

# BENNINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK



**2023-2024**

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

[www.benningtonschools.org](http://www.benningtonschools.org)

402-238-2447

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## PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared for the students and parents/guardians of Bennington Junior-Senior High School. It presents guidelines and directions which will help answer questions regarding school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet for future reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interests of all members of Bennington Junior Senior High School. These pages are devoted to the rules that govern Bennington Junior-Senior High School. However, it is impossible to list the unique circumstances covered by every rule. The handbook does not form a contract and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook whenever it so chooses. We encourage parents and guardians to visit the school. We are proud of what happens at Bennington and we welcome any opportunity to share information about the education of your child. The staff at Bennington is always available to help you. Education is a cooperative effort between parents/guardians and teachers. By working together, we can provide the best educational experience possible for you and your child. If you have questions regarding the school, please feel free to contact us.

SCHOOL COLORS -- *Royal Blue and White*

SCHOOL MASCOT -- *Badger*

SCHOOL MISSION -- *Provide a safe, positive, inclusive environment to prepare all students to be life-long learners and meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

SCHOOL MOTTO: Commit, Connect, Collaborate – Because We’re Bennington.

SCHOOL PHONE -- 238-2447

FAX -- 238-2950

SCHOOL CONFERENCE – Eastern Midlands Conference

N.S.A.A. -- Class B

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[www.benningtonschools.org](http://www.benningtonschools.org)

### **I. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

- A. The Board of Education is the elected legislative body of School District #59. While it helps create many school policies, it must give complete approval to all school policies and activities. Board duties include the approval of appropriations, determination of taxes, and the employment of all school personnel.
- B. The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Bennington Public Schools. The superintendent is responsible for carrying out the policies and actions of the Board. The superintendent advises the Board on educational endeavors, recommends personnel, and is responsible for all school district activities, subject to the Board's sanction.
- C. The principal of each building, under the supervision of the superintendent, provides leadership for the faculty and staff and employs the authority delegated within the framework of Board policies.

## **II. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

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

## **III. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

The High School Principal, Assistant Principal/Activities Director and Counselor's offices are located on your right as you enter the main entrance of the building.

Principal – Dr. Greg Lamberty  
Activities Director/Assistant Principal – Mr. Chris Kessell  
Assistant Principal – Mr. Cody Bobolz  
School Resource Officer – Tony Ramaeker

## **IV. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING**

The primary concern of the counselor is to aid students who have questions concerning academic, personal, or social life. This is accomplished through private conferences and group discussions. The counselor discusses questions with students concerning future courses and possible vocations and careers.

The goal of the guidance program is to help students develop an understanding and acceptance of themselves so they may make intelligent vocational, educational and social choices. Students are assisted in formulating goals, which are unique to their personal talents, capacities, and interests. Guidance can help the students believe in themselves, respect themselves and others, and to recognize that achievement can be a personally satisfying experience when goals are clarified. Counseling is the heart of the guidance service. It is defined as the process of an experienced and qualified individual helping a second person to understand oneself.

The following services are provided through the Counseling Office: self-evaluation, planning high school programs, preparing for post-secondary education and training, studying vocational and career options, counseling students individually and in groups, administering individual and group tests, conferring with parents regarding student progress and concerns, making referrals to various agencies, scheduling classes and assisting with curriculum planning, and conducting follow-up studies with various groups.

Guidance Counselor (A-G) – Mrs. Jennifer Smith  
Guidance Counselor (H-N) – Mrs. Mandy Boesch  
Guidance Counselor (O-Z) – Ms. Lisa Bade

## **V. RELEASE OF PUPIL RECORDS**

It shall be the policy of this school to release student transcripts to schools, employers, and military organizations upon request provided the minor student and/or the parents/guardians have signed a release form authorizing the school to do so. In some instances, organizations requesting this information have received written approval from the student to request this information. If the

agency provides this verification, the school will honor that request. If a student is 18 years of age or older, no parental/guardian signature is necessary to release the student data.

A. Information

1. School officials may have access to only records in which there is a legitimate educational interest, unless a parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if an official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. School officials include employees of the school and consultants contracted by the school including the school attorney. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action.
2. When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without the permission of the superintendent or designee.
3. Students and parents/guardians of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.
4. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Bennington Public Schools to provide address and telephone listings. Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.
5. Upon request, Bennington Public Schools discloses education records without the consent to officials of another school district in which a student intends to enroll. This is only if the information is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.
6. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bennington Public Schools, District 59, Douglas County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
  - a. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are **Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.**
  - b. A copy of the Bennington Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

## **VI. MANDATORY AGES OF ATTENDANCE**

Mandatory ages of attendance for truancy purposes are as follows: The mandatory ages of attendance are age 6 (as of January 1 of the then current school year) to age 18. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; (3) has reached 18 years of age; (4) has reached the age of 16 years and such child's parent or guardian has signed a notarized release discontinuing the enrollment of the child on a form provided by the school (must be obtained from the principal's office). In addition to a signed notarized release form, the superintendent's designee (Principal) shall conduct an exit interview if the child is (a) enrolled in Bennington High School, or (b) resides in the school district and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

## **ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to obtain maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center. The administration will follow Nebraska Statute 79-208 and 209 when dealing with attendance issues.

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

The superintendent shall designate the principal as the attendance officer. The principal will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance status. The principal may assemble an attendance team that will facilitate implementation of the attendance plan and will be responsible for oversight of attendance strategies.

If any student has accumulated a total of eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the school shall render all services to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
2. A meeting between a school attendance officer, school social worker a school administrator or designee, the person who has legal or actual control of the child, and the student (when appropriate) to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
  - (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.

- (ii) Educational counseling.
- (iii) Educational evaluation.
- (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services.
- (v) Family or individual counseling; and
- (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting or services offered as part of the attendance plan, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

Notification:

1. If a student has accumulated eight (8) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.
2. If a student has accumulated fifteen (15) absences in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the District will send written notice to the student's parents or guardians regarding the State mandatory attendance and excessive absenteeism laws.
3. If a student is absent more than twenty (20) days in a school year or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. The District shall notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the student to the county attorney. The report shall state that the District has made the efforts required by this policy and that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful and the District recommends county attorney intervention. The report shall include all relevant information regarding attendance and excessive absenteeism of the student. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.
4. If a student has a history of being chronically absent from school, the District shall render any and all services in the District's power to compel the student to attend school at any time the attendance officer deems necessary. This may include filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides prior to twenty (20) days, or the hour equivalent, of absence in a school year.

**Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.**

If a student is unexcused absent more than 20 days per year or hourly equivalent the attendance officer may file a report with the County Attorney of the county in which such person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides. When reporting excessive absenteeism, the attendance officer shall inform the county attorney whether the excessive absences are due to documented illnesses that make attendance impossible or impractical. This may be done by informing the County Attorney of either the number of absences due to such illnesses or that the attendance officer is of the opinion that prosecution is not warranted. This report will contain the following information:

1. Identification information including address, phone number, date of birth - any relevant information regarding student's status, residence and parent/guardian status.
2. A complete attendance record including all previous years obtainable of absences, tardies and information regarding any waivers, etc., on record.
3. A record of steps made to gain compliance including calls, conferences, letters, etc., by building, district and any other agencies or individuals that may be involved.

4. A copy of the final certified letter to the parent/guardian notifying them of this action.
5. A copy of the attendance requirement.
6. Any other information that may be deemed helpful to the County Attorney. This may include past actions, discipline records, knowledge of family/community problems, etc.

**Attendance is coded at Bennington Public Schools as listed below:**

**E - Excused** - family emergencies or events (examples could include a family wedding, funeral, a family member being deployed with the military, 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) - students can make up work for full credit.

**U - Unexcused** - Parent or guardian will excuse the absence but the school does not recognize this particular absence as excused (examples would include: vacation, not following established state competition attendance protocols, taking a child to lunch, or consecutive days of illness without a doctor's note) - students can make up work for full credit, but may be asked to do so during after school or morning study hall or Saturday School.

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

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

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

**R - Truant** - a student is absent from school and parent or guardian does not excuse the absence. - students may not make up work for credit and will receive a consequence for their absence. Once the consequence has been served students may be granted access to the missed assignments.

**CO – Counseling/Office** – Student was accounted for at school and in the Counseling or Administrative Office. The student is responsible for the missing work at the discretion of the teacher.

**SS – State Spectator** – Student followed proper attendance procedures established by the school administration. Student is responsible for completing work prior to the absence OR at the discretion of the teacher.

**SA - School Activity** - a student is absent from a school for a sponsored activity. Students should have completed work prior to being absent from a school activity OR are responsible for completion of the work at the discretion of the teacher as listed in the course syllabus.

Below is a list of district procedures when recording excused and unexcused absences for all students.

1. Students missing four or more consecutive days due to illness are required to provide a professional's medical note for those absences to be considered "excused." If you are unable to provide a medical note for the illness, the entire length of the absence will be considered "unexcused."

2. When a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, he or she will be considered “unexcused.”
3. The school district will only recognize school sponsored activities as excused absences. Any club activity (volleyball, softball, basketball, hockey, etc.) where a student is absent will be coded as a “U” and considered unexcused.

\*The school does not recognize Senior Skip Day as an excused absence.

## **VII. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

- A. Statistical evidence supports the hypothesis that regular attendance and high grades are directly correlated. There is no substitute for regular attendance, and most classroom experiences cannot be duplicated. The Nebraska school laws require regular school attendance for all pupils of school age for the entire time that school is in session. In addition, business, industry, and institutions of higher education are viewing these records more closely, seeking individuals who are more stable and dependable.
- B. Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of each student and his/her parents/guardians.
- C. During the school year, it is expected that students will have routine dental and medical appointments. Whenever possible, these appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, on weekends, or during school vacation periods. If appointments can only be made during school hours, students must bring a note of parental/guardian request to the school office at least one day before the student leaves school for the appointment. In cases of emergency, the principal may waive this procedure. If a number of appointments must be made during school hours, these should be scheduled during the student's study period or during different periods throughout the school day. All students must report to the office after they have been absent.
- D. Each absence must be covered by a signed note or telephone call from a parent or guardian, stating the date and reason for the absence.
- E. The decision to miss school is the responsibility of the parent and student, in consultation with school officials, and should be made in consideration of the student's status in school. A student contemplating a planned absence from school for more than one day should be in communication with his or her teachers to develop a plan for completing missed work. Students and parents/guardians should avoid scheduling vacations during the days of final examinations.
- F. Parents/guardians will also be notified by mail when a student reaches the eighth absence for a semester. Parents/guardians will be notified when the tenth absence occurs for the student. The parents will have an opportunity to explain if the child's absences were due to 1) Illness with doctor verification; or 2) Absences due to family emergency and/or special family/student need. If the parent/guardian cannot provide clear proof to substantiate items 1 and 2, students will lose credit for all classes missed ten (10) or more times. Decisions regarding academic credit will be made by the high school administration and reviewed by the Bennington Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment.

- G. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the classroom when the bell starts to ring. If a student is tardy for his/her first period class, he/she will be required to obtain a tardy slip from the office before being admitted to class and will be marked excused or unexcused by the office. Tardiness for periods 2-8 will be recorded by the classroom teacher.

Emergencies will periodically occur causing a student to be late for school. Consequently, a student may be tardy FOUR times without disciplinary consequences. Further tardiness (for all class periods 1-8) will result in the following disciplinary action:

- 5 tardies: 2 detentions, or 4 lunch detentions, or 2 hours of Saturday School
- 10 tardies: 4 detentions, or 8 lunch detentions, or 4 hours of Saturday School, or 1 day of in-school suspension
- 11 or more tardies: Administration will have discretion to assign consequences. Possible consequences include detention, lunch detention, Saturday School, In-school suspension, Out of School suspension, Activity attendance Suspension, Attendance Contract.

Each tardy is accumulated for periods 1-8 throughout semester. The administration will address excessive unexcused tardiness on an individual basis. When a student arrives more than 15 minutes late to any class period, it will be considered an unexcused absence and the student will be required to serve a detention.

- H. Students who skip classes are in violation of BHS conduct rules. A skip (truancy) is defined as any absence that the school and parents/guardians do not approve or an absence that the principal will not accept as a reasonable absence: for example, oversleeping, hair appointments, shopping, remaining in the restroom during class without permission, and other absences when the school is not properly notified.
- I. Students shall be present 5 of the 8 periods of the school day in order to participate in any school event, including practices, performances, rehearsals, meetings, or games. If the activity occurs before 5th period, the student must be in attendance all previous periods.
- J. Students with shortened schedules MUST be in attendance for 4 periods of class in order to participate in any school event, including practices, performances, rehearsals, meetings, or games.
- K. Students who participate in any school event, including practices, performances, rehearsals, meetings, or games PRIOR to school then fail to attend the required number of class periods may be withheld from future events related to the extra-curricular group.
- L. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities. Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and following unless administrators determine such participation poses a significant risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant or parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed health care provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification may be required of students for other

conditions which require the attention of a licensed health care provider. Pregnant or parenting students are here notified that they may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school.

