student receives an after school detention. The cell phone is held in the office in an envelope until the parent/guardian can arrange pick up after 2:05 PM and before 3:10 PM. If a parent/guardian cannot make it before 3:10 PM the day of confiscation, they may pick it up the next day starting at 7:00 AM.

**4th Time Violation:** The student receives an after school detention. The student is suspended from having a cell phone on Braden Middle School property for a period of 30 days. If during this 30 day suspension period a student has a cell phone/smartwatch on Braden Middle School property, they can receive up to one day in the alternative learning center, mandatory parent/guardian meeting with administration (cell phone returned at meeting), and suspended from having a cell phone/smartwatch on property for 60 additional days.

**5th Time Violation:** The student can receive up to a day in the alternative learning center. The student is not permitted to have a cell phone on Braden Middle School property for the remainder of the academic year. At this point, if another violation is made, administration may choose at will a consequence of school suspension, in school suspension, suspend rights to attend non-academic school events/rewards, or Saturday school. Parents/Guardians must attend a mandatory meeting with school administration to retrieve the cell phone.

### **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular competition, a student must meet all of the following standards:

- All Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines;
- Obtain a grade point average (GPA) of 1.80 or higher on a 4.0 scale in the grade period **preceding** the period of participation.

### **FEES**

In accordance with state law, Braden Middle School charges specific fees for activities and materials used in the course of instruction.

- Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.
- A student activity fee is required of those students participating in sports.

**RETURN CHECK POLICY: All return checks will be submitted to eCollect and your account will be debited electronically for both the face amount and returned check fees.**

### **LUNCH REGULATIONS**

In order to obtain the best and quickest possible service, cafeteria rules must be followed. Abuse of regulations may result in loss of cafeteria privileges and/or disciplinary action.

- All students will eat in the cafeteria area at the cafeteria tables. Leaving the school grounds is strictly prohibited.
- Food is not to be taken out of the cafeteria, nor is food to be brought in from outside vendors (Burger King, McDonald's, Subway, etc.).
- Students are expected to be orderly, quiet and polite.
- Students are responsible for seeing that the table and chairs are clean and in place, and that all garbage and trash is placed in waste containers, and cafeteria trays are taken to the dishwashing room.
- All lunch period time is to be spent in the cafeteria area. Faculty or administration permission is required to be in other areas of the building and parking lot.

### **AUDITORIUM**

Assemblies held in the auditorium are almost without exception considered formal and appropriate behavior is expected and necessary.

- All students are expected to attend all assemblies unless otherwise notified. Students tardy to assemblies or with unauthorized absence from assemblies are subject to disciplinary action.
- Each grade level, 6-8, may be assigned seats and/or areas.

### **SCHOOL DANCE REGULATIONS**

School dances are held for the enjoyment of Braden students only. The following regulations are intended to provide for our students:

- Students are not permitted to go outside the building once they have entered for the dance. Departure from the building at any time during the dance will result in parent/guardian notification and possible suspension.
- All school rules and regulations for dress, student conduct and behavior are in effect.
- Students who have been suspended during the school year for 10 or more days or who have been suspended two or more times will not be permitted to attend a school dance or any other school function, as determined by the administration.
- Dances will be chaperoned by BMS faculty members, sheriff's deputies and, on occasion, by parents. Chaperones are in charge of the building during a dance and are to be obeyed at all times.

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, etc. are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The school will not be liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

### **STUDENT LOCKERS**

- Student lockers are to be used for books, coats, boots, etc.
- Writing on the lockers is not permitted, unless approved by administration. If defacing occurs the student will be brought to the locker and return it to its original condition, or pay for such refurbishing.
- Students are permitted to use only the locker assigned to them. Appropriate disciplinary measures may be taken if a student is found using other lockers.
- Student lockers are the property of Buckeye Local Schools and may be entered (by administration) at any time without student permission or knowledge.
- Valuables in P.E. class should be locked in assigned gym lockers. Students must provide the lock for this purpose.
- The Buckeye Local Schools are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items from lockers.

### **BOOKBAGS**

Book bags are not permitted to be carried during the school day.

