

Bloomsburg Area Middle School

**Student Handbook, 2024-2025**

Bloomsburg Area Secondary Complex Bloomsburg Middle School Bloomsburg High School

1100 Railroad Street

Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Telephone 570-784-6100

**SECONDARY COMPLEX ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Daniel Yarnell, Secondary Principal, Middle School

Mrs. Michelle Prybyla, Secondary Principal of Students and Programs Dr. Andrea Landis, Secondary Principal, High School

Mr. Mike Kogut, Athletic Coordinator/Assistant to the Principal

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

Atty. Marianne Kreisher, President

Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Vice President

Mr. Jonathan Jones, Treasurer

Mr. John Khan

Mrs. Eve Ralston

Mrs. Stephanie Andreacci

Rev. Mark Reisinger

Dr. Eric Miller

Mrs. Amanda Orzolek

The Bloomsburg Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA.

The School District will provide those related services, aids and accommodations, which are needed to afford all students an equal opportunity to participate in and obtain benefits of the school program and co-curricular activities without discrimination and to the maximum extent appropriate to the student’s ability.

*For information regarding Civil Rights; Grievance Procedures, as well as services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons, please contact the Superintendent at (570) 784-5000.*

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Our Vision 4](#_bookmark0)

[Alma Mater 4](#_bookmark1)

Mission Statement 5

[Child Find 5](#_bookmark2)

[School Calendar 6](#_bookmark3)

[Bell Schedules…………………………………………………………………………………………………..7](#_bookmark4)

[Academics](#_bookmark5)

* [Academic Dishonesty 8](#_bookmark6)
* [Academic Eligibility 8](#_bookmark7)
* Advanced Placement (AP) Courses 9
* Final Exams 9
* [Grade Portal 9](#_bookmark8)
* [Grading Scale 9](#_bookmark9)
* [Guidance Department 9](#_bookmark10)
* [HIV/AIDS Instruction 9](#_bookmark11)
* [Honor Roll 10](#_bookmark12)
* [Keystone Exams 10](#_TOC_250004)
* [Library 10](#_TOC_250003)
* [Progress Reports 11](#_bookmark13)
* [Report Cards 11](#_bookmark14)
* [Schedule Change Requests 11](#_TOC_250002)

[Athletics](#_bookmark15)

* Eligibility 12
* [Student Conduct at Athletic Events 12-13](#_bookmark16)

[Attendance](#_bookmark17)

* [Absences 1](#_bookmark18)4-15
* [Absence Notification 15](#_bookmark19)
* [Absence Reporting 15](#_bookmark20)
* Early Dismissal 15
* [Excessive Absence Notification 15](#_bookmark21)
* Make-Up Work Following Absence 16
* [Planned Absences 16](#_bookmark22)
* [State Attendance Reporting 16](#_bookmark23)
* [Tardiness 17](#_bookmark24)
* [Tardiness Consequences 17](#_bookmark25)

[Building Procedures](#_bookmark26)

* Assistance, Support, & Education (BASE) Team 18
* Deliveries to School 18
* Food Service 18
* [Hall Passes 19](#_bookmark27)
* [Hair, Dress, & Grooming 19](#_bookmark28)
* [Lavatory Use 20](#_bookmark29)
* [Locker Use 20](#_bookmark30)
* [Student Fundraising 20](#_bookmark31)
* [Panther Prep 20](#_TOC_250001)
* [Working Papers/Employment Certificates 20](#_bookmark32)

Code of Conduct

* Expectations 21
* [Bus Conduct 21](#_bookmark33)
* Cell Phones and Personal Electronics 21
* [Dances 22](#_bookmark34)
* [Extracurricular Behavior 22](#_bookmark35)
* [School Property 22](#_bookmark36)
* [Student Conduct at Athletic Events 22](#_bookmark37)
* Disciplinary Withdrawal 23
* Relationships 23
* Tardiness to Classes 23

[Disciplinary Procedures](#_bookmark38)

* [Reporting of Infractions 24](#_bookmark39)
* [Teacher-Assigned Detentions 24](#_TOC_250000)
* [Teacher-Initiated Disciplinary Referrals 24](#_bookmark40)
* [Detention 24](#_bookmark41)
* [Written Cease and Desist Order 24](#_bookmark42)
* [Behavior Management Contract 25](#_bookmark43)
* [Suspensions 25](#_bookmark44)
* Alternative Education (AEDY) Placement 25
* [Police Referral 25](#_bookmark45)
* [Expulsion 25-26](#_bookmark46)
* [Offenses 26](#_bookmark47)
* [Consequences 26](#_bookmark48)
* [Disciplinary Levels 26-29](#_bookmark49)