Lactation:

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodation will be in a location other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided with a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

- L. Married students residing in the district are considered to be of legal age and shall have the same educational opportunities as unmarried students. The district encourages married students and students with children to complete requirements for graduation and to participate in school activities.

**VIII. MAKE-UP WORK**

- A. No matter what the reason, if a student has missed any type of schoolwork, the course assignments must be made up in a manner acceptable to the teacher as stated in the course syllabus of the teacher. **Students can be required to take tests and quizzes as soon as they return to school, if they had been assigned prior to the absence.** School Board policy #503.03 states that “students absences approved shall make up work missed and receive full credit”. Ordinarily, students will be given one-day for each day absent from make-up work (five days or less). In the case of long-term absences (six days or more), the instructor and grade level administrator will determine when make-up work is due based on the difficulty of content and length of absence.
- B. When a student has been suspended from school or has an unexcused absence the student will be required to turn in make-up work at the end of the day on the day they return to school. Tests / assessments will be arranged for completion in a collaborative manner with student, teacher, and/or administration, and/or parents.
- C. If a student is going to be absent from school for an athletic event, field trip, or other school-sponsored activity, he/she is required to turn in all assignments requested by teachers prior to the absence, or in a manner acceptable by the teacher. If the student does not meet this requirement, the teacher will inform the sponsor of the event or the principal and the student will not be dismissed from school. Staff members can be informed of the students who will be absent by a list provided to staff members by the sponsor at least two days prior to the event. Students are not counted absent on school-sponsored trips.

## **IX. THE SCHOOL DAY**

A. Throughout the year there may be reasons for students to leave the building during the day (sickness, forgotten articles at home, personal business, etc.). In such cases, students must report to the office for help. Students who leave without proper permission will be considered truant. Failure to comply with this standard will be considered a major rule violation resulting in an administrative conference and potentially disciplinary action.

### **B. Illness at School**

Students who become ill during the school day are to report to the office. If the school nurse is present, he/she will help assess the situation. In his/her absence, the office staff will work with the student. Students will not be sent home until parents/guardians or emergency contacts have been notified.

### **C. Released Time from School**

1. Students may be released from school with permission from the school and/or parents/guardians for employment opportunities. This provision applies only to juniors and seniors.
2. Students requesting to leave school early must pick up a release form in the office, secure the necessary signatures, and have the form returned to school before the release can be granted.
3. Students must be passing all subjects to keep release time status. These standards will be checked each grading period. Students who do not meet the standards will be required to report to a study hall until the next grading period.
4. Students who receive early release will not be allowed to stay at school. Seniors that leave school after 4-8 periods need to exit campus.

### **D. School Lunch Program**

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

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

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination

Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:8666329992). Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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

Fax: [\(202\) 690-7442](tel:2026907442); or

Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) - This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Students must remain on the campus during lunchtime. Please note that the federal lunch program prohibits bringing in outside fast food items during the lunch period (McDonalds, Burger King, etc.). Students who order food or drink for delivery to school during school hours (DoorDash, etc....) will remain in the office until the food or drink is consumed in the office. Students who miss class time to eat lunch will face disciplinary action from the administration. All students must report to the Commons area during their entire assigned lunch period (students may be excused with a prearranged pass from a teacher). Students will be allowed to use the Courtyard during lunch time when the weather conditions allow the Courtyard to be open. Use of the Courtyard is a privilege and will be granted or removed at the discretion of the BHS administration.

#### **E. Fire Drills and Tornado Drills**

All students will participate in Fire and Tornado drills conducted by BHS. Teachers will give students instructions to follow during drills. Talking or running during the drills is not permitted. Everyone must leave the building when the fire alarm rings.

#### **F. School Closing**

State law requires school to be in session for a minimum of 175 days. Our calendar ranges from 175-177 days each year. In cases of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, the decision to close school, delay starting time, or dismiss early will be announced over radio station KFAB (1110), television stations KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. The School Messenger System will also provide school closing information to all patrons who have subscribed to the service. Reports in the morning will be around 6:30 a.m. If more days are used for inclement weather than the number scheduled, time will be made up Saturdays or at the end of the school year.

#### **G. The Daily Bulletin (*Badger Gram*)**

School information will be read to students at the beginning of third period. A copy of the bulletin will be emailed to students and staff each day school is in session. The daily bulletin will also be posted on the school website. Information for the bulletin should be given to the high school secretary by 8:30 a.m.

<b>H. Regular Class Schedule</b>		<b>Homeroom / Advisory Schedule</b>	
Period 1	8:10 – 8:55	Period 1	8:10 – 8:51
Period 2	8:59 – 9:44	Period 2	8:55 – 9:36
Period 3	9:48 – 10:33	Period 3	9:40 – 10:21
Period 4	10:37 – 11:22	HR / AP	10:25 – 10:45
Period 5	11:26 – 12:50	Period 4	10:49 – 11:30
Period 6	12:54 – 1:39	Period 5	11:30 – 1:01
Period 7	1:43 – 2:28	Period 6	1:05 – 1:46
Period 8	2:32 – 3:17	Period 7	1:50 – 2:31
		Period 8	2:35 – 3:17

\*\* Lunch occurs during 5<sup>th</sup> period. Lunch structure is determined by the administration – students are served in waves: A1 & A2; B1 & B2; C1 & C2.

\*\* Buses depart after school at 3:25 / Detention is held Monday – Thursday from 3:20 – 4:00.

### **I. Student Passes**

If a student wishes to confer with a teacher or counselor during a study hall period, he/she should have that teacher issue a pass from their planner prior to the study hall period to present to the study hall teacher.

Students may be issued passes to leave a classroom or study hall for necessary reasons. Students in halls or restrooms during class time must have their signed planner with them. Students are limited to four passes per school day. Privileges will be taken away from students for not following appropriate pass procedures.

### **J. Passing Periods**

1. Passing periods will be four minutes in length. This will allow ample time to get from one classroom to the next.
2. Students who arrive at school before 8:00 are to remain in the commons area until 8:00 unless accompanied by a teacher.
3. All students are to be out of the building by 4:00 p.m. unless under the direct supervision of a teacher. Doors to the main staircase will be locked at 4:00 p.m. Students must bring their books to the gym before practices that end after 4:00 p.m. All students in the building after 4:00 must wait in the commons unless supervised.

### **K. Late Assignments Procedures**

It is the responsibility of all students to turn in their assignments in a timely manner. Any day of the week teachers may also require students to attend after school study center or come 30 minutes before school to make up late assignments. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of each individual teacher and will be covered in the syllabus for the specific

class. Department consistency with this practice will be monitored by the school administration.

**L. Detention**

Detentions will be assigned from 3:20-4:00 with designated staff members. Grades 9-12 will be assigned detentions Monday-Thursday. Students will be assigned detentions because of violations of the Code of Conduct or failure to complete academic assignments. A student will be required to attend the detention on the day assigned unless excused by the staff member assigning the detention or by the principal. All students who are involved in extra-curricular activities must serve their detentions at the regularly scheduled time and they must report to their practices immediately after their detention is finished. Rescheduling requests will be considered by the principal on an individual basis. Students will be required to be on task with school assigned activities; they may not use cell phones.

Failure to serve a detention will result in parental notification and additional consequences assigned by the grade level administrator. If a student fails to serve a second detention, they will receive Saturday Schools and their parents will be required to meet with the principal to develop a plan to correct this behavior.

**X. BUS SERVICE**

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

Transportation Department coordinators are Mr. Jeremy Edens – [jedens@bennps.org](mailto:jedens@bennps.org) and Mr. Matthew Derry – [mderry@bennps.org](mailto:mderry@bennps.org) The Transportation Department can be reached by phone at 402-238-2902.

- B. Transportation may also be provided for resident students who live less than four miles from the school. They may use this service at a cost of \$175.00 per semester per student (\$350 maximum per semester per family). Payments may be paid by the month, by the semester, or annually. A \$5.00 per-day per-student fee will be charged to occasional riders when and as determined appropriate by the Bennington Public Schools. Each of these situations will be handled on an individual basis depending on the distance from the schoolhouse they attend and the established bus routes.

- C. Transportation fees assessed by Bennington Public Schools may be reduced for children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act (or extenuating circumstances) upon request. If approved, the fee will be 25% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for free lunches or breakfasts and 50% of annual transportation fees for students eligible for reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

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

- D. The Bennington Public Schools may end any or all transportation services, which may be provided at any time if it is determined to be in the school's best interests.
- E. Parents/guardians must notify the school when a child is planning to ride a different bus or needs to be dropped off at a location different from his regular stop. If a student requests the change without parental/guardian notification, the driver will not allow the change to be made.
- F. Parents/guardians and students should review the following bus rules together to assist in making our transportation system safe and pleasant for all who ride:
  - 1. School transportation is a privilege.
  - 2. Students may be assigned seats on the bus.
  - 3. Students need to be ready and in place when the bus arrives. At the end of the school day buses will leave five minutes after high school dismissal. All students riding the bus must report promptly after dismissal.
  - 4. Students are to remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
  - 5. Students will not be allowed to extend any body part or throw any item out of the bus windows.
  - 6. Aisles are to remain open and free for movement of students entering or leaving the bus.
  - 7. Disruptions by students will not be tolerated. This includes loud voices, vulgar language, fighting, harassment of other students, or any actions that threaten the safety of the other students.
  - 8. Students are to cross only in front of the bus after looking in both directions for on-coming traffic.
  - 9. Students and/or parents/guardians are legally responsible for any damage to school owned property.
  - 10. The back door is to be used only in case of emergency; always use the front door for entering and leaving the bus.
- G. All bus behavior rules apply to activities and field trips as well as transportation to and from school.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

### **A. Hall & Locker Room Lockers**

The school assumes no responsibility for items taken from the lockers. Students may request a school locker from the guidance office. **THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR** securing personal property in the assigned locker and properly securing the lock to the locker. Students are to keep lockers clean at all times. Lockers are not the private property of any student, but rather, equipment issued to the student by the school. Lockers may be inspected at the discretion of the administration. Students are asked not to share their locker combinations. Students are not to

change lockers without permission. Only school locks can be used on all school lockers. Lockers will not have decorations posted without administrative approval.

Students participating in Physical Education class will be assigned a locker by the class instructor. **THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR** securing personal property in the assigned locker and properly securing the lock to the locker.

#### **B. Search and Seizure**

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions, and automobiles may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use.

The principal or his designee may confiscate any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the high school safe and free from illegal drugs, the high school principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline.

Multiple students occupying a bathroom stall OR gathered in the restroom without obvious purpose (not using the facility for the designated purpose) may result in an immediate search by the administration. Consequences may follow a referral for multiple students in a bathroom stall.

#### **C. Dating Violence**

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

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

**D. Public Displays of Affection/Aggression**

Students are not allowed to display affection for each other at school. Such things as holding hands, embracing, and kissing are inappropriate behavior during school hours. Students are expected to conduct themselves with maturity.

Aggressive play or intimidating/bullying behavior is prohibited. Students who intimidate/bully or are involved in any form of harassment, verbal/non-verbal or physical, will be considered in violation of board policy #504.51.

**E. Telephone**

1. The school's phones are business phones and are not to be used by students during the school day unless they have received permission from the staff.
2. Parents are encouraged to contact the front office 402-238-2447 to relay messages regarding appointments, sibling transportation, or situations outside of the school day, to their student(s) during the school day. If messages are of an emergency nature, they will be delivered directly to the student in the classroom.
3. Students are expected to check their cell phone in at the start of each class period and/or when the teacher directs students to place the cell phone in the phone caddy located in the classroom. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used during passing periods and lunch. Possession and use of the cell phone by students after classroom instruction & learning activities are completed is at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Failure to comply with appropriate electronic device etiquette may result in disciplinary action. Confiscated cell phones turned into the office by school staff members will be returned to the student and/or parent at the discretion of the administration. Additional consequences for insubordination, disruptive behavior, disrespectful behavior, and/or failure to follow directions may be included with consequences. Repeated infractions of the Bennington cellular phone or other electronic device guidelines will result in escalated consequences or removal of cell phone possession for the student. There is a zero-tolerance policy for cell phone use in restrooms and locker rooms.
4. Any student caught using their cell phone to bully or harass another student will be subject to disciplinary action including removal of possession of the cell phone.

**F. Possession of Nuisance Devices**

Students are encouraged to bring only necessary materials to school in order to maintain a school environment where all students may reach their potential. Unnecessary items can be a distraction to the learning environment and create unnecessary opportunities for theft in which the school cannot be held responsible. Any item that is disruptive to the educational environment will be considered nuisance items and will not be allowed in classrooms, except at the discretion of an

individual teacher. Students can expect to have these items confiscated by staff and administration; the items will be turned into the office.