### **EARBUDS/HEADPHONES**

Earbuds or headphones are not permitted to be used in the classroom, unless approved by their classroom teacher and/or administrator for instructional purposes only.

### **HALL PASSES**

A student permitted to leave a room during a class must sign out and sign back in via the digital hall pass system. Leaving a classroom without proper permission will result in disciplinary action.

### **RESTROOM PASSES**

Students should ask to use restrooms at the start of classes, before and after school, and during lunch time.

### **PA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Daily announcements will be made at the start of homeroom each day. Announcements will also be displayed during lunch.



### **FIELD TRIPS**

Student field trips are considered to be educational and worthwhile. The student must submit a permission form signed by the parent/guardian to the main office at least one week prior to the scheduled departure day.

The school discipline code is in effect at all times during the trip. Participating in a field trip is a privilege and may be revoked at any time. Students who have been absent for 42 hours or more of school, have received a failing grade of an "F" in any course or who have been suspended from school will not be permitted to attend.

### **VISITORS TO SCHOOL**

No student visitors are permitted while Braden Middle School is in session.

### **DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS**

Delivery of flowers/balloons/gifts, etc. to students is not permitted. Area florists have been notified that BMS does not accept deliveries for students.

### **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**

Computer use at Braden Middle School is encouraged and made available to students for educational purposes. The school retains the ownership of all hardware and software. The school reserves the right to inspect, copy and/or delete all files and records created or stored on school-owned computers.

Students must observe the following guidelines. Failure to do so will result in penalties as determined by the teaching staff or school administration.

- Files stored on school computers are restricted to school-related assignments only. Personal files may not be stored.
- Students shall not copy (without authorization), damage or alter any hardware or software. Students shall not delete a file (without authorization) or knowingly introduce a computer virus to any school computer.
- Students shall not use or alter another person's password, files or directories. Students aiding teachers are restricted to using only the program selected by the teacher.
- No privately owned software is to be used with computer hardware owned by the Buckeye Local Schools.
- Use of all computer-generated telecommunications is restricted to school-related projects and must be supervised by the teacher or network administrator. No email addresses other than the schools are permitted unless authorized by the principal. Students using the Internet, and the parents/guardians of such students, must complete a school-approved Internet Use Consent Form before using the Internet.
- No students shall attempt to establish computer contact into school district restricted computer nets or any other unauthorized databases.
- Parents or guardians must read and sign the Acceptable Use Policy and Access Release and Authorization Form, and should understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Parents should also recognize that it is impossible for the Buckeye Local School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and will not be held responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, parents accept full responsibility for supervision if and when a student's use is not in a school setting. Parents/guardians must give Buckeye Local School's permission to issue a student account.

**Penalties:** Penalty for infraction will be applied as determined by the teacher and/or administration. Such penalties will range from loss of computer use privilege through other conduct code disciplinary alternatives as established in school board policy

### **INTERNET POLICY**

As a condition of using the Buckeye Local Schools' network EdgeNet, students understand that the use of EdgeNet and access to other public works, including the Internet, is a privilege, and must agree to the following.

- Students must abide by the rules adopted by the Buckeye Local School District including the EdgeNet Acceptable Use Policy.
- The Buckeye Local School District has the right to review any material stored on any system provided by the district and to edit or remove any material. Students waive any right in and to such material.
- All information and services available on the Internet and EdgeNet are placed there for informational purposes. Students use EdgeNet at their own risk.
- Buckeye Local School District does not warrant the function of EdgeNet or anything accessible through EdgeNet to meet any specific requirements students may have, or that EdgeNet will be error free or uninterrupted. Buckeye Local School District staff is not liable for any damages incurred in connection with the use, operation, or inability to use EdgeNet.
- In consideration for using EdgeNet and having access to public networks, students release Buckeye Local School District, and hold harmless its officers, employees and agents from any claims and damages arising from student use, or inability to use EdgeNet.

Students must read and comply with the Acceptable Use Policy, and must also understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should students commit any violation, access privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action taken.