[Medical Information](#_bookmark50)

* + [Emergency Epinephrine Opt-Out 30](#_bookmark51)
  + [Illness 30](#_bookmark52)
  + [Medications 30](#_bookmark53)
  + [Physical Exams 30](#_bookmark54)

[School Board Policies](#_bookmark55) 31-32

[Special Education Services 3](#_bookmark56)3

[Student Rights](#_bookmark57)

* + [Due Process 3](#_bookmark58)4
  + Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance 35
  + [Freedom of Expression 3](#_bookmark59)5
  + [Free Education 3](#_bookmark60)5
  + Protection from Abuse & Harassment 35
  + Sale & Distribution of Materials 35
  + [Searches & Seizures 35-3](#_bookmark61)6
  + [Student Privacy 3](#_bookmark62)6

[Technology Use](#_bookmark63)

* + [Network/Internet Guidelines 3](#_bookmark64)7-38
  + PARENT & STUDENT SIGNATURE PAGE……………………………………………………39

***PANTHER PRIDE***



##### SCHOOL COLORS SCHOOL MASCOT

Red and White Panther

# ALMA MATER

(W. Clair Hower)

***Oh, Bloomsburg High School, Alma Mater Always Faithful, Always True,***

***Your sons and daughters e'er will cherish you; Red and White to you all hail;***

***See our colors waving o'er us Proudly may they ever fly! Bear us onward, aid, direct us. Bid us now to do or die.***

***Oh, Bloomsburg High School, Alma Mater Receive the honor we would give.***

***And may we strive to do our best and live True to Bloomsburg High, all hail!***

***MISSION***

The mission of the Bloomsburg Area School District is to prepare its students to become contributing, responsible citizens and lifelong learners, with the ability to adapt and to succeed in a competitive world.

The Bloomsburg Area Middle School strives to create a positive learning environment and work with the community to:

* Encourage increased parental and community awareness and involvement in the educational process.
* Provide educational resources that are current and relevant.
* Provide a competent, caring staff; a challenging curriculum; and a comprehensive extra-curricular program.
* Strive for proficiency in reading comprehension, mathematical fundamentals, and verbal and written communication skills.
* Develop an atmosphere of academic excellence conducive to acquiring knowledge and skills necessary for rational, analytical, and creative thinking.
* Foster self-esteem and promote attitudes and values, which enable students to respect and work cooperatively with others.
* Cultivate an appreciation for lifelong learning.

***CHILD FIND***

Every school district, along with other public agencies in the Commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and related services because of their disabilities (Chapter 14, Pennsylvania Regulations 14.121; Part 300 Federal Regulations 300.125). Furthermore, Federal Regulations under Individuals with Disability Education Act require child find from birth to 21 years of age. This notice is to help find these children, assist parents and describe the parents’ right with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during this process.

***HOMELESS/MCKINNEY VENTO ACT***

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently reauthorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).1 The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. Local Educational Agencies are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

The law indicates that the LEA liaison shall ensure that all homeless children, youth and families are identified through coordinated activities with other entities.

For additional information, contact LEA Homeless Liaison, Kim Honabach, at 570-784-3167.

***SCHOOL CALENDAR***

A calendar with different colored numbers

Description automatically generated

***BELL SCHEDULES –***

**Regular Bell Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Period | Time |
| Warning Bell | 7:40 am |
| Homeroom | 7:45 am – 7:55 am |
| Period 1 | 7:58 am - 8:42 am |
| Period 2 | 8:45 am – 9:27 am |
| Period 3 | 9:30 am – 10:12 am |
| Period 4 | 10:15 am – 10: 57 am |
| Lunch A | 11:00 am – 11:30 am |
| Period A-5 | 11:00 am – 11: 42 am |
| Period 5-B | 11: 33 am – 12:15 am |
| Lunch B | 11: 45 am – 12:27 am |
| Period 6 | 11:45 am – 12:27 pm |
| Period 6-C | 12:18 am – 1:00 pm |
| Period 7 | 1:03 pm – 1:45 pm |
| Period 8 | 1:48 pm- 2:30 pm |

### ACADEMICS

#### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Each teacher will address cheating in his/her homework/grading policy, which is distributed in the beginning of the school year. Cheating will result in a grade of a zero for that assignment/test, and/or an appropriate disciplinary action. Instances of cheating will be recorded in the student’s disciplinary record and may impact consideration for induction into National Honor Society in the future.