#### **G. Parking**

Students are to park in designated student parking areas. Due to the number of parking stalls available, parking will be assigned by grade and all students must have the appropriate parking tag in their window in order to park in their area. Failure to display the correct tag, or parking in an unauthorized area may result in a fine (\$5 first offense, \$10 for all additional offenses), a car boot, or loss of parking privileges. Parent drop-off is designated for the south loop off Bennington Road - traffic may continue straight ahead to the drop-off loop. There is no parking in the drop-off loop.

- The bus loop is designated as the north loop off of 168<sup>th</sup> Street – parents are not to use the north loop for student pick-up and drop-off.
- Students may not park in the teacher parking section during school hours. Students are not allowed to park in the loading dock area or teacher parking lot at any time.
- By parking on school grounds, students give consent to have their car searched by school officials when reasonable suspicion exists.
- Students with outstanding fines at school may be subject to a loss of specific parking lot privileges.
- Vehicles operated by students must have a valid vehicle registration, meet registered vehicle standards, and only consume one parking stall in the lot. Farm equipment, ATV's, Go Carts, etc. may be prohibited from parking lots on BHS property.
- Multiple students in a parked (non-active) vehicle on school grounds are subject to search and seizure procedures.

#### **H. Posters**

Any student, group, or organization needs to have the approval of the sponsor and the principal before hanging any poster or sign. Only masking tape may be used to hang posters, and those who put posters up must also remove them in a timely manner.

#### **I. Food and Beverage**

Students must adhere to individual teacher's procedures for beverages and food in the classroom. Teachers have the discretion in what is allowed in their classroom. Failure to comply with teacher procedures may result in teacher/administrator consequences.

#### **J. Fund-Raising Activities**

School organizations are regularly involved in revenue-producing projects to support planned activities. Since School District tax money cannot be used to finance these activities, each organization must decide which activities it wishes to conduct and is responsible for the costs involved. Each student involved in any of these projects must assume full responsibility for the products issued to him/her for sale. The student will be held accountable for returning the product or money or both to the office depending upon the sales. Each organization shall have the right to establish policies related to the projects. Refer to Board Policy 506.08. All fundraising must be approved by the administration prior to any selling activity.

#### **K. Lost and Found**

The office maintains a small lost and found area. Any article left in the classroom or found in the building should be turned in to one of the secretaries. Articles may be claimed with proper identification. Appropriate safeguards should always prevail. Large amounts of money or valuables should not be brought to school. If brought to school by necessity, such items should be checked in at the office for safe keeping until after school hours. Items left unclaimed at the end of each quarter will be donated to a local store or organization.

#### **L. Textbooks**

All basic texts are provided to students during the school year. Texts are to be kept clean and in good condition. Fines are assessed for damaged texts. The teacher will handle end of the year textbook fines and as the fines are collected, they will be turned into the office:

1. Books lost or damaged beyond repair – full value of replacement.
2. Backs or covers broken -- \$12.50 per book (over 2 years old) \$25.00 per book (less than 2 years old).
3. Pages torn and un-mended -- \$.50 per page (not to exceed the value).
4. Ink writing, spots, etc.-- \$.25 per page.
5. Pencil marks – students must erase these marks.

#### **M. Financial Indebtedness**

Financial indebtedness is something that cannot be ignored or put off. School policy states that all course credit will be frozen, and transcripts will be withheld until all financial obligations have been cleared with the school. Students or parents/guardians must also reimburse the school district the actual cost of replacing books or materials, the rebinding of books, or the value of replacing school property.

Students who willfully cause damage to school property will be responsible for the cost of the damage including labor. They will also receive disciplinary consequences for their actions.

#### **N. School Assemblies**

All students should express their school spirit through hand clapping (no whistling or shouting) during any assemblies held during the year. Performers are our guests; and students must respect them and their peers at all times during these performances. These programs, which quite often include our own students, are provided for our educational benefit. Therefore, we should show interest and consideration toward all presenters and performers. The same courtesy should be extended to students and teachers from other schools. Parents will receive notification from the administration when an outside entity is presenting to the student body prior to the scheduled date for the assembly.

**O. Student Spectators**

Students are encouraged to attend all of the school activities offered by Bennington Schools. School spirit is encouraged at all times. School spirit means loyalty to all Bennington High School activities and their participants while demonstrating respect for the opposing team's participants, coaches, and fans as well as the game officials. If a student chooses to leave during an event, he/she will not be allowed to return. [Exceptions: 1) Students may attend two different events being hosted at Bennington on the same night; and 2) Students may return during a day-long tournament.] BHS students are not allowed to bring outside containers into the gym or facilities during school activities.

**P. Visitors**

All visitors are required to first stop in the office and need to be identified before proceeding into other parts of the building. Friends or siblings of students will not be allowed to visit classrooms or join students for lunch without administrative approval. Former students wishing to visit teachers are encouraged to do so outside of regular school hours.

**Q. Asbestos Notification**

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

**R. Media Center Rules**

The Media Center is available for your information needs and reading engagement from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Students should come to use the library resources to help the library serve you better and make your library time more productive, while maintaining a productive learning environment for all students.

The High School library will not charge for overdue books. Notices are sent to parents and students on a regular basis. Costs/Fines for damaged materials or lost books will be assigned. All fines will carry over from year to year, and library fines must be cleared prior to being allowed to walk in the graduation ceremony.

**T. Option Enrollment Program**

Any student wishing to enroll in the option enrollment program must meet the deadlines prior to May 1 for NSAA eligibility and all other guidelines set forth in the School Board policies. Option

enrollment is the duty of the Bennington Public Schools District Office – please contact 402-238-2447.

**U. Internet Use**

Bennington Secondary School Internet use is granted to students and is monitored by staff and a software filtering service. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action and loss of Internet privileges. Parents /guardians who wish to have their student(s) not allowed usage of the Internet should contact their grade-level administrator. (See addendum XX).

**V. School Ceremonies and Observances**

Bennington Public Schools will continue school ceremonies and observances, which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy. Requests for remembering or memorializing a person or event shall be approved by the superintendent and/or building principal, subject to this policy. Major school ceremonies such as graduation, awards, and scholarship events are not appropriate for significant memorial activities. School-wide recognition of anniversary dates will not occur. Temporary memorial symbols displayed on school grounds will be limited to a maximum of one month past the occurrence being memorialized. Requests may be made to memorialize an individual or event in the school yearbook or one edition of the school newspaper/newsletter. Information may be included on a “Memorial Page,” but should be limited to the name, photo, dates of birth/death, and school activities in which the student or staff member participated.

**W. School Store**

The store will be run by the FBLA and Booster Club through the activities department and be open on an established & agreed upon schedule by both organizations at various athletic/activity school events. The school store will provide a variety of items for students including school supplies. The school store will be staffed by FBLA students. A faculty member will oversee school store operations during each shift. Students will be expected to report to all of their assigned shifts unless reasonable notice is given of their absence.

**X. Recreational Trail**

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

**Y. Student Technology Device Use**

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent of the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

#### **Z. Regulated Electronic Devices**

Any prohibited items or devices brought to school or school events may be confiscated by district staff. Prohibited items will be turned over to the student's parents or guardian on request unless the object seized is dangerous, contrary to law, or has been turned over to legal authorities. Inappropriate use of a cellular device at a BHS athletic event, concert, performance, ceremony, or on BPS school grounds may result in consequences.

Prohibited devices shall include any item which is sufficiently annoying, offensive, unpleasant, or obnoxious that it substantially interferes with or materially disrupts the educational process. In addition to any prohibitions on electronic devices defined in the student handbook, students shall not use electronic devices for recording or transmitting photographs, images or sounds of other persons without direct administrative approval and consent of all people(s) being recorded, other than the recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time where there is an expectation of privacy. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

#### **AA. Breathalyzers**

The district may require all students to submit to alcohol screening before they may enter or exit a school sponsored event or activity, or prior to leaving on a field trip or other off-campus event or activity sponsored by the school. Such screening devices may be used to sample students' breath and any liquid-carrying containers. If such screening has positive results, then there shall be a second screening. If such a second screening again has positive results, then there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has violated the District's alcohol policy and the student may be subjected to a field test.

#### **BB. Safe 2 Help**

Safe 2 Help is a national crisis & safety hotline available to students, parents, and staff at Bennington provided free of charge. The purpose of Safe 2 Help is to protect the safety of students and staff at Bennington High School while maintaining a safe and positive learning environment. Students may submit a report via the Safe 2 Help online link or app. All reports received by the administration and SRO will be reviewed for accuracy and investigated as personnel and resources allow during the school day. Students found in violation of the code of conduct will receive consequences by the administration and/or SRO.

Additionally, students who file a report with S2H and the report is unfounded, inaccurate, or inappropriate could face consequences from the administration:

- **False Complaints** - False accusations or complaints against another student or staff member.

- **False Alarm or Report** - Purposely making a false alarm or false report, or purposely furnishing false information or making a communication or statement, whether verbal, written or electronic, concerning the existence of any bomb, explosive device, weapon, firearm, dangerous chemical substance, or biochemical or terroristic device, or concerning an intent or attempt to be made to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or to use, possess, or bring on to District property or to any District activity or event any bomb, explosive device, weapon, firearm, dangerous chemical substance, or biochemical or terroristic device, or concerning the need for medical, police, or emergency services or procedures. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§28-907 and 1221; Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-267(10).
- **False Allegations Against Staff** - Any knowingly or recklessly false allegation against a staff member, written, spoken or otherwise communicated which is harmful to the reputation of the staff member, or which may impede the ability of the staff member to perform assigned duties.
- **False Allegations against Student(s)** – Any knowingly or intentional false report or allegation against a student which is harmful to the reputation and learning experience of the student or impedes the ability to learn and/or attend school.

## **XII. STUDENT DRESS**

**A. The Bennington School District recognizes that student dress styles do change; however, if a style demonstrates that it substantially disrupts or has a material interference with school activities, constitutes a threat to the safety or health of self and/or others, or is in violation of any state or federal statute, it will not be permitted at school. Ideally, within these limitations the decision regarding attire, hygiene, and grooming shall be left to the good judgement and responsibility of the individual and parents.**

- a. Dress for the students participating in activities which in any way are representative of the individual, school, district, and community shall be outlined by the coach or sponsor and administration. Adherence to these policies will be mandatory for participation in all activities.
  - b. The school administration has the responsibility and discretion to help students develop values which contribute to respect and good taste related to matters of dress and appearance.
- Students are required to dress appropriately and in good taste. No student will be permitted to dress in a manner which sets him or her apart from the usual dress expected of students (dress which might cause the educational process to be interrupted or become a threat to the safety of the individual student or the student body). Bennington High School has a standard of dress that students will be expected to follow.

Examples of student dress that violate the dress code: Printed words or slogans that promote or advertise alcohol, smoking, drugs, profanity, sex, double-meaning, or otherwise inappropriate at school; Jewelry that is a potential danger to self or others (animal

collars/chains, scarfs, etc.); Shirts, shorts, or pants that reveal undergarments or substantial areas of skin normally covered; Headgear (including sunglasses, headbands, bandanas, hats, etc.) not related to religious beliefs or health conditions, blankets, flags, or items not regularly considered clothing.

Students may be directed by any BHS staff member to comply with the dress code. Failure to comply with staff requests or instructions will result in an administrative referral and possible consequences.

- Teachers in lab or participation classes / areas (Science, STS, FCS, PE, ART) may have grooming or dress rules to assure a safe environment. Students are required to adhere to such rules.
- Light coats and jackets (including letter jackets) are allowed. Hooded sweatshirts are allowed as long as the hoods are not worn above the neck. No blankets, flags, or winter jackets will be allowed to be worn once school begins in the morning.
- Special eye protection may be required in some classes. Students are expected to comply with these rules for their own safety.
- Students will be required to wear some type of soled shoe or sandals while attending school and/or school events. Open toed shoes will not be permitted in industrial technology or physical education classes.
- If, in the opinion of administration students violate the above-mentioned dress code he/she could be required to change, return home and change, or be administered consequences for insubordination. The time spent traveling from school to home and back will be unexcused and consequences may be administered. If offenses are repeated, additional consequences may be issued. Dress code exceptions may be made for those attending extracurricular activities.

### **XIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **A. School Nurse**

1. The school Nurse is an integral part of the total education program. The Visiting Nurses Association is funded by private contract. Bennington Public Schools typically receive nurse's services three full days a week.
2. The location of the nurse's office varies. The Nurse will not treat walk-ins when she is on site. In an emergency, students must report to the office.
3. Medication should be given at home whenever possible. When it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, the parents/guardians must complete the Medication Authorization Form in the school office. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide any medication given at school and ensures its safe travel to and from school. All medication must be sent to school in the original container and will be stored securely on arrival at school.

4. For fever over 100 degrees/or vomiting students should be kept home a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.