### **BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT**

The maintenance of school discipline and proper behavior is essential to the establishment of a proper learning environment. All employees as well as all students are responsible for good discipline within the school setting. A breach of discipline is any conduct of pupils which substantially and materially interferes with the educational environment. Acts of behavior that tend to conflict with the education programs which are hostile to the welfare of other students, the staff and/or the system cannot be tolerated. School authorities cannot accept liability and responsibility for student health, safety and welfare unless the student conforms to the specified standards of good conduct.

In order to maintain the proper learning environment for all students, when a student is found to be in violation of this Buckeye Local Schools Code of Conduct, it shall be considered a serious breach of accepted behavior and disciplinary action will be taken. Unless otherwise noted in the individual section, this code shall be applicable on school grounds at all times or off school grounds during a school-sponsored activity, on any school sponsored trip and at any other time when the student is subject to the authority of the school.

Students who engage in acts that repeatedly violate this code will be subject to more severe consequences for subsequent violations. The school district shall be entitled to maintain records of each student's misconduct and consider such records in arriving at the type of severity of punishment for a violation of this code.

### **STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Purpose:** So that the student body has a frame of reference upon which reasonable conduct can be based, certain rules are considered necessary. Occasionally a small minority may react adversely to the question of rules in a free society, but it is commonly accepted by the overwhelming majority that regulations are in fact established to promote the general welfare of the people. Most students conduct themselves admirably, in a manner creditable to the family. Unfortunately, we are all aware that student behavior is not always a credit to the family, to the schools, nor to other pupils, and it is in the interest of promoting the safety, health and general well-being of the student body that we feel the need to develop a "code of conduct." This code of conduct is in effect on school property, at school functions, and on buses transporting students to and from school and school functions.

1. **The Right to Attend School:** Article VI, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution provides for the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive public school system. The Ohio Public Schools System is currently divided into over 600 school districts, one of which is the Buckeye Local School District. By law, all residents between the ages of six and twenty-one in any of these districts are entitled to the enjoyment of all educational opportunities provided by the Ohio Public School System. Along with the right to equality of educational opportunity, each student in the Ohio Public School System has a related responsibility to act in such a way as to not interfere with the rights of others to the same opportunity. Reasonable and necessary order in the school is essential to the continuation of equal educational opportunities.

A student may forfeit his/her right to educational opportunities if his/her conduct is such that it substantially disrupts the educational process and deprives others of their rights.

2. **The Right to Student Participation:** Students shall be encouraged to form and participate in a variety of extracurricular organizations as a means of broadening their educational experiences. These activities are considered an extension of the school day, and as such, all regular school rules shall be observed. It is a student's privilege to participate in or attend these activities; therefore, one must accept the responsibility of abiding by all school rules when he/she does participate in or attend such an activity.

3. **The Right to Participate in School Government:** One of the most obvious and practical ways to expose students to and to instruct them in the principles of sound citizenship is to involve them in the practical daily governance of the school itself. Such involvement would, of course, remain contingent upon the age, maturity and demonstrated ability of students to function as participants in school government.

4. **The Right to Confidentiality:** Under Ohio law, school authorities are required to maintain many kinds of records. These include the student's name, birth date, age, place of residence, names of parents, date of entry and withdrawal, attendance, courses taken and quality of work done. School authorities, therefore, in the valid exercise of their duties, often collect and store confidential types of information which, if placed in the wrong hands or kept out of the right hands, may do harm to the students. Administrators, therefore, assume an obligation to protect students in this regard. In compliance with the Federal Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and the board-adopted policy on student records, school officials will not release any information to persons or agencies not officially connected with the school itself without prior written consent of the parents or the student if he/she is 18. The law provides some exceptions to the practice. Directory information may be released without permission in certain instances except when individual parents specifically request that this information not be released regarding their child.