Every writer, whether a student or not, *must* give credit to his or her sources. Credit must be given whenever he writes something that is not his own work, or when he uses information in writing that has been derived from another’s ideas or words. Plagiarism is not limited to research papers: students may commit acts of plagiarism in homework assignments, reading logs, and formal presentations.

Sources *must* be given in the situations that follow:

* Quoting the source directly;
* Using others’ ideas or words; paraphrasing others’ words;
* Using facts or statistics that are *not* common knowledge;

A writer is guilty of plagiarism if he fails to give credit to the sources used in writing, or if he or she *knowingly* fails or *ought to reasonably to have known* to document words that are paraphrased*.* **Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students who plagiarize *all or any part of* an assignment will receive a grade of *zero* for that assignment.** If you are accused of plagiarism, you must provide proof that you have not presented a source’s ideas or words as your own. You must submit every source you used along with your prewriting, notes, and rough drafts. You will be required to attend a conference with your parents, faculty, and administration. Instances of plagiarism will be recorded in the student’s disciplinary record. Students can avoid charges of plagiarism by:

* Always using accurate parenthetical citations to give credit to the source;
* Always giving a complete and accurate listing of sources in the Works Cited page of their papers;
* Always quoting accurately.

#### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

If a student is failing more than one subject, the student is ineligible to participate in any extra- curricular activities for that specific week. If ineligible, the student may not participate in any extra-curricular activity. This includes, but is not limited to athletics, clubs, and dances during the period of ineligibility (Sunday through Saturday of the following week). Eligibility for the following week is determined by 2:30pm on Thursdays.

Additional eligibility information can be found in the Athletics section of this handbook as well as in the Athletic Handbook.

***FINAL EXAM (Applicable to BMS students taking High School courses)***

The percentages for each grading period or semester will be averaged together to compute the final grade for the course. If a final examination is part of the course, it will count for 12% of the final grade. Final examination scores are only applicable to middle school students taking high school classes.

#### GRADE PORTAL

Bloomsburg Area School District students and parents have the ability to access important, updated student information online. Our online Gradebook system provides access to current grades, missing assignments, attendance record, daily class schedule and discipline record. To gain access to the portal, parents should visit the middle school webpage and click on the Parent Portal button. Please contact the guidance department if you encounter difficulty with the process of creating an account.

#### GRADING SCALE

###### RATING

Excellent Work Above Average Average

Below Average Unsatisfactory

***Percentage***

93-100

85-92

77-84

70-76

Below 70

#### GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Students are assigned to counselor[s as follows:](mailto:bmcnamara@bloomsd.k12.pa.us)

Grades 6-7: Mrs. Ann Kostiuk, [akostiuk@bloomsd.k12.pa.u](mailto:Jfisher@bloomsd.k12.pa.us)s Grades 8-9: Ms. Jami Fisher, [Jfisher@bloomsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:Jfisher@bloomsd.k12.pa.us)

Appointments may be made by calling the Secondary Complex office.

#### HIV/AIDS INSTRUCTION

Primary, intermediate, middle, and high schools are required to teach HIV/AIDS education.

Schools must use materials that are age-appropriate; discuss prevention; and stress abstinence as “the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission.” School districts must publicize the fact that parents and guardians can review all curriculum materials. A school entity shall excuse a pupil from HIV/AIDS instruction when the instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs or principles of the pupil or parent or guardian of the pupil and when excusal is requested in writing to the principal of the school prior to this instruction taking place. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy. Prior to the commencement of instruction, a school district shall publicize that detailed curriculum outlines and curricular materials used in conjunction with the instruction are available to parents and guardians during normal school hours or at teacher-parent conferences. Curricular materials, if practical, shall be made available by the school entity for home instructional use by a parent or guardian if the student has been excused from the school entity’s HIV/AIDS instruction. If you have questions about our curriculum or would like to review materials, please contact your teacher or principal during normal school hours.