## **B. Medication Regulation**

1. Bennington Public Schools is not to administer any prescribed medication without the approval of parents/guardians and doctor. No unauthorized medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) shall be administered by the school nurse or any school staff member. No personnel of Bennington Public Schools will prescribe medication at any time. The staff is not allowed to give students any prescription or non-prescription medication. Students may use non-prescribed medication but may not distribute non-prescribed (over the counter) medication to peers. Distribution of any type of medication will be in violation of the Code of Conduct.
2. When a student must take medication, which has been prescribed by a doctor during the hours the student is in school, the following procedure is to be followed:
  - (a) All medication is to be brought to the office when the student arrives at school in the morning. If medication is controlled, parents are required to conduct an exact count of the medication and present it to the school along with the medication. Upon medication arrival at school, the health office will also conduct a count of the medication. The medication count must match that provided by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be contacted to conduct a medication count if a count is not provided or if a discrepancy in the count occurs.
  - (b) Only four weeks' supply shall be brought at a time unless otherwise indicated by the parent/guardian and attending physician.
  - (c) The label on the medication shall include the student's name, physician's name, date and directions to be followed. This should contain the original container and label.
  - (d) All medications will be stored in the office at all times. Students should not keep medication with them or in lockers.
  - (e) Medication will only be used by the student in the office and in front of the school secretary or the principal.
  - (f) Teachers will give students permission to go to the office to take the medication.

## **C. Student Self-Management of Medications for Diabetes and Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

Parents/Guardians may request that their child/children be allowed to administer medication for Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis (both Diabetes and Anaphylaxis must be self-administered in the nurse's office under the care of the health para or nurse). The parent will need to follow the following procedures.

1. The parent/guardian will be required to request for self-management of medications in writing.
2. The parent/guardian will need written verification from a physician or other health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment indicating the

condition and specific medications including name and purpose and dosage that may be self-managed.

3. The building administrator and school nurse will review the request and physician's verification for approval.

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

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

**The Parent/Guardian shall sign a statement that:**

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

**XIV. PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICIES**

- A. The physical education dress for girls and boys is gym shorts, T-shirt, and socks. All students must wear tennis shoes for safety reasons while using the gym. Students must furnish their own towels. All gym clothes and shoes should be marked with the owner's name.
- B. The gym should not be used as a play area during practice for non-athletic activities. Students will not be able to use the weight room or gym area without a teacher supervising. Coaches/sponsors are encouraged to check with the Activities Director prior to use of the gym(s) outside of regular school hours. The Activities Director will maintain a schedule and record of facility use for BHS.
- C. Students are expected to practice good hygiene prior to and after PE class. Students are encouraged to shower after class and bring a rotation of clean & sanitary clothes.

- D. Loitering in the locker rooms or restrooms at BHS is not permitted. Students found in unsupervised areas, locker rooms, or restrooms without immediate or regular purpose are subject to search & seizure policies, as well as violations of the code of conduct. Multiple students in a bathroom / locker room stall, shower area, or unassigned area may result in search & seizure procedures by the administration.

## **XV. SCHOLASTIC POLICIES**

A minimum of 50 credits for successful course work must be completed to meet the requirements for graduation from Bennington High School. Certain courses are required of all students; the remainder may be selected from a variety of elective subjects. All 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders are required to carry seven subjects per semester. 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who choose to take than less than seven (7) courses, must be on track to graduate (minimum of 42 credits), and enrolled in no less than four (4) courses at Bennington High School.

### **A. Graduation Requirements**

Please see Bennington Public Schools website, or link below for access to the grading policy.

<http://www.benningtonschoools.org/index.cfm?action=208&id=626&tab=sr>

Students must earn 50 credits to receive a Diploma and be a full-time student. A full-time student is defined as four (4) classes taken at Bennington High School, (Bennington Curriculum).

Language Arts - 8 Credits.

English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12, AP Language or AP Literature

Social Studies - 8 Credits.

World Geography, World History, American History or AP American History, and American Government are required.

Mathematics - 6 Credits.

Algebra and **Geometry** is required.

Science - 6 Credits.

Physical Science and Biology will be required for graduation.

Business Computer Applications and Personal Finance – 2 Credits

Information Technology 1 and Personal Finance are required.

Physical Education - 4 Credits.

Health 9 and three other semesters of a PE class are required.

Electives – 16 Credits

Students may choose from the variety of courses, across multiple disciplines provided at Bennington High School

## Foreign Language

Will not be required for graduation but is highly recommended for all students planning on attending a 4-year college program. Check entrance requirements for the program that you choose.

Exceptions to the course of study listed above may be granted for transfer students with administrative approval. Students who do not complete the courses listed above will not be eligible to receive a diploma and will not participate in commencement exercises.

## Accumulated Credits

To meet the 50-credit requirement for graduation a student should earn a minimum level of credits each school year. Students are considered “on track” for graduation (50 credits) with the following credit totals after each academic year:

9 <sup>th</sup> grade	- 10-12 credits
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	- 20-24 credits
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	- 32-36 credits
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	- 50 + credits

If these minimum levels are not met, a student may need an additional semester or year to complete their course of study. The administration highly recommends students exceed these minimum requirements to help them prepare for the rigor of post-secondary educational experiences.

**CREDIT RECOVERY:** Bennington High School will offer a credit recovery program targeting students who have had considerable difficulty in acquiring typical academic skills and credits needed to graduate from high school. The goal of Credit Recovery is to give high school students the opportunity to graduate in a timely manner. This program has policies and procedures that allow students who have failed core courses (courses required for graduation) an opportunity to make-up course work for credit. Bennington High School students may be eligible to participate in Credit Recovery if accepted and by adhering to the guidelines. There will be a fee required for this opportunity. Guidelines will be provided upon request.

**EARLY GRADUATION POLICY:** In order to qualify for early graduation both the student and his/her parents/guardians must meet with and make written application to the principal and guidance counselor no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> during the first semester of the student’s junior year. Recommendation will be made by the administration and a decision will be rendered by the Board of Education. Students who enroll in college immediately after completing their high school course of study may participate in the spring graduation ceremony. Early graduates must have 50 completed credits with

all required courses successfully passed. Part time students will forfeit their membership in all school organizations if they graduate early.

Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion: As part of the graduation requirements established by the Nebraska Legislature (LB 1089) all students in the Class of 2025 and beyond will be required to complete the FAFSA or waive the process.

## B. Grading System

1. Grading is based on all facets of classroom performance: recitations, attitude, interest, cooperation, attendance, tests, and daily work.
2. A grade system of A through F will be used. An “A” will be the highest grade a student could receive. An “F” is considered to be a failing grade. Numbers will be used to determine class averages. A system of grade points will be used to translate letter grades into numerical cumulative grade point averages and class ranks for each student.
3. Academic letters will be calculated at the end of students’ 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> semester of each year. Students that have maintained a minimum of a cumulative 3.5 grade point average will be eligible for the award.

## Grading Scale

<u>Regular Courses</u>	<u>Weighted Courses</u>
A = 4.0 = 100-93	A = 4.5 = 100-93
B = 3.0 = 92-86	B = 3.5 = 92-86
C = 2.0 = 85-77	C = 2.5 = 85-77
D = 1.0 = 76-70	D = 1.5 = 76-70
F = 0.0 = Below 70	F = 0.0 = Below 70

## C. Honor Roll

1. PRESIDENT'S LIST (Top Academic Honor Roll) REQUIREMENTS:  
9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders must be graded in at least seven (7) classes, while seniors must be graded in at least six (6) classes.

4.0 - 3.75 grade average

2. DEAN'S LIST (Regular Honor Roll) REQUIREMENTS:  
9-12<sup>th</sup> graders must be graded in at least four (4) classes.

4.0 - 3.5 grade average.

\*Honor Roll is calculated at the end of each quarter, as well as a semester Honor Roll. No late or make-up work will be allowed to be calculated in after the quarter or semester drop dead date unless approved by the principal.

#### D. Weighted Courses

**The following will be weighted courses:**

AP Calculus	AP English Literature and Composition
AP US History	AP French
AP Chemistry	AP Biology
AP Spanish	AP Statistics
AP Language and Composition	AP World Geography
AP Computer Science	

#### Laude Recognition Model

**Summa Cum Laude** (“*with the highest honor*”) – This is the highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate summa cum laude, a student must achieve a 4.0 GPA on a 4.00 weighted scale.

**Magna Cum Laude** (“*with great honor*”) – This is the second highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate magna cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.95 but less than a 4.00 on a 4.00 weighted scale.

**Cum Laude** (“*with honor*”) – This is the third highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.90 but less than a 3.95 on a 4.00 weighted scale.

**\*\* Honors Night awards will be designated by the GPA of the student on the last Friday prior to Honors Night.**

#### E. Grade Reports

1. Bennington Public Schools’ students will receive their report card once every nine weeks, or four times a year. Semester grades are the grades of record.
2. Interim Reports will be sent to all parents/guardians after 4 ½ weeks of the quarter. Parent/Guardian conferences may be scheduled at any time.
3. Online grades will be available to all parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians may view their child/children’s grades by using Bennington School’s website ([www.benningtonschools.org](http://www.benningtonschools.org)). They will be required to register with the school prior to their first use. The information provided is secure. Parents/Guardians will be able to access their child/children’s grades, attendance and discipline records. All information provided will be updated on a weekly basis.

#### F. Extra Help

Students are encouraged to seek extra help from teachers if an assignment is not understood, if the work is difficult, or if he/she has been absent and missed assignments or class instruction. Students should arrange a conference with the teacher before or after school or at a time convenient to both

during the day. A teacher may request a student stay after school if it is apparent, he/she is having difficulty with work. Study Center will be available Monday-Thursday morning between the hours of 7:00am and 7:45am in the areas of English, Science, and Math.

### **G. Academic Dishonesty**

Students who are academically dishonest (cheating / plagiarism) must meet with their teacher and grade level administrator, and parents will be notified as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Consequences could range from an administrative conference to short term suspension for cheating. Students may be allowed to make up work on their own time under the supervision of BHS staff and/or administration. Students in violation of academic dishonesty (cheating) on a test forfeit the chance to retake the exam. The department retake policy listed in the course syllabus will be referred to as a guide for the conditions for the student to retake the exam.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used in support of student education. Support for AI learning includes students being educated about the uses of AI, risks posed by AI, applications for learning with AI, and limitations of AI related to student learning and achievement. Students who utilize or substitute AI in place of their own scholastic work are in violation of the Academic Dishonesty policy.

### **H. New Student Registration**

New students entering Bennington Public Schools during an academic year in progress must provide the following items when registering:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon first enrollment time, shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment.
2. Evidence of a physical examination if they are transfer from out of state.
3. Updated Immunization/Health records.
4. A transcript from the previous school or current/proposed class schedule.
5. Verification through the Superintendent's office of an in-district address.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, of if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given. New students and parents/guardians will register in the Counselor's office. New students will not start classes the same day they register.

### **I. Dual-Enrollment Program**

Any student may attend college while still enrolled at Bennington high school. Students who are interested should contact the school counselor. The student will pay tuition and books and provide transportation for off-campus classes. The student will pay for tuition for dual enrolled classes held at Bennington High School. Students will receive credit toward high school graduation for dual enrolled courses taken at Bennington High School. Students will not receive credit for high school graduation for Dual Enrollment courses at the college, if equivalent coursework is offered by Bennington High School. Dual enrolled college course must be taught by a high school accredited/certified instructor.

**J. Dual Enrollment for Students of the District Attending Schools Other Than Bennington**

The parent /guardian or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirement may also enroll their child at Bennington High School. The student shall be considered dual enrolled and will fall under the policies and administrative rules of Bennington. These policies and rules shall apply to dual enrollment students in the same manner as all other students enrolled at Bennington High School. These policies and administrative rules include but are not limited to; athletic eligibility requirements rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements and payment of fees required for participation.

**K. Failing a Course**

If a student fails one or more courses during the regular school year, it will be the responsibility of that student to make up these deficiencies by attending Credit Recovery. Retakes during the next academic year will also be permitted.

**L. Schedule Changes**

The selection of a student's program is a serious undertaking. A tentative plan for each student's entire high school program should be written upon entering the ninth grade. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to give course selection adequate time and careful attention. If necessary, students should seek additional conference time with counselors and instructors. In almost all cases, spring registration is final. Careful planning makes this possible and eliminates the need for schedule changes. However, some mistakes are made and thus, some schedule changes will be necessary. Students can change schedules (classes) during the first ten (10) days of each semester. Requests for changes to a student's schedule must be approved by the counseling office and/or administration.

**M. Course Withdrawals**

A student may withdraw from a course in the first two weeks of the semester, provided he/she first consults the instructor and his/her counselor. Only under the following conditions will a student be permitted to drop a course at the end of the first semester:

1. The course to be dropped is a one-semester course.
2. The student has a failing grade for the semester, and the express consent from both the instructor and counselor has been given to drop the class.
3. A student has been academically misplaced.
4. A previous failure in a required course needs to be remedied.

Withdrawal slips may be obtained from the guidance office. All students are requested to seriously consider all ramifications before making decisions regarding withdrawals. During the term, a parent may wish to withdraw his/her student from a class against the educational recommendations of the high school counselor and administration. After the first two weeks (ten school days) of a semester, students who choose to drop out of a class will receive an "F" for the semester.