5. **The Right to Due Process:** It is generally accepted today that students are entitled to due process when they are subjected to major disciplinary action. Due process in the context of administrative proceedings carried out by the school authorities does not mean that the procedures used by courts in juvenile proceedings must be followed exactly by school authorities when engaged in disciplinary proceedings. It does mean that clear, definite and fundamentally fair rules of procedure must govern disciplinary action taken by the school authorities. Such a procedure is necessary to guarantee that a student will not be deprived of such a fundamentally important thing as school attendance without substantial and just cause. To ensure that the student receives due process, the disciplinary codes which students are expected to follow as part of their responsibility in response to the rights enumerated above, as well as the disciplinary actions followed by school personnel, are outlined in subsequent portions of this document.

6. **The Right to Shared Responsibilities:** The conduct of students in school and at school activities is a joint responsibility of the student, the parent and the school. The school will make and enforce rules and regulations concerning

the conduct of students at officially sanctioned school activities off school grounds. Parents should accept full responsibility for the conduct of their children once the children are outside the scope of authority of school officials.

Students shall accept full responsibility for their conduct at all times and ALL students, adult and minor, shall abide by the rules and regulations defined in the student handbook for each building.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

1. **Administrative Conference:** An informational meeting is held between the student and administrator to determine the facts involved in a situation. The administrator may issue a verbal warning with or without formal notification to the parent(s).
2. **Detention:** An after school detention requires at least a 24-hour notice provided to parents. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent(s). Detentions will be served from 2:05-3:00 in the Library.
3. **Saturday School:** A 3-hour session is held on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Braden High School for grades 4 - 12. Students are responsible for their own transportation and must comply with all of the Saturday school rules (given to the student when the Saturday school is issued) to avoid being suspended. If a student fails to attend the Saturday school, a suspension could be issued.
4. **Alternative Learning Center:** The Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is an in-house component of the Elgin disciplinary system. The ALC may be used as a short or long-term educational placement, an alternative disciplinary measure to Out-of-School Suspension, for the emergency removal of a student and/or other situations. When assigned to the ALC as a disciplinary consequence, students will remain within its confines during the time assigned throughout the school day, except for providing restroom breaks. Students must bring chromebook and necessary materials to the ALC in the morning, as they will not be permitted to visit their locker during school hours. Students will be provided with their assignments for each class, which are eligible for credit. Failure to successfully complete the day in the ALC, including completion of all assignments, will result in further disciplinary measures. In addition to the rules of the ALC, all school district rules and policies will apply to students in the ALC. Phone use is not permitted in ALC, please leave your phone at home or you will be required to check it in while in ALC. Students who are disruptive in the ALC or who do not follow the prescribed rules may be suspended out of school or additional time may be assigned. An assignment to the ALC is not appealable. Students will not be counted absent from school on days attending the ALC. Students absent from school for any reason will serve their assigned day(s) immediately upon their return. The student may ride the school bus to and from school.
5. **Out-of-School Suspension:** The superintendent, principal, assistant principal and other designated administrators may suspend a student from school for disciplinary reasons outlined in the Buckeye Local Schools Code of Conduct. No period of suspension is for more than 10 school days. Suspensions may extend beyond the current school year if, at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than 10 days remain in the school year. The superintendent may apply any or all of the period of suspension to the following year.
6. **Emergency Removal of a Student:** If at any time an administrator feels that a student is behaving in a way that creates or has the potential to create a clear and present danger to himself or another person, or significantly disrupts the educational process, the administrator may have the student removed from the building. The student will be released to the custody of the parent, guardian or an officer of the law. The parent will be notified by phone or in writing within 24 hours of the removal.
7. **Court Referral:** School officials file a formal legal complaint with the appropriate court (juvenile or civil). This may be combined with suspension or expulsion; parents are notified by the court.
8. **Expulsion:** This is a formal exclusion from school, school activities and school property for an extended period of time. The expulsion is issued by the superintendent upon the recommendation of a school administrator. Parents are notified of an expulsion in writing.

**Appeal Process:** Should a student or a student's parent(s) choose to appeal an out of school suspension, he/she must do so in writing to the superintendent within 5 days of the notice of suspension. The procedure for such is provided in regulations approved by the Board of Education in Policy 5611. The student may be excluded from school during the appeal process. Notice of an expulsion appeal must be filed with the treasurer within 14 calendar days of the notice of expulsion.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A student shall not, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, harassment, intimidation, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct, cause, attempt or threaten to cause the substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process or function of the Buckeye Local Schools. The Buckeye Local School District has a policy of zero tolerance with respect to violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students. A violation of any of the following rules may result in disciplinary action selected from the administrative actions in the previous section.