#### HONOR ROLL

Each quarter the Bloomsburg Area Middle School issues an honor roll of students demonstrating exception academic achievement. Students who earn a grade point average of 93% to 96.9% and no incompletes are eligible for the Honor Roll. The Distinguished Honor Roll includes students who have a grade point average of 97.0% or above and no incomplete

#### KEYSTONE EXAMS\*

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments that help determine whether a student has mastered the state standards associated with a particular course. The content areas of algebra, biology, literature are tested in Pennsylvania. At the Bloomsburg Area High School, the following courses have accompanying Keystone Exams: Algebra I, Biology 9 Honors, Foundations of Biology II, English 10, and English 10 Honors. Though proficiency on the exams is not required for graduation, participation in these exams is required for federal accountability purposes unless a religious exception is filed.

\*Only applicable to students taking Keystone Exams.

Parents and guardians may review the assessments prior to the testing window by making arrangements with the high school administration. If after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their child to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent of Schools.

#### LIBRARY

Designed to be a 21st century learning space for research, reading, studying, project work, and collaboration, the Bloomsburg Middle school library is open from 7:50am – 2:30pm. Throughout the school day, students may use the library during homeroom, lunch periods, or study halls. Classroom teachers also bring their students to the library for instruction and project-based learning. Students and faculty may take advantage of the Library Café during the school day.

The library will be constantly updating its services and resources to support the middle school learning community in 21st century learning. The library collection includes wide assortment of resources including thousands of books, magazines, videos, audiobooks, photo and video recording equipment, and other resources. In the unlikely event of lost or damaged library materials, students will be held accountable. Using the ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA system (Inter-Library Loan), students and faculty are able to borrow materials from other school, public and specialized libraries across the state. Along with the physical materials, the library provides a careful crafted selection of research databases and tools, Web 2.0 tools for projects, instructional videos, and other resources for 21st century learning. Links and information about these resources can be found through the high school library’s website. Students may also access the Accelerated Reader program in the library.

Throughout the year, the middle school library will sponsor and promote special programs and events for various learning, literacy, and digital citizenship initiatives.

#### PROGRESS REPORTS

Throughout each marking period, progress reports will be emailed to all parents by your students’ grade level teachers. Reports will be mailed to parents/guardians who submit a request with the guidance office. Although it is not common, it is possible for a student to receive a failing report card grade without receiving a failing grade at the time of progress report distribution.

#### REPORT CARDS

At the end of each marking period, grade reports will be emailed to all parents. Grade reports will be mailed to parents/guardians who submit a request with the guidance office. The email addresses used are the ones that are used when you register for a parent portal account.

#### SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS

After final schedules have been distributed in June, no course may be dropped from a student’s schedule without the approval of the guidance department and middle school administration. The request for such a change must be made in writing and include an educational reason for the request to be considered.

NOTE: Only under unusual circumstances, after consultation with the teacher, student, parent/guardian and the guidance counselor, the principal may approve a student withdrawing from a course. If this occurs beyond the first two weeks of the class, the result of the withdrawal will include a W on his/her transcript.

### ATHLETICS

#### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

If a student is failing more than one subject, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for that specific week. If ineligible, the student may not participate in any extracurricular activity. This includes, but is not limited to athletics, clubs, and dances during the period of ineligibility (Sunday through Saturday of the following week). Eligibility for the following week is determined by 2:30pm on Thursdays.

#### ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

An athlete must be in attendance in school by 8:10 a.m. in order to practice or participate in an athletic event unless an official excuse is provided.

Additionally, any student who accumulates three (3) or more unexcused absences per semester will forfeit the right to participate in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of that semester.

#### ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The Bloomsburg Area School District complies with all Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) rules regarding eligibility. Our school also assigns additional academic requirements as permitted by PIAA. A breakdown of the combination of both PIAA and Bloomsburg Area School District eligibility rules are found below and can also be found within the BASD Athletic Handbook.

Students who are regularly enrolled in a full-time course of studies in a secondary school are generally considered eligible to participate in athletics. PIAA regulations specify when students are not eligible. It is important that coaches and students be aware of these regulations since playing an ineligible player could result in forfeiting a game or even a championship. A summary of the regulations follows.