**N. Teacher Cadet Program**

A pupil may register to be a “Teacher Cadet,” (assistant to a classroom teacher) with approval of the teacher involved and the principal. Students must take six academic classes before signing up for a student aide class. Proper dress must be maintained in assisting the classroom teacher. Teacher Cadets will be graded on attendance, interest, performance of activities, cooperation with teacher, and dependability. Students must sign up with the school counselor.

**O. Part-time/concurrent Students**

Bennington High School students interested in wanting part-time status are to see the counselor for eligibility. Parents/guardian will meet with the principal before approval is granted. LB 821 allows students who are residents of the Bennington District, but attend another public, private, denominational, parochial school, or home school to attend Bennington High School on a part-time basis. Both the student and parents/guardians will be required to meet with the counselor and principal to provide proof of residence and to determine a class schedule. While the student is attending, they will be required to follow all the rules in the student handbook. Part-time students will not be eligible for a Bennington High School Diploma unless they have fulfilled all Bennington High School graduation requirements. In order for Home Schooled students to participate in activities at Bennington High School, he or she must be enrolled in a minimum of one (1) class at Bennington. Homeschooling or non-accredited programs must be reviewed by the principal and curriculum director in order to determine if the school will award credit. Options may include taking a final exam the school creates for the course and/or a review of coursework by the principal and curriculum director for credit. All non-accredited coursework approved will be assigned a Pass/Fail grade. No letter grade will be awarded. Concurrent students enrolled in another high school must have a majority of their classes at Bennington High School to participate in Bennington activities. All other part-time students must be enrolled in a minimum of four classes at Bennington to be eligible for activities.

**P. Certificate of Attendance**

A parent/guardian of a student who qualifies for special education services may request Bennington Public Schools to issue one certificate of attendance and allow participation in one high school graduation ceremony. Under the Special Education Act, such student must be at least seventeen years of age, and have not completed his or her individualized education plan. It is recommended that the parent/guardian should receive approval from the IEP team before making a request to the administration. (Note for the board: This change has been required by LB 1153 which was passed in the legislative session this year)

**Q. Hazing**

Hazing or initiation by a school organization, groups, clubs, teams or individuals are prohibited. Anyone engaging in hazing or initiation behavior will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Hazing is any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. The school will follow Neb. Statute 79-2, 101 to 2, 102 when dealing with hazing.

## R. Behavioral Awareness Point of Contact

Each Bennington Public Schools building has a behavioral awareness point of contact that is trained in behavioral awareness and has knowledge of community service providers and other resources that are available for the students and families in the district. The contact shall maintain or have access to a registry of local mental health and counseling resources for the students and families. The behavioral awareness point of contact shall coordinate access to support services for students whenever possible. If information for an external support service is provided to an individual minor student, school personnel shall notify a parent or guardian of the contact in writing unless such recommendation involves law enforcement or child protective services. The Bennington Public Schools Behavioral Awareness Point of Contacts for Bennington High School is Mrs. Mandy Boesch – [aboesch@bennps.org](mailto:aboesch@bennps.org) / 402-238-2447.

## XVI. STUDENT CONDUCT

MTSS and SEBL are essential components to a safe and positive learning environment for all students. When programs and initiatives focus on building respectful and trusting relationships among school staff, families, and community members they are more effective in creating and sustaining connections that support student achievement.

	<b>Be Respectful</b>	<b>Be Responsible</b>	<b>Be THERE</b>
<b>Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Listen to teacher</li> <li>▶ Follow instructions</li> <li>▶ Be courteous to others in words and actions</li> <li>▶ Treat others' property with care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Treat school property with care</li> <li>▶ Come to class prepared</li> <li>▶ Be safe</li> <li>▶ Throw trash away, recycle when possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ On Time</li> <li>▶ On Task</li> <li>▶ Do your BEST</li> </ul>
<b>Hallway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Pace and Space</li> <li>▶ Hands and feet to self</li> <li>▶ Use an acceptable volume</li> <li>▶ Treat others' property with care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Keep hallways clean</li> <li>▶ Move with a purpose</li> <li>▶ Have your agenda book</li> <li>▶ Keep your locker locked &amp; organized</li> <li>▶ Throw trash away, recycle when possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Keep your pace during passing periods</li> <li>▶ Be aware of the time</li> </ul>
<b>Locker Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Knock and be acknowledged before entering office</li> <li>▶ Hands and feet to self</li> <li>▶ Treat others' property with care</li> <li>▶ Be considerate of others privacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Keep your locker locked &amp; organized</li> <li>▶ Pick up after yourself</li> <li>▶ Have the proper attire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Be dressed on time</li> </ul>
<b>Commons/ Lunchroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Follow directions</li> <li>▶ Hands and feet to self</li> <li>▶ Be courteous to others</li> <li>▶ Walk to lunch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Keep area clean</li> <li>▶ Put trays, silverware, chairs, etc. in their proper place</li> <li>▶ Throw trash away, recycle when possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Remain in Commons</li> <li>▶ Stay in your place in line</li> </ul>

<b>Bathroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Be considerate of others privacy</li> <li>▶ Use facilities appropriately</li> <li>▶ Keep area clean</li> <li>▶ Treat others' property with care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Practice good hygiene</li> <li>▶ Report problems to an adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Take care of needs quickly</li> <li>▶ Use the assigned student restroom</li> </ul>
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### **General Rules of Conduct**

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

**A.** The following rules and standards of conduct shall govern student behavior where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose, in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Violation of these rules and standards shall constitute grounds for assignment of detention, Saturday school, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or suspension of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, contests, or performances.

1. No student shall:

- (a) Use violence, force, coercion, threat, sexual harassment, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18.
- (b) Willfully cause or attempt to cause substantial damage to property, steal, or attempt to steal property of substantial value, repeatedly damage or steal property, or set or attempt to set a fire of any magnitude. Students will be held financially responsible for damage.
- (c) Cause or attempt to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student.
- (d) Threaten or intimidate any student for any purpose that causes a disruption of school operations. Students who intimidate or are involved in any form of harassment verbal/non-verbal or physical will be considered in violation of Board Policy 504.18
- (e) Knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or

substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use. (minimum consequence short-term suspension).

- (f) Engage in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
- (g) Exhibit public indecency or sexual conduct.
- (h) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (i) Engage in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
- (j) Willfully disobey any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or voice disrespect to those in authority (Willfully disobeying is considered insubordination).
- (k) Use language, written or oral, or exhibit conduct, including gestures, which are profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
- (l) Be truant or fail to attend assigned classes or activities; or be tardy to school, assigned classes or activities.
- (m) Dress in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, the health and safety of others, or is distracting to the extent that it interferes with the educational process.
- (n) Willfully violate the behavioral expectations for those students riding Bennington Public School buses.
- (o) Engage in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The purpose of this rule is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff.

- (p) Repeatedly violate any of the rules adopted by the Bennington Public School District Board of Education.
- (q) The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or the knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

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

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

- a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
- b. The purpose of having a firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
- c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession and/or supervision of an adult staff member at all times.
- d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

## Consequence Guidelines

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Additional</b>
<b>Attendance / Tardies</b>	Late to class – missed instructional time – failure to attend school	Administrative Conference	Short-term Suspension	Referral to County Attorney.
<b>Academic Dishonesty (Cheating) / Plagiarism</b>	Cheating on exams, assignments, or submitting work not completed by the student.	Administrative Conference	Short-term Suspension	
<b>Arson / Fire Alarm</b>	Intentionally starting a fire or pulling the fire alarm.	Short-term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal authorities if criminal
<b>Physical Attack / Fighting (1<sup>st</sup> Offense)</b>	Actual or intentional touching or striking of another person against his/her will to cause harm. Mutual and intentional participation. Assault and Fight are included – Rape is not.	Saturday School	Long-term Suspension	Legal Authorities
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>		Short-term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Bullying – Harassment / Racial</b>	Intentional, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another to exert dominance, an imbalance of power, and repeated actions related to race of a student(s).	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Bullying – Harassment / Disability</b>	Intentional, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another to exert dominance, an imbalance of power, and repeated actions related to the physical or mental condition/ability of a student(s).	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Bullying – Harassment / General</b>	Intentional, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another to exert dominance, an imbalance of power, and repeated actions related to race. Including Hazing.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Bullying – Harassment / Sex or Gender</b>	Intentional, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another to	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

	exert dominance, an imbalance of power, and repeated actions related to the gender or sex of a student(s).			
<b>Bullying – Harassment / Religion</b>	Intentional, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another to exert dominance, an imbalance of power, and repeated actions related to the religion of a student(s).	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Bodily Fluids (Intentional Dispersing)</b>	Purposeful discharge of saliva, urine, and/or feces in an inappropriate manner, area, or location.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	Legal Authorities
<b>Closed Campus / Unauthorized Area</b>	Student(s) located in the building or on property without permission or supervision from staff.	Administrative Conference	Short-term Suspension	
<b>Cell Phone Misuse / Abuse</b>	Inappropriate or disruptive use of a cell phone as defined in the BHS handbook or in possession of cell phone without permission.	Administrative Conference	Short-term Suspension	
<b>Computer Misuse / Abuse</b>	Inappropriate use of school technology by student as defined by the BHS handbook.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	
<b>Dishonesty</b>	Lying, false reporting, and/or inaccurate statements made by students to BHS staff.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	Legal Authorities
<b>Destruction of Property</b>	Damage to property / Vandalism	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	Legal Authorities / Restitution
<b>Disruptive Behavior</b>	Disruptive, reckless, or behavior that interrupts the educational environment. Verbal, non-verbal, or written.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	
<b>Dress Code</b>	Failure to dress in a manner acceptable for an educational environment.	Administrative Conference	Short-term Suspension	
<b>Disrespectful to Others</b>	Inappropriate, hostile, hurtful, demeaning, disrespectful, or disparaging acts, words, actions, and/or messages by one party towards another.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	
<b>Danger to Self / Others</b>	Student poses a safety risk to self, staff, or building.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	
<b>Inappropriate Behavior</b>	Behavior considered inappropriate for an educational environment – written, verbal, or non-verbal.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	

<b>Inappropriate Remarks</b>	Profanity, Obscene, Disparaging, Disruptive, Demeaning, Disrespectful, and/or Inappropriate Language – written, verbal, or non-verbal.	Administrative Conference	Long-term Suspension	
<b>Insubordination</b>	Failure to follow directions, rules, procedures, and/or expectations.	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	
<b>Late / Missing work</b>	Failure to complete assigned academic work.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Leaving Room / Building</b>	Leaving the room or building without permission or failure to follow proper checkout procedures.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Misbehavior on Bus</b>	Behavior violations according to the BHS Code of Conduct and/or BPS Transportation Expectations.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Not Following Instructions</b>	Failure to do comply with requests or directions from BHS staff.	Administrative Conference	Saturday School	
<b>Parking Offense / Violation</b>	Parking in unauthorized areas on BPS property.	Administrative Conference	Saturday School	Authorities Contacted Privilege revoked. Fine
<b>Physical Attack on Staff</b>	Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee or volunteer.	Short-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Possession of Drugs / Paraphernalia</b>	Possession of drugs, look alike drugs, prescribed medication that does or does not belong to the student, and/or drug paraphernalia.	Short-term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Pass Misuse</b>	Failure or abuse by student of the pass system in place at BHS.	Administrative Conference	Saturday School	
<b>Public Indecency</b>	Acts by students on school grounds which include exposure of genitals, sexual engagement, and/or actions defined by State Statute.	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	
<b>Possession / Use / Distribution of Alcohol</b>	Possession, use, distribution, and/or attempted of alcohol.	Short-Term Suspension	Long-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (additional offenses)</b>		Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Possession / Use / Distribution of Drugs</b>	Possession, use, distribution and/or attempted of any illegal substance, controlled substance, or look alike substance.	Short-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (additional offenses)</b>		Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Possession / Use of Nuisance Item</b>	Possession, use, distribution of any item that interferes or disrupts the educational environment.	Detention	Long-Term Suspension	
<b>Possession / Use / Distribution of Tobacco or Vape</b>	Possession, use, or distribution of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and/or vapes including THC, CBD oils.	Short-Term Suspension	Long-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (additional offenses)</b>		Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Possession or Use of Weapon</b>	Possession or use of a weapon which can be used to injure a person – gun, firearm, knife, brass knuckles, sword, throwing star, etc.	Short-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Rape or Attempted Rape</b>	Forced sexual intercourse (or attempted) including penetration with a foreign object. As defined by State Statute.	Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Robbery</b>	Taking or attempting to take anything of value owned by another person under confrontation, force, threats, or violence.	Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Safety Violation</b>	Actions by students which put the safety of the building at risk or compromise the educational environment.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension.	
<b>Sexual Assault / Sexual Contact - Not Rape</b>	Actions considered to be fondling, indecent liberties, molestation, or attempts of unwanted sexual contact.	Short-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Tardiness</b>	Student is not in the classroom when the bell for the class period rings.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Theft / Attempted Theft</b>	Stealing or attempting to steal property of value from another student.	Short-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Threats and Intimidation</b>	Verbal and/or non-verbal threats of harm by one party to another – may include a weapon.	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	
<b>Level I Threat</b>	Using a threat in a common expression or context of a conversation. (“I could kill you for that.”)	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Level II Threat</b>	Using an expression, implied/veiled threat to scare,	Short-Term Suspension	Long-Term Suspension	

	threaten, or coerce another party (“I will kill you.”)			
<b>Level III Threat</b>	Threatening to kill, harm or injure another person with the potential for injury. Evidence of Threat exists and is considered imminent. (Bomb Threat).	Long-Term Suspension	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Repeated Threats</b>	Threatening students, staff, or building safety more than one time.	Detention	Expulsion	Legal Authorities
<b>Throwing Items</b>	Intentionally throwing objects, materials, and/or items without prior authorization from staff that is not part of the instructional activity or environment.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Truancy</b>	Failure to attend school as defined by State Statute	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	Legal Authorities / Referral to County Attorney
<b>Uncooperative Behavior</b>	Behavior by students who fail to comply with directions and is disruptive, non-collaborative, and in violation of school procedures.	Administrative Conference	Saturday School	
<b>Violated Behavior Contract</b>	Student violates specific conditions of a behavior, attendance, or academic contract.	Administrative Conference	Short-Term Suspension	
<b>Distribution of non-prescribed medication</b>	Student is in possession or distributing “over the counter” medication	Administrative Conference	Long-Term Suspension	
<b>Repeated Violations</b>	For the defined infractions above	Administrative Conference	Expulsion	Legal Authorities