#### **The following Code of Conduct relates to the Buckeye Local Schools**

1. **Disruption of School/Class:** Any conduct that tends to interfere with a teacher conducting his/her class tends to disrupt or interfere with the educational process of the school or tends to endanger the health and safety of the students. Some examples include, but are not limited to, running, throwing objects, horseplay, littering, spitting, being persistently unprepared for class, cheating, note writing, leaving class without permission and other disruptive actions as determined by the principal.

2. **Damage, Destruction or Theft of School Property or Private Property:** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or steal or attempt to steal school property. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to the private property of students, teachers, school personnel or other persons either on school grounds or during school sponsored or related activities, functions or events off school grounds.

3. **Forgery:** Forgery is the act of falsely using, in writing, the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on school forms, or correspondence directed to the school. A student shall not falsify or improperly represent any school documents or parental / guardian notes at any time.

4. **Extortion:** Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force or deception to take, or receive something from someone else and it is against the law. Students who engage in the act of extortion or borrowing or attempting to borrow any money or thing of value from a person while on school grounds or at a Board of Education sponsored event may be disciplined.

5. **Abusive Language:** A student shall not use threatening, vulgar, profane or abusive language/gestures, written words and/or drawings toward or in the presence of any school employee, student or other person.

6. **Threats Toward a School Employee, Another Student or Other Person:** A student shall not use threatening, vulgar, profane or abusive language/gestures, written words and/or drawings toward or in the presence of any school employee, student or other person.

7. **Fighting/Assault Toward a School Employee, Another Student or Other Person:** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a school employee, student or other person on or off school grounds. The act of physical bodily contact among two or more students in or on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity which is likely to result in physical harm and/or a substantial disruption will not be tolerated for any reason.

8. **Weapons, Explosive Devices and Dangerous Instruments:** A student shall not use, possess, handle, transmit, sell or conceal any object that can be classified as a weapon, dangerous instrument, look-alike (for example, water pistol, paintball gun), or any device, including, but not limited to, a starter's pistol, not designed as a firearm but which is specifically adapted for use as such, while on school grounds, at school sponsored or related activities, functions or events off school grounds or at any time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Weapons or dangerous instruments shall include any object that is used or may be used to inflict physical harm.

Lighters, matches, knives, firearms, a toy that is presented as a real weapon, chemical agents and bullet/shotgun shells are included in this category. **(See Section 2923.122 of the Ohio Revised Code)**

9. **Technology Violation:** Except as authorized by a school personnel, students are prohibited from using electronic devices during the school day, including while off-campus on a field trip, to capture, record and/or transmit the words or sounds (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person. Using an electronic device to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted. Students who violate this provision and/or use an electronic device to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their devices confiscated and held and may be directed to delete the audio and/or pictures/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement. (Braden Middle School is not responsible for lost/stolen electronic devices.

10. **Gambling and Use of Cards/Games:** Students shall not participate in any form of gambling or use or possess games (cards) without permission from school personnel.

11. **Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Stimulant Drugs:** A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell or conceal any alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, narcotic or counterfeit controlled (look-alike) substances. The odor of alcohol on a student's breath while on school property or under the jurisdiction of the school constitutes a violation of this rule.

Examples of drug abuse include, but are not limited to, narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, glue, over-the-counter medications (without doctor notification and distributed through the nurse) or other substances that could modify behavior. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell or conceal any drug or drug paraphernalia (for example, hypodermic needles, syringe) on school grounds, at any school-sponsored or related functions or activities off school grounds or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. (Court citation and suspension)

12. **Use or Possession of Tobacco Products:** A student may not at any time use or possess any form of tobacco products on school grounds, at any school-sponsored or related functions or activities off school grounds, or at any time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, clove cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, tobacco look-alike products, vapor cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any other form of tobacco-related products.