A student ***may not*** participate in practices or contests:

* if he/she has not had a physical for the specific sport.
* while on suspension from school.
* if he/she has not attended school for the entire day the day of a game or practice unless allowed by the principal, or has not arrived at school prior to 8:10 am. (Doctor’s appt., funeral, college visit, or other administrative approved activity would allow both practice and/or game participation).
* if he/she is not an amateur, that is, if the student has accepted money or gifts for playing.
* if he/she has played the same sport for four seasons after grade 8.
* if he/she has attended eight semesters of school after entering grade 9.
* if he/she has graduated or played in an all-star event.
* if he/she has turned 19 years of age by June 30.

A student may participate in practice, but may not participate in athletic scrimmages or contests:

* for the next week if he/she is failing more than one class at the end of any week during a season. If this occurs at the end of a marking period, the student must be passing at least 4 credits or the student is not eligible for 15 school days into the next marking period. Eligibility is due on Thursday before 2:30 pm – the report will be sent to all head coaches before 2:30 pm on Friday of the same week. When circumstances occur that make the collection of student data impossible (snow days, emergencies, etc.) – the previous weekly report will be the standard.
* if weather or other circumstances create a scenario in which the weekly eligibility is not able to be checked – the previous eligibility report will be used for a second week. (Fair Week, Holiday, snow day, etc.)
* for 60 days of school attendance if he/she has been absent for 20 days in one semester.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

***STUDENT ATHLETES***

All school rules and policies are in effect for school sponsored and approved athletic/musical/field trips and/or competitions. Students violating the rules and policies will be subject to disciplinary action. If in the judgment of the high school administration, a student's behavior is not defined in the code of student conduct, the administration will take appropriate action in the best interest of the student and the school.

***STUDENT SPECTATORS***

Students are to show proper respect for the opposing team, coaches, cheerleaders, and fans at all times. This respect should be demonstrated at both home and away games.

* The use of profanity is strictly prohibited.
* Individual players or coaches should not be singled out by fans and/or players.
* Students should remain respectful when opposing cheerleading squads are performing a cheer.
* Noisemakers are not allowed.
* No person may throw objects onto the playing surface.

### ATTENDANCE

§ 11.13. Compulsory Attendance of the Pennsylvania State School Code was designed to make certain that all children would have an equal opportunity to gain a public-school education. School officials and parents are responsible for this education of our children, and the state places fines and prison sentences or both for failure to observe the law.

Section 1326: The term “compulsory school age” shall mean the period of a child’s life from the time the child’s parents elect to have their child enter school, which shall be no later than at the age of six years, until the age of eighteen (18). Every child of compulsory school age, having a legal residence in this Commonwealth, is required to attend a day school in which the subjects and activities prescribed by the State Council of Education are taught in the English language and every parent, or guardian or the person having control or charge of any child or children of compulsory school age is required to send such child or children to such day school.

Act 29, which was amended in 2016, extensively revised provisions for truancy. The law raised the fine for truancy to $300. This fine will be placed on parents and requires them to pay court costs or be sentenced to complete a parenting education program. If the parents show that they took reasonable steps to ensure the attendance of a child, they may not be convicted of a summary offense. If the parents are not convicted and the child continues to be truant, the child can be fined up to $300.

Act 29 also removes from truant juveniles their driving privileges for 90 days for a first offense and six months for a second, while juveniles who are unlicensed are prohibited from applying for a learner’s permit for 90 days (first offense) or six months (second offense) after their sixteenth birthday.

#### ABSENCES

The school recognizes the importance of consistent attendance in academic success and therefore, encourages students to attend school regularly in order to achieve at their greatest potential.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), “a student is considered absent if they are not physically participating in instruction or instruction-related activities on school grounds or at an approved off- grounds location for at least half of the school day. Each day a student is absent for 50% of the school day or more is to be counted as an absence.”

Based on the reasons and documentation provided for absences, they can be categorized as either Excused or Unexcused. Please find a breakdown of these below.