### C. Reporting Law Violations

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

### D. Sanctions

The Superintendent, the principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Bennington Public Schools. The decision to exclude would be made after the principal or designee

has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version. A complete copy of the due process procedures is available upon request from the building principal. Once a suspension or expulsion decision has been delivered by an administrator, students may not attend/participate in any extra-curricular activity until that suspension/expulsion has been completed.

1. **Short-term Suspensions** - Such short-term suspension shall be made only after the administrator investigated the alleged conduct or violation and determined that such suspension is necessary to help any student to further school purposes or to prevent an interference with school purposes. Before a short-term suspension takes effect the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. He/she shall have an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. The administrator shall send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation and the reason for the action taken. The administrator shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school. Parents will be notified within 48 hours of the suspension.
  
2. **Emergency Exclusion:** A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
  - a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or the safety of the school community; or
  - b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, or is extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

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

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

**E. Long-term Suspension, Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment**

1. Long-Term Suspension shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools in this district for a period exceeding five school days but less than twenty school days.
2. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect, unless the misconduct occurred within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. In addition, the following shall apply to any expulsion: In the case of a student bringing a weapon to school in violation of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act, such student shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, and to be in compliance with state law, may reduce said expulsion. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year shall be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The hearing examiner shall conduct the review after the hearing examiner has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing examiner that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of such Board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by the action of the Superintendent, State Statute 79-4, 196.
3. Mandatory reassignment shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

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

1. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the superintendent. The school shall, within two school days of the decision, send a written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and the student's parent or guardian, informing them of the rights established under this act.
2. Such written notice shall include the following:
  - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student.
  - (b) The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject.

- (c) A statement that the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, for disciplinary purposes can be invoked.
- (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by this act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
- (e) A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parents or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (1) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (2) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
- (f) A form on which the student, student's parents, or guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or Superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail; and
- (g) Nothing in this act shall preclude the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
- (h) Parents will receive written notification from the administration within 48 hours of the suspension / expulsion.

If a hearing is requested within five days of the receipt of the written notice by the student, the student's parents or guardian as described in these rules and regulations, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner and all of the provisions of the Nebraska statutes which relate to such a hearing shall be adhered to. (See Section of State Statutes 79-254 to 79-291, R.R.S., et seq.)

#### **G. Other Disciplinary Action**

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

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

#### **H. Saturday School**

1. Saturday School assignments will consist of two hours OR four hours. Students will serve from 8:00 am – 10:00 am OR 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The doors to the school will open at 7:45 am and be closed at 8:30 am. Administration will notify the student of the assignment to Saturday School the week prior to the assigned date.

2. Student responsibilities and expected behaviors for Saturday School are:
  - (a) Students must be on time and prepared to work at 8:00 am.
  - (b) Students must have enough schoolwork to do during Saturday School.
  - (c) Students are expected to stay on task and follow Saturday School Supervisors instructions.
  - (d) Any activity the supervisor sees as unacceptable such as (sleeping, have gum/candy, arguing, or bring nuisance devices) will result in dismissal from Saturday School and consequences with a principal.
  - (e) A parent/guardian must notify the principal if the student is unable to serve due to illness. This notification must be made by 8:00 a.m. on the assigned Saturday. If not, the absence will be considered a skipped Saturday School.
  - (f) Parents/guardians will be notified by email or phone call of Saturday School assignments and the student will receive written notice from the Principal or designee on the Friday prior to any Saturday School assignment. Parents will be notified Saturday morning if their child does not show up to school by 8:15am.
  - (g) Teachers and students will make all efforts to set up test and assignment re-take opportunities during Saturday School. Teacher discretion may be used if Saturday School is not an option for re-takes.
  
3. Students who have inappropriate behavior during Saturday School will earn the following consequences:
  - (a) Students who show up late to or skip a Saturday School will be assigned a one-day suspension, multiple detentions, or Saturday School the following week. Parents will be notified by the administration of the disciplinary action Monday morning.
  - (b) Students who skip or get kicked out a second time will be suspended for three days the following week. Parents/guardians will be contacted by the building administration.

## **XVII. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the extracurricular activities offered by Bennington High School. A student has the opportunity to display leadership talents and gain valuable experiences by taking part in the activity program. School sponsored activities available are:

Vocal and Instrumental Music (chorus and band)  
Student Senate (officers are elected)  
Volleyball  
Football  
Girls and Boys Basketball

Girls' and Boys' Wrestling  
Girls' and Boys' Track & Field/Unified Track  
Girls' and Boys' Golf  
Girls' and Boys' Cross Country  
Softball  
Baseball  
Girls' Soccer  
Boys' Soccer  
Unified Bowling  
Girls' Tennis  
National Honor Society (members selected by merit)  
Speech  
School Newspaper/ Yearbook Staff  
Engineering Club  
Foreign Language Club  
Quiz Bowl  
Cheerleading (Varsity and Wrestling)  
Dance Team  
Skills USA  
FBLA  
Art Club  
Chess Club  
Musical  
Play Production  
Leo Club  
Outdoor Club  
Prism Club  
Multicultural Club

**All students participating in these activities must follow the Activity Rules for Bennington High School.**

**B. National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society was founded to stimulate high school scholarship, develop leadership, provide service with a purpose, and to recognize unquestionably worthy character among its members. The initial qualification for candidate consideration is scholarship, a 3.5 GPA based on cumulative grades. A screening committee comprised of five faculty members will make final decisions on membership. The faculty committee, using a four-point scale, rates the candidate on character, leadership, and service. The Lions Club sponsors the Installation Banquet in the spring.

**C. Activity Rules for Bennington High School**

Understanding the activity rules is vital to your participation in school activities. Both parents/guardians and students need to understand that honesty and cooperation with school officials concerning this policy are of vital importance. Parents/guardians and athletes please take time to read and discuss all items in the Activity Rules. Bennington Public School abides by all

Nebraska Schools Activities Association constitution and bylaws. More information can be found at: [www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org)

A full-time student at Bennington High School is considered a student who is enrolled in a minimum of four (4) classes – none of which is a study hall. Full-time students must pass a minimum of 20 credit hours (4 classes) the previous semester to be eligible for NSAA programs at the varsity level.

A homeschool student wishing to participate in NSAA programs sponsored by Bennington High School must be enrolled in a minimum of one (1) class to be eligible to participate in NSAA programs sponsored by Bennington High School. One class is equivalent to five (5) credit hours.

**PHILOSOPHY:** The Bennington High School activity program is an important part of the total school program. Those students who participate in this program reflect the image of the school and the community of Bennington.

This philosophy is firmly based on the belief that there is more to the activity program than playing the game or participating. During the season, participants must maintain a high standard of conduct, which will enable them to function and perform to the best of their abilities. Therefore, the sponsors and the administration of Bennington High School will not tolerate the use of, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs by student athletes and all other activity participants.

The philosophy of the Bennington High School activity program is also based on the belief that student participants are representatives of Bennington High School and the community of Bennington for as long as they participate in the activity program. As such, their actions, both on and off the playing field, must be above reproach. All students involved in Bennington activities/athletics are deemed to be held to a higher standard when it comes to representing Bennington on and off campus. Participant-related incidents, as well as the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, are considered improper behavior for student participants and are subject to penalties.

This philosophy recognizes the fact that there must be close cooperation between the sponsors, the participants, and the parents/guardians if the activity rules are to be successful and effective. The activity rules are for the benefit of all the students involved in activities. The school and the parents/guardians must share the responsibility of making sure that the rules are followed. If the school and parents/guardians work together to enforce these rules, it will ensure a smooth-running activity program and eliminate any problems that may occur.

All Activity Rules violations will be referred to the Activities Director.

1. **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVITIES:** A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if
  - (a) He/she has below a 70% average in two classesEach student must meet eligibility requirements by mid quarter (progress reports) and end of the quarter (report card). Grade checks will be done, and if the student fails two or more courses, they will have seven calendar days to regain eligibility (students will still be eligible for all contests and practices during this seven-day

grace period). At the end of seven days and each subsequent Monday, reports will be run, and any student still failing two or more courses will be ineligible for all competition that week.

Eligibility is considered only for interscholastic activities, which are not requirements for a particular class.

Students will be required to attend before and after school practices unless the head coach or sponsor excuses them. Students who have medically verified illnesses will be provided with time to make up work.

This rule is applied for all midterms and first and third quarter reports. The NSAA requirement for all students to pass 20 semester credit hours in order to be eligible for varsity competitions will be applied for each semester.

2. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS: There shall be no tolerance for drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or the use of illegal drugs. Student participants shall not remain in an area where alcoholic beverages are being used unless accompanied by their parents/guardians. Business establishments that also provide food and recreational activities are excluded.
  - (a) Penalty –FIRST OFFENSE–OPTION A: If a student self-reports a violation within 72 hours of the violation they will sit out one contest. OPTION B: Student participants will be suspended for 25% of the current season’s competition. This will not exceed 4 games or two weeks in the activity in which they are participating or the next activity they will be involved in.
  - (b) Penalty –SECOND OFFENSE--Student will be suspended from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the current school year.
  - (c) Before action can be taken, student must freely admit to a violation or be observed violating the training rules by a member of a school faculty, administrative staff, a law enforcement officer, or an adult willing to come into school and make a formal statement.
  - (d) A minor in possession conviction shall be regarded as a violation of Rule 2.
  - (e) The options above will apply to drinking, selling, or possessing alcohol or using, selling, or possessing other illegal substances while school is not in session during summer vacation (training rules are observed year-round). The beginning of the athletic calendar year will start the first day, after the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. last day of school is May 22<sup>nd</sup>, then the first day of the new athletic calendar year would be May 23<sup>rd</sup>, or the conclusion of a spring sport that extends past the last day of the academic calendar year (ex. golf and track)
  - (f) Offenses that occur in the summer will be served during the first season the offending athlete participates and successfully completes.
  - (g) The Activities Director’s decision may be appealed to the building Principal by the student or the parents/guardians of the student.

3. **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY:** A student will be ineligible to compete or perform interscholastically if
  - (a) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a misdemeanor (could exclude traffic tickets) during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials or school personal, may result in a one-week suspension from all games, practices, and activities. Self-reporting an offense could allow for inclusion of practices. A second offense during the school year will result in suspension from all activities for the remainder of the year.
  - (b) A student is charged/referred/cited/summoned with a felony during the school year as substantiated by law enforcement officials, may result in immediate suspension from all games, performances, events, practices, and activities until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Bennington High School administrative team.
  
4. **PRACTICE SESSIONS:** No participants shall miss a practice without first being excused by one of the coaching staff or sponsor of the activity. If participants are not in school or are suddenly taken ill, they will bring their excuse absences when they return to school. If there is a conflict with another school activity, they must clear it with the sponsor before they miss the practice.
  
5. **SUSPENSIONS: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR PRACTICE ON DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.**
  
6. **CONCUSSIONS – RETURN TO PLAY**
  - (a) **No Physical Activity:** this period of time should be a minimum of 24 hours rest.
  - (b) **Light Aerobic Exercise:** Walking, swimming or stationary biking at less than 70% of the maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.
  - (c) **Sport Specific Exercise:** NO head impact activities. Exercises are designed to the movements required for the specific sport and are done close to full speed.
  - (d) **Non-contact Training:** Begin to incorporate resistance training and coordination (catching, rebounding, spiking, etc....) exercises. Begin preparing the athlete for return to full contact activities.
  - (e) **Full-contact Practice:** Participate in normal training activities as directed by the coaching staff while being observed by the medical staff.
  - (f) **Return to Play:** Cleared for normal game play.
    - (f 1) Has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional and has received a written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from that professional.