13. **Loitering and Trespassing:** Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled or permanently excluded, the student is not allowed on school property without the permission of a building administrator. Willful presence in a school building or a restricted area of a school building at unauthorized times will also be considered trespassing and subject to discipline.

14. **Truancy, Tardiness and Cutting Class:** Absence from all or any portion of the regularly scheduled school day or other mandatory activities without school authorization and parental consent is prohibited. Excessive tardiness to school, excessive tardiness to class, and truancy from class is violations and subject to discipline.

15. **Public Display of Affection:** Students are not to display forms of affection (kissing, excessive touching, etc.) in any areas of the building.

16. **Insubordination**: A student shall not fail to accept and follow directions, reasonable requests or orders of school officials, teachers, substitute teachers or other authorized school personnel.
17. **Failure to Accept Discipline**: Penalties assigned by teachers, school administrators/officials or other authorized school personnel not complied with or failure to serve any form of discipline will be considered violations of this rule.
18. **Violation of Bus Conduct Requirements**: Activities which pose or tend to pose a danger to the safe operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to, failing to remain seated, throwing objects at a passenger or the driver, shouting and other disorderly conduct which could cause physical harm or emotional stress, bullying/ harassment, using profanity, vandalizing, eating, chewing gum, or diverting the driver's attention will result in disciplinary action.
19. **Violation of School Policies Pertaining to Appearance and Dress (Dress Code)**: In the interests of health and safety, students are expected to dress in a manner conducive to a good learning environment. We believe there is a definite relationship between good dress habits and both good work habits and proper school behavior. Any type of attire that attracts undue attention to the wearer is in bad taste and, therefore, is not acceptable.

#### **DRESS CODE**

- Students are expected to wear clothing and jewelry in an appropriate manner. Students are not to wear:
- See-through clothing
- Unsuitable designs or language on any clothing that promotes drugs, tobacco and/or alcohol, violence, gang activity, presents an obscene message or suggestions.
- No visible undergarments.
- Costumes may only be worn during select special events (spirit days, theater performances, class presentations, etc.)
- Bandanas, do-rags, hats or hoods. Hoods may not be worn up during the school day.
- Footwear should be worn at all times. No slippers, cleats or shoes with roller.
- Blankets are not permitted.
- Skorts, skirts, dresses and shorts must reach the same point on the thigh as the bottom of the student's closed fist with arms down at sides.
- Rips and tears in pants, skirts or shorts cannot be past the thigh as the bottom of the student's closed fist with arms down at sides.

The administration handles and has final determination on clothing regulations. Offenders will be dealt with as a dress code violation. Any student disregarding appearance and dress guidelines will be asked to make the necessary changes in appearance or wearing apparel immediately. (A letter from the administration may be sent home to the parents of students disregarding the dress code guidelines.) The building administrator will make the final judgment.

20. **Hazing/Harassment**: Hazing is any act or participation in any act/acts that injures, degrades, disgraces or has the potential to injure, degrade or disgrace any student or staff member. Hazing is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Any act of harassment and/or sexual harassment will be considered in violation of the Buckeye Local Schools Code of Conduct and subject to immediate discipline. Unlawful harassment on the basis of race, national origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation and age includes such conduct as slurs, jokes and any other verbal or physical attack that;

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance;
- Otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunity to participate in the educational process.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

21. **Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying**: Is any act or participation in any act/acts that injures, degrades, disgraces or has the potential to injure, degrade or disgrace any student or staff member. This conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Any act of harassment and/or sexual harassment will be considered in violation of the Buckeye Local Schools Code of Conduct and subject to immediate discipline. Unlawful harassment on the basis of race, national origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation and age includes such conduct as slurs, jokes and any other verbal or physical attack that

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance; Otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunity to participate in the educational process.

#### **Definitions of Terms**

"Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

- Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student."Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying" also means electronically transmitted acts i.e., Internet, cell phones, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless

hand-held device that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

- Causes mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel; and Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.
- In evaluating whether conduct constitutes harassment, intimidation, or bullying, special attention should be paid to the words chosen or the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the perpetrator interacted with the victim, and the motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred.