***EXCUSED ABSENCES***

***Parent Excuses-*** Absences will be deemed excused by way of parent excuses received within three days to confirm one of the following reasons for the absence:

* Illness
* Other exceptionally urgent reasons
* Previously approved planned absence (no additional excuse necessary)

***Official Excuses-*** Some absences will be deemed excused by way of official excuses received within three days to confirm one of the following reasons for the absence:

* Medical excuses issued by a health care provider for each absence stating appointment/absence date and time (written note from a doctor)
* Medical excuses issued by the athletic trainer and/or team doctor
* Death in the immediate family
* Court appearances (documentation from the courthouse confirming appearance)
* Religious Holidays (must be pre-approved by administration)
* Previously approved college visitation (completed “College Visitation Form” submitted upon return)

***UNEXCUSED ABSENCES***

Absences will be deemed unexcused if/when:

* A written excuse is not received within three days.
* The reason for the absence is beyond the scope of illness, death in family, and/or previously approved planned absences.
* An official excuse is not provided after 10 total days of parent-excused absences are accrued.

***\*\*Parents should contact administration to discuss any concerns or situations that may result in the need for special arrangements or to address their child’s attendance. \*\****

#### ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

Parents or guardians will receive automated phone calls from our One Call System around 10:00am if their children are marked absent. It is not necessary to call the school to report your child absent.

#### ABSENCE REPORTING

###### Half Day Absences

Students who arrive to school after 10:30am will be reported as absent in the morning. Students who leave school before 11:45am will be reported as absent in the afternoon.

***FULL DAY ABSENCES***

Students who leave school before 9:45am will be reported as absent for the entire school day. Students who arrive to school after 12:30pm will be reported as absent for the entire school day.

#### EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students who need to leave school early or leave the Middle school building are required to bring a note from a parent or guardian. All notes must be brought to the office before homeroom on or before the morning of the day requested. Students will then receive an excuse slip from the office to be presented to their classroom teacher and office secretary upon leaving. Early dismissals without this documentation will be unexcused. All students will be required to furnish an official excuse within three days of return from the appointment or the time out will be considered unexcused.

The following must be indicated on each request:

1. Name, grade, and homeroom section of student
2. Date and time of requested dismissal
3. Parent/guardian signature and phone number
4. Reason for request

#### EXCESSIVE ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

###### Ten or More Parent Excused Absences

If a student accumulates ten (10) or more absences for which an official excuse was not submitted, the parent will be notified by postal mail that an official excuse is required for each additional absence for the remainder of the school year.

***ONE OR MORE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES***

Parents/guardians will receive written notification when their children accumulate unexcused absences. Dependent upon the number of unexcused absences, the school may require a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) team meeting in order to develop a plan for improved attendance.

Students who accumulate six (6) or more unexcused/illegal absences are considered habitually truant and may be referred to the county children and youth agency for services. Additionally, the school may file a citation against the parent in the magisterial district court.

#### MAKE-UP WORK FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE

Any student who is absent due to illness, death in the immediate family, or with prior approval by the principal will be given the opportunity to complete any assignment upon returning to school.

It is primarily the student's responsibility to initiate the make-up activities. The make-up assignments and examinations shall be completed within a reasonable time of the date of absence. Teachers will review procedures for their classes at the beginning of the year. Any student absent for more than three (3) consecutive days should contact his/her instructor to obtain instructions regarding missed assignments. The responsibility for obtaining the assignments rests with the parents and/or student. Teacher contact information can be found on the school’s website under the Faculty Tab.

#### PLANNED ABSENCES

Students who are going to be absent from school due to a planned trip or vacation must complete a “Planned Absence Request” form in order to have those days marked excused. These forms must be submitted to the school administration three (3) school days prior to the requested absence. Forms are available in the High School Office and on the school’s website. No vacation requests will be approved during final examinations. Planned absences will only be approved after consideration of the following factors:

* The student has not exceeded 10 planned absence days in a school year;
* The student has not been absent 10 or more days without an official excuse.

If the student’s parent-excused absence totals reach or exceed 10 days with the approved planned absence, the student will be required to furnish an official excuse for each additional absence for the remainder of the year.

Students who attend unapproved trips will be marked as unexcused and may receive a grade of zero for all work/exams the days the student was absent.

Note: It is the recommendation of the Bloomsburg Area School District that students not take vacations during the school year. In requesting a vacation absence, the student and family must realize that this increases the likeliness of the student suffering academically.

#### STATE ATTENDANCE REPORTING

Pennsylvania schools are required to report attendance to the state. Below please find the three classifications used for these reports, which are used to calculate a school’s effectiveness.

***CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM***

Students who are absent, both excused and unexcused, for at least 10% of the school days are considered chronically absent.

###### Truant

Students who accumulate three (3) or more unexcused absences are considered truant.