(f 2) Has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student, parent or guardian.

\*\*Failure to successfully complete any one step returns the athlete to step #1 on the progression. Every athlete is different, and every concussion is different. Recommendations for athletes are that the return to play progression is done daily that results in a week-long progression to return to the sport activity.

### **Concussions – Return to Learn Progression**

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

\*\* This progression will be different for each individual. It is expected parents and guardians notify the school of such injuries and requires the student to make such notification, which implies appropriate punishment to students for lack of doing so. Communication between the parents, athletic training staff, administration, teachers and athletes is essential to ensure that the athlete is not being placed in an environment that will adversely affect their recovery from a concussion or their academic performance.

The Return to Learn and Return to Play protocols will be directed & supervised by the Athletic Trainer at Bennington High School. The Athletic Trainer will use approved and accepted methods of diagnosing concussions. The AT will also incorporate a variety of endorsed medical tests including the SCAT (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool) Series and the ImPact Test for establishing baseline testing data and cognitive operations for athletes that have suffered a concussion. The athletic trainer will have full and final authority to remove or clear an athlete from practice, competition and/or physical activity as it relates to Bennington High School programs.

The Athletic Trainer will communicate diagnosis and provide updates of athletes in the concussion protocol to parents, coaches, the Activities Director and counseling department who will then share this information with the teachers involved with the specific student on a daily basis.

Athletic Trainer: Elizabeth LaBombard – [elabombard@bennps.org](mailto:elabombard@bennps.org) / 402-238-2447.

7. GENERAL CONDUCT: Good sportsmanship shall be observed during practice sessions and contests. Activity participants are expected to be positive and respectful at all times. Being arrested for or charged with a misdemeanor or felony may result in a restriction of activity participation.
8. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL ON DAY OF CONTEST: Student athletes must attend school five class periods the day of a contest (students on a shortened schedule must attend 4 periods). Doctor's appointments, educational activities or funerals are exceptions. The Principal approves all exceptions. To receive credit in activities, students must take part in all public appearances of that activity unless excused by the sponsor.
9. SEASONS: During the season of a sport, no student will be permitted to participate in a sport clinic or be a member of a non-school sport or club as per NSAA regulations.
10. EQUIPMENT: All equipment from one sport must be returned before the athlete can check out equipment for another sport.
  - a. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants are advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches/ sponsors will provide the students with training rules and practice procedures.
11. TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS: The training rules that are listed above have been kept to a minimum. We, at Bennington High School, realize that it is impossible to cover every situation that might develop in the future. Each case not covered in the activity policy will be decided on its own merit. We sincerely request your cooperation in this matter. Good sportsmanship begins with adults. We thank you in advance for modeling positive and respectful behavior as a Bennington spectator and fan throughout the school year.

Each organization's constitution or bylaws must include eligibility criteria at least as rigorous as that spelled out in this handbook. Foreign exchange students and option students must meet the same criteria for eligibility as resident students. Part-time students are not eligible for extra-curricular activities.

#### **D. Activity Ticket**

All Bennington students are encouraged to purchase an Activity Ticket. Student Activity ticket prices will be \$35.00 for all students in grades K-12. Adult activity ticket prices will be \$70, and \$160 for family activity tickets (K-12 Bennington students and their legal parents and/or guardians.) Students must have their activity pass to be admitted without being charged an entrance fee. Students who leave the activity before its conclusion will not be allowed back into the activity. Activity passes are not valid at EMC Tournament games, NSAA District / Sub-District contests, or the Spring Musical.

#### **E. Dance Policies**

1. Homecoming and Prom are the only recognized, school sponsored dances throughout the school year. All other dances are sponsored by outside organizations and will be supervised by that organization.
2. Students planning to attend any dance will be required to wear APPROPRIATE clothing for the particular event.
3. Bennington students will be permitted to have dance dates from outside of the school. Bennington students with out of school dates must sign up their dates by the Wednesday prior to the dance. (Sign-up sheets will be provided in the office) The out of school date will be required to fill out a form and have it signed by their parents and their high school principal, Should any Bennington student, however, attempt to bring any non-resident student to a dance who is not his/her date, the Bennington student will be indefinitely suspended from all further dances until the policy breach is resolved. Faculty dance sponsors shall decide the authenticity of a date.
4. No dance shall extend later than midnight. Students leaving a dance must sign out and will not be permitted to return. Students leaving more than 30 minutes prior to the end of the dance will need parent permission.
5. Homecoming Court will be comprised of seniors.
6. Prom attendance is limited to eligible juniors and seniors. The Prom coronation ceremony is open to the public. All seniors, except Homecoming King and Queen, are eligible to be elected as Prom King or Queen. Prom Court will be comprised of seniors. All guests must arrive at the dance with their Bennington date.
7. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other prohibited substance, or any damage to school property are subject to the same policies during dances as those that apply to the school day and activities.
8. Students may be excluded from the Homecoming Dance and/or Prom due to poor attendance or behavior infractions. Decisions for exclusion will be communicated to the student prior to the date of the dance.

#### **F. Co-curricular Activities or Fine Arts?**

The Instrumental and Vocal Music programs offer a wide variety of musical activities. Band and Chorus are offered with some extracurricular activity involved. Private and small group instruction is also offered to students at no cost. Graded performances outside of the school day do occur and are a requirement of the specific classes. Students who missed the performances will work with the specific instructor to earn credit based on the conditions set forth in the course syllabus.

#### **G. Activities Transportation**

All teams attending a contest of any kind shall be accompanied by their sponsor, coach, or other faculty member designated to supervise. Athletic trips are made by school vehicle if at all possible. Therefore, all team members must travel with the team. Parents/guardians may transport only their student home from a contest or performance with clearance from the head coach, sponsor, or Principal.

#### **H. Sportsmanship and School Spirit**

1. The students at the Bennington Schools are consistently judged by the general public for moral and ethical conduct during school activities and for the control of their personal lives. Such judgments also reflect on the training received in the school, home, church, and community. Indeed, we want the public to praise and commend our students for their loyal support of school in all activities, but we also want the same public to be able to admire and extol them when victory is in the shadows of defeat. While no one admires a loss, the manner of its acceptance will create an image of respect, honor, and dignity for all Bennington students.
2. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his school and does his utmost to keep his activity standards at the highest possible level. School spirit will mean cheering for our team, not against our opposition. To these goals, all Badgers should be dedicated.
3. Students that attend home and away events will be expected to sit and remain in the designated areas.

#### **I. Athletics**

1. All 9-12 grade athletics will be centered in one department under the Director of Activities. It shall be the duty of the director to coordinate all athletics under one program to facilitate unity and cooperation.
2. All boys and girls out for inter-scholastic athletics are required to have a physical examination by a doctor (Article 1-a, Section 9, of the NSAA rules). Any boy or girl out for athletics (including dance and cheer) must also have his/her parents'/guardians' consent and physical examination before he/she is issued any equipment or permitted to engage in the activity. This consent must be written on the official NSAA form that also includes the insurance information.

#### **J. District and State Contests**

1. Only team members or individuals qualifying for district and state contests will be under the direct supervision of the specific athletic team participating in the event.
2. Students wishing to attend district or state contests must have permission from a parent or guardian to leave school. Students that wish to participate in an extra-curricular activity that afternoon or evening (practice, concert, game, etc.) must attend a minimum of five class periods during the day or meet the requirements set forth by the administration for that specific day.

#### **K. Mounts and Pyramids**

Due to potential liability in case of injury, stunts and pyramids by cheerleaders and lifts by dance teams during district sponsored events are prohibited unless the supervising coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, a cheer risk management and safety course. If the coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, stunts and lifts shall be allowed in accordance with NFHS Spirit Rules. The following restrictions shall be in effect at district events: stunts/lifts shall be limited to shoulder height or below; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must have an additional spotter; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must remain on two feet except during the mount or dismount of the stunt/lift; twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to ½ twist; and all cradle dismounts, tosses, and inversions are prohibited.

\*\*In the case of a violation of activity rules, a student or their parents/guardians can appeal the activity director's decision to the building principal. The activity director will present all information regarding his decision to the principal. Parents/guardians and students will be given the opportunity to present reasons for appealing the activity director's decision. After both sides have been presented, the principal will render a decision. If a hearing is required, the parents/guardians and student will be notified of their right for a hearing.

### **XVIII. STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

#### **A. Student Senate**

The students at Bennington High School execute their democratic responsibilities as citizens through Student Government. While the purpose of this organization may vary, the members develop leadership, positive attitudes, and practice the responsibilities of good citizenship. The Student Senate aims to promote positive school spirit, assist in school functions, provide a forum of students' expression, build school morale, and promote student involvement. Grades 9 through 12 student senate officers are elected in the spring. All elections will be conducted under Parliamentary Procedure and ballots on all candidates will be used.

## **XIX. ADDENDUM**

### Parental/Community Involvement In Schools

It is the policy of this school district to foster and facilitate parental/guardians and community information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

- A. Reasonable attempts by the district staff will be made to involve parents/guardians and community through frequent open communications, volunteer programs, progress reporting, and through the support of activities, which encourage involvement.
- B. Parents/guardians and other interested citizens are welcome to visit the schools and/or confer with principals and teachers concerning the school's programs. (Children should not be visitors without adults.) Persons seeking to disrupt the educational environment shall face those penalties established by the law, board policies, and administrative rules.
- C. Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be, available for review at school upon request.
- D. Parents/guardians wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities are welcome. Prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, is requested.
- E. Testing shall occur in this school district as determined appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement. Results of such testing are made available to parents/guardians.
- F. The school district will excuse students from testing, surveys, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon written parental/guardian request, only under circumstances required by law. The proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent/guardian request shall approve a plan for an acceptable alternative.
- G. Parents/guardians and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g., Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232 or Section 79-2,104, R.R.S., et seq.).

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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

Students: Mr. Daniel Bombeck, Director of Student Services, 11620 North 156<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 ([dbombeck@bennps.org](mailto:dbombeck@bennps.org)).

Employees and Others: Matt Blomenkamp, Assistant Superintendent 11620 North 156<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 309, Bennington, NE 68007 (402) 238-3044 ([mblomenkamp@benmps.org](mailto:mblomenkamp@benmps.org))

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or the need for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or [ocr.kansascity@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov).

## **TITLE IX**

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

## **NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The following procedures are established in order to assist in the fair resolution of student grievances. A grievance hereunder is a claim by a student that a violation of civil rights legislation has occurred (includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975). It is the policy of the Bennington Public Schools that a student may not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, national origin, marital status, age, or handicap in admission to school; access to enrollment in courses, access to and use of school facilities; counseling and guidance materials, tests and practices; vocational education; physical education; competitive athletics; graduation requirements; treatment as a married and/or pregnant student; and student rules and regulations. Whenever a grievance occurs, the following procedure will be followed, and every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible.

Additional information concerning the Bennington Public School's policy of nondiscrimination can be obtained from Matt Blomenkamp 11620 N 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Bennington NE 68007, (402) 238-3044.

**EXPLANATION** - This grievance procedure is not intended to limit the option of the district and a grievant to resolve any grievance mutually and informally. Hearings and conferences under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place that will afford a fair and equitable opportunity for all persons involved.

The grievance procedure is not required if the grievant prefers other alternatives such as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) or the courts. Due process shall exist throughout the procedure with the right to: 1) representation; 2) present witnesses and evidence; 3) confidentiality; 4) review relevant records; and 5) proceed without harassment and/or retaliation.

A grievance may be filed by an individual grievant or by a parent/guardian on behalf of a student grievant except that no grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance.

Days in this procedure shall refer to days when school is in session. During summer vacation days shall refer to Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

The inclusion of time limits in this procedure is for the purpose of ensuring prompt action. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time period specified, unless there is a mutually agreed extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

## **PROCEDURES**

Level One - A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level Two - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days of the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the grievance is based and an explanation of how such facts result in civil rights discrimination. The principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level Three - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the parties involved. A complete record of this meeting shall be kept and signed by both parties for possible future reference. The Superintendent will respond to the written grievance within five (5) days of receipt of the written grievance.

Level Four - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the School Board within five (5) days of the receipt of the written response from the Superintendent. The School Board shall consider the grievance at the next regular meeting and issue a written response within five (5) days of the meeting.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

The school district serves many students in district special education programs birth to 21 years of age. Young children with disabilities (birth through age three) are served in home-based programs. An early education center serves preschool students with disabilities. School age special education students are served in the least restrictive environment. For further information contact Mr. Daniel Bombeck Coordinator at the Bennington Schools Central Office (402-238-3044).