A school-sponsored activity shall mean any activity conducted on or off school-property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the State Board of Education.

### **Types of Conduct**

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can include many different behaviors including over intent to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate another student or school personnel.

Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include:

- a. Physical violence and/or attacks;
- b. Threats, taunts, and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
- c. Extortion, damage, or stealing of money and/or possessions

Exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors; and, Repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other web-based/online sites (also known as “cyber bullying), such as the following:

- Posting slurs on websites where students congregate or on web logs (personal online journals or diaries);
- Sending abusive or threatening instant messages;
- Using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online;
- Using web sites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students; and,
- Excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to Internet Service Providers.

22. **False Alarms and/or Inducing Panic:** The act of initiating a fire alarm or initiating a report warning of a fire or an impending bombing or other catastrophe without cause is a violation of state law and is subject to discipline by the school and possible contact of police authorities.

23. **Arson:** The unauthorized use of any fire while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity or on Board of Education property including vehicles is not permitted. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated.

24. **Internet Policy:** Students are expected to comply with the Board of Education policy regarding the use of technology and Internet services. Using technology to access, view, possess or transmit offensive or slanderous materials is not acceptable and is subject to discipline. The possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images of photographs, whether by electronic data transfers or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing, or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law.

Any person possessing, taking, disseminating or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this code of conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

25. **Repeated Acts of Misconduct:** Students shall comply with all policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Education. Continual and repeated acts of misconduct will not be tolerated and will be subject to further disciplinary actions being taken.

### **SEARCHES**

- **General Searches of Students and Personal Items:** Students have the right to be secure in their persons and possessions from unlawful searches and seizures. However, school officials have the right to search a student or any student’s possessions if such official has reasonable suspicion that such a search will find any object that violates the law or school regulations. If a student is asked to acknowledge the item voluntarily or to cooperate with the search and refuses, school officials and appropriate law enforcement officials contacted may detain the student. Such refusal to cooperate with the search may also subject the student to school disciplinary procedures for failure to cooperate.

- **Search of Student Lockers/Desks:** Students are advised that lockers and desks are the property of Buckeye Local School District and are subject to inspection by authorized school personnel. Students are responsible for any and all contents found in their lockers and desks and will be held responsible for any violations of school rules that occur in their assigned lockers.

No student is permitted to share a locker/desk without the written permission of the administration, and sharing a locker/desk does not excuse either student from being responsible for the contents within the locker/desk at all times.

## **SCHOOL BOARD POLICY ON DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS**

In accordance with federal law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by state statute or substance that could be considered a “look-a-like” controlled substance. Compliance with the policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbook, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by state law, the district will also notify law enforcement officials.

The district is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which he/she receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

## **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The school district maintains many student records, including both directory information and confidential information.

- Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such directory information upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board’s annual *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) notice, which can be found on the district’s website ([www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)).
- Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in state and federal law, the school district is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a post-secondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student request that prior written consent be obtained.
- Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.
- Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.
- The full text of the ANNUAL NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS REGARDING STUDENT RECORDS can be found on the district’s website ([www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)).
- Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student’s privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of his/her right to a hearing on the matter.
- Individuals have the right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the district has violated FERPA.
- Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PRPA), no student shall be required, as part of the school program or the district’s curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning the following:
  - a. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parents;
  - b. mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  - c. sex behavior or attitudes;
  - d. illegal, anti-social, self-incrimination or demeaning behavior;
  - e. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - f. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  - g. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or,
  - h. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).
- Consistent with the PRPA and board policy, the superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES INCLUDING TITLE II, TITLE VI, AND TITLE IX, SECTION 504, AND ADA**

### **Nondiscrimination:**

- The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activities, or employment.

- It is the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students, regardless of race, color, creed, age, disability, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, place of resident within the boundaries of the district, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this district.

Complaint Procedure – Section I:

- Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, with the district's Civil Rights Coordinator: Superintendent, 3436 Braden Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004 or call 440-998-4411.
- The individual may also, at any time, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, OH 44114.
- The entire text of the complaint procedure, as well as all board policies, may be found on the district's website ([www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)).