***HABITUALLY TRUANT***

Students who accumulate six (6) or more unexcused/illegal absences are considered habitually truant and may be referred to the county children and youth agency for services. Additionally, the school may file a citation against the parent in the magisterial district court.

#### TARDINESS

Students who report to homeroom after 7:50 am are considered tardy. These students must report to the attendance table located inside the main entrance. The attendance supervisor will assign the appropriate consequence and issue a pass for admission to homeroom/class. Students who report to school after 8:10am should report directly to the central main office. The following protocols will be followed depending upon the reason for the tardiness:

* Students entering the building after 8:10am with a parent must sign in at the central office.
* Students who arrive after 8:10am without a parent will be assigned a detention.
* Students entering the school after 8:10am, with or without a parent, will not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities unless an official excuse is provided.

#### TARDINESS CONSEQUENCES

If a student is excessively tardy to school, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

* + 3 to 6 days tardy (per semester) – A student who has exceeded 2 days tardy will be given a detention for each time he/she is tardy from 3 to 6 times; parents will be notified.
  + 7 to 10 days tardy (per semester) – A student who has exceeded 6 days tardy will be given an ISS and/or loss of student driving privileges for each time he/she is tardy from 7 to 10 times; parents will be notified by the Principal.
  + 10 plus days of tardiness (per semester) will result in ISS for each day tardy and the student will forfeit his/her privilege to participate in sports, all school activities, and all dances (including the Holiday Dance and the Prom) for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be required to have a conference with the Principal.
  + ***Parents should contact the Middle School Administration to discuss any concerns or situations that may result in the need for special arrangements or to address their child’s tardiness.***

### BUILDING PROCEDURES

#### BLOOMSBURG ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT, & EDUCATION (BASE) TEAM

In accordance with state guidelines, the Bloomsburg Middle School operates a Student Assistance Program, which is referred to as the BASE team. This core team consists of a building administrator, the school nurse, guidance counselors and teachers. The purpose of this confidential team is to consider student intervention when drug/alcohol or mental illness concerns are made. The team reviews student information and solicits feedback from teachers before making recommendations to the parent(s). This recommendation may include support from a drug/alcohol or mental health provider outside of the school district. Parents have the ability to decline services at any time. The BASE team is recognized in several BASD policies numbers (227, 228, 248, and 249) which state that this team will be consulted and recommendations provided in the process of certain policy violations.

#### DELIVERIES TO THE SCHOOL

The delivery of balloons, flowers, and other non-essential items to the Central Office will be distributed to students at the end of the school day. **Students are not permitted to have food delivered to the middle school unless** **permission is granted by a building principal.**

#### FOOD SERVICE PROCEDURES

###### Food Service Charging

Food service is a self-supporting department within BASD. Charging meals is not encouraged; however, we realize that occasionally students forget their lunch money. Students may charge meals to their account. Students will be allowed to charge up to $15.00. Charging procedures state that students will be allowed to charge up to

$15.00 maximum. When the $15.00 limit is reached, students will not be allowed to charge ala carte items, such as extra entrees, bottled water, snacks, etc. No student will be denied a meal.

The Bloomsburg Area School District is participating in the Community Eligible Program, ALL student meals (breakfast and lunch) are at **no charge** to students. No applications are needed to apply.

***ON-LINE PAYMENT SERVICES***

Bloomsburg School District Food Service Department provides parents with a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service to deposit money into your child’s school meal account at any time. This service

also provides parents the ability to view your child’s account balance through a web site called MySchoolBucks.com.

To access these services:

* Simply go to the district web site at [http://bloomsburgasd.schoolwires.com](http://bloomsburgasd.schoolwires.com/) Click on the Information/School Lunch Information/MySchoolBucks.com.
* Click on the MySchoolBucks.com link. Then create your account and add money to your child’s school meal account. All you need is your child’s name, student’s food service ID number and school ZIP code.

#### HALL PASSES

During class time, which includes homeroom periods and Panther Prep, students are not to be in the halls without a pass. If a student wishes to see a teacher during Panther Prep, a pass must be secured ahead of time. The teacher must issue a pass granting the student permission to be excused from Panther Prep.

#### HAIR, DRESS, & GROOMING

The Bloomsburg Area School District has a specified code for dress and grooming. Clothing should be neat, clean, and in good taste. It should