## **PERMITTED PRESENCE OF SERVICE ANIMALS**

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by his or her service animal in all areas where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. A bona fide trainer of a service animal also has the right to be accompanied by such animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Service animals may be excluded from school premises if:

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

**STUDENT FEES POLICY**

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

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

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "I," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2023-24 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

The District’s policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: 1. Participation in activities, 2. Materials for course projects, and 3. Use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to the purchase of the materials. A wavier is available upon request through the activities office at the high school.

**Bennington High School**  
**Fee List**

<b>Secondary Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>
General	Misuse of School Equipment and Property	The Student and Parent/guardian will be

		Responsible for Replacement Cost. Cost will vary
General Supplies for Classroom	Classroom Supplies, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks and other optional supplies for a minimum of 6 academic classes.	Cost will vary according to number of items purchased.
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Locks	Tennis shoes, socks, running shorts, and T-shirt. Locks - \$5
Industrial Technology/Art, special projects, science classes	Costs above standard assigned project. Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles – 1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Fees will vary according to the size of student project. Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing; goggles
Family Consumer Science	Cost above standard assigned project	Fees will vary according to the size of student project.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical Instruments	Musical Instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by all students
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at the rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
All Curriculum Areas	Field Trips Meals	Sack lunches will be provided for all students at no cost. If student and parent/guardian choose other arrangements they will be responsible for cost. Costs will vary
Post-Secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit	None – any post-secondary education costs are to be paid directly by students enrolled.
School Meals		Breakfast - \$1.90 Lunch - \$3.00 Milk - \$0.55 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
End of the year: lost of damage books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost or ruined

		books are charged the replacement cost up to \$100.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep program and tests	Costs of college entrance tests prep courses are determined by the testing companies.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer or at night	Drivers education classes are determined by ESU#3 - \$350 Summer school - \$100 per class
Yearbook - optional	School Book	\$60 minimum
Parking Lot	Unauthorized parking	\$5-\$10 fine and/or towed vehicle or loss of parking privileges
All Curriculum Areas	Textbook Damage or loss	Cost will vary and a schedule of costs is included in Student Handbook.

<b>Extracurricular and other programs</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Students may purchase an activity card for \$35 per year. Conference Tournaments, District and State events hosted by the school: cost to be set by NSAA/EMC
Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies – payable directly from student/parent to physician.
Football	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Volleyball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Softball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Baseball	Shoes, Gloves and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Cross Country	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Basketball	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary

Wrestling	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Track	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Golf	Shoes, Clubs, Balls and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Boys' and Girls' Soccer	Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
All Athletic Activities	Medically Prescribed and other optional braces	Cost will vary
Instrumental Music	Reeds and other consumables	Costs will vary according to instrument
Instrumental Music	Instrument and other optional equipment	Costs will vary
Vocal Music	Students in Varsity Choir will be required to pay a fee for the use of Choir Robes; Shoes and Show Choir Outfit	Costs will vary
Cheerleaders	Uniform and other optional attire	Costs will vary
Dance Team	Performance Outfit, Shoes and other optional attire	Costs will vary
National Honor Society	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required.
Student council	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
FBLA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
Foreign Language Clubs	State and national dues and activities	Currently no dues required
Skills USA	State and national dues and activities	Costs will vary due to membership & activity.
All Activities	Camps or other optional activities outside of the school year.	Costs will vary according to activity.
All Activities	Meal Costs for Overnight Events	The School will provide per meal stipend as set by the AD. If students choose meals beyond the stipend, they will be responsible for additional costs.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps and clinics	Students are responsible for costs and equipment
Marching Band/Musical groups	Equipment and attire	Students will be responsible for possible uniform rental and cleaning fee up to \$50
<b>Social &amp; Recognition Activities</b>		

School dances	Homecoming / Prom	Not to exceed \$50 per ticket. Outside date / late ticket not to exceed \$75.
Musical and Play Production	Admission to events	Not to exceed \$25 per performance.
Picture packets	Optional – pictures are taken for the school yearbook	Students may purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company
Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extra-curricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.
Reproduction of Records	Video Redacted	Costs will vary due to requests.

**Bennington Nutrition Services - Meal Charges Procedures**

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

**Payment Methods**

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

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

## **Account Balances**

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

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

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

## **Communication of Meal Charges Procedures**

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

1. All households at or before the start of each school year.
2. Students and families transfer into the district, at time of transfer.
3. All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (pg. 8)**

### **Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications for Title 1 Teachers**

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

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

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

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

## NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Bennington Public Schools to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents/guardians and secondary students have the right to request that Bennington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental/guardian consent. Bennington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

### **XX. ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET**

**606.06**

We are pleased to offer the staff and students at Bennington Public Schools access to the district computer network, including electronic mail ("e-mail") and the Internet. To gain access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the internet, all staff must sign and return the "Staff Agreement" form to the central office. Likewise, to gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students attending the Bennington Public Schools must sign a "Student Agreement", and their parents must sign a "Parents Agreement", which will be kept on file.

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

#### A. E-Mail and Internet Rules:

##### 1. General Rules

- (a) The e-mail and Internet networks are provided to staff and students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental permission is required for student use. Access to e-mail and the Internet is a privilege, not a right.
- (b) Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

- (c) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect files or any information to be stored or otherwise retained.
- (d) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, that files stored on district servers will always be private.
- (e) The district will not be liable for purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

2. Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

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

- (a) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages for the replacement of any damage to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.
- (b) Users shall not let other persons use their name, log-on, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members.)
- (c) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.
- (d) Users shall not use Bennington Public Schools computers or networks for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).
- (e) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.
- (f) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by the Bennington Public School District, teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.
- (g) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
- (h) Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.
- (i) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

3. Penalties for Violation of Rules

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

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

4. Use of Computer Access to Telecommunications Resources is a Privilege and Not a Right.

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

B. Staff, Student and Parent Agreements.

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff Agreement, Students Agreement and Parents Agreement, in the forms attached hereto as Appendix “1”, Appendix “2”, and Appendix “3” respectively, are incorporated herein by this reference.

**XXI. 1:1 INITIATIVE**

**A. Introduction**

Bennington Public Schools is proud to offer our students in seventh and eighth grades Chromebooks for use at school and at home. The 1:1 Learning Initiative, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all students in these grades, has been designed to provide students with the skills and tools they need in school and for lifelong learning and success.

**B. Computer Specifications**

All students are issued one Chromebook, one Chromebook power supply, and one protective laptop sleeve. The laptop and the power adapter have been assigned serial numbers and asset tags by the District. Please note that these devices require a Wi-Fi connection in order to be able to access the Internet. Chromebooks have limited offline functionality, but the full power of the device will be realized with an Internet connection.

### C. Laptop Take-home Privileges

While all students will be issued a laptop for use at school, it will be up to individual families to decide whether or not they would like their students to bring their laptops home at the end of the school day. Before take-home privileges will be granted, parents/guardians and students must attend an orientation. At this orientation, parents/guardians may pay the cooperative loss fee and sign all the necessary agreements. Parents/guardians who do not attend the orientation will be required to receive a certificate of completion of a district-assigned 30-minute e-learning module before take-home privileges will be assigned.

The laptop, power supply, and sleeve will all be collected at the end of the academic year or upon termination of the student's enrollment for maintenance, cleaning, and repair. Any laptops not returned when requested will be reported to local law enforcement as stolen property.

### D. Fees and Cooperative Loss Agreement

Families who would like to have take-home privileges for their students' Chromebooks may pay an annual, non-refundable fee of \$20. This fee provides for an 80% discount on up to 4 repairs that must be conducted on the student's Chromebook during the school year.

*After 4 repairs in one school year, families will be responsible for 100% of the repair cost.* Families who choose not to participate in the cooperative loss program will be responsible for the full cost of the repair each time.

With or without the cooperative loss agreement, damage that results in a complete loss of the Chromebook will result in a damage bill for the full replacement cost of the device.

The following table lists the costs for each event. Note that parts availability and pricing are subject to change. The information provided is accurate as of the most recent edition of this handbook.

Damage Type	With Cooperative Loss	Without Cooperative Loss
Broken Screen	\$5	\$40
Broken Chassis	\$20	\$100
Lost/broken Power Supply	\$5	\$40
Keyboard Replacement	\$20	\$100
Total Loss	\$200	\$200

Repairs due to defects in workmanship or warranty service will be facilitated by the Technology Department.

### E. Laptop Use at School

#### 1. General

- Laptops are intended to be used at school every day. Students are responsible for bringing their laptops to every class unless specifically advised by teachers not to bring them.
- Laptops must be brought to school fully charged every day. Only use the provided charger to charge your laptop.
- Students must comply with individual classroom teachers' rules.
- Students are responsible for the laptop at all times including time outside of the school day.

## **2. Laptop Software, Apps, and Settings**

The presence of inappropriate material including (but not limited to) guns and weapons-related content, pornographic content, alcohol-, drug-, or gang-related symbols or pictures, or any other material deemed unacceptable by the school administration on the laptop or in the student's online storage will result in disciplinary action (see Computer Violations) and, where appropriate, referral to law enforcement.

## **3. Sound**

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. All students are advised to acquire headphones or earbuds. All Chromebooks are equipped with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack similar to what is found in most portable devices and cell phones.

## **4. Printing**

Students will not be granted access to printers with their Chromebooks.

## **5. Extracurricular Activities**

Students will be allowed to take their laptops to extracurricular events at the discretion of the coach/sponsor. If students bring their Chromebooks to an event, students and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any loss, damage, or theft that may occur during the event.

## **F. Laptop Care**

### **1. General**

- No food or drink is allowed next to your laptop.
- Students may not carry the laptop with the screen open.
- Under no circumstances should laptops or other technology be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include but are not limited to: the school grounds and campus, common areas, unlocked classrooms or lockers, bathrooms, busses, cars, and hallways. Any computers left in these areas are in danger of being lost or stolen.
- Students are not permitted to write, draw, or place stickers or labels on the laptop.
- The laptop must be transported to and from school in the district-provided sleeve or in a student-purchased bag or sleeve approved by the district.
- Students may install covers or cases on their laptops as long as the cases are removable and do not cause physical damage to the Chromebook.
- Students should not under any circumstances repair, alter, or make changes to their laptops. When students encounter a problem, they or a teacher should contact the Technology Help Desk.
- Loaner laptops will be made available for students whose laptops are awaiting repair by the Technology Department. Students will be expected to return the loaner laptop by the end of the school day.
- Student laptops will be labeled in the manner specified by the school district. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels and markings.

### **2. Display Care**

The laptop display can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The display is particularly vulnerable to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not lean on the lid of your Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not place anything in the laptop bag that will press against the case.
- Do not poke the screen.

- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g., pencils, pens, fingers, or headphones).
- Do not place your Chromebook in your backpack.

## **F. Misbehaviors and Consequences**

### **1. Computer Violations**

Bennington Public Schools has a zero-tolerance policy on computer violations. Students who are not responsible users of technology will receive the following consequences:

- First Offense – Detention
- Second Offense –
- Third Offense – Required attendance at Saturday Digital Citizenship class, take-home privileges revoked until the class is attended and passed.
- Fourth Offense – Determined by Administration

### **2. Forgotten or Uncharged Laptops**

Teachers expect the students to come to school ready to learn and with their laptops in appropriate working order (charged, undamaged, and fully functioning). Students who forget to bring or charge their laptops will receive consequences at the teacher’s discretion.

Unsupervised laptops will be confiscated by the staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action will be taken for leaving a laptop unattended.

#### **1. IT Controls**

The Technology Department has the right at any time to access student computers, add or remove software, change settings, and/or remove local data on the Chromebook. It is up to students to make sure their data is safely stored.

## **G. Family Computing Tips**

Computers are a resource tool. Bennington Public Schools strives to provide students with the skills and tools needed to support lifelong learning and success. While it is great to have your children learn to use the latest technology, spending too much time with video games and surfing the web can be unproductive. Due to federal regulations, Bennington Public Schools will filter and document usage on District-owned equipment at all times. Measures have been put in place to limit student access to harmful or inappropriate material both on and off school grounds. **No technology measure is perfect or will serve as an adequate substitute for parent/guardian involvement, communication, and supervision.** It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to supervise, manage, and monitor their children while they are not at school.

Parents and guardians should communicate with their children and set computer limits. Here are some examples:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, phone number, parents’ or guardians’ work addresses/phone numbers, or the name and location of my school without parent or guardian permission.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. I will report mean or uncomfortable messages to a trusted adult or teacher.
- I will talk with my children so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.

- Limit the hours during the day that your child is on the computer.

One of the District's goals with this initiative is to provide equitable technology access to families. Family members of the student with a school-issued laptop are permitted to use the laptop to check the school website, child's grades, etc. The student's use for schoolwork should take priority over other family use. All users of the student's Chromebook are required to follow the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook as well as the District's Acceptable Use of Computers and Internet Policy. When students are off campus, a Wi-Fi Internet connection should be made available to enable access to all learning materials made available throughout the district. It is possible to complete some tasks (composing documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations, using offline apps) without an Internet connection. The district can provide contacts in the community to help qualifying families subscribe to affordable Internet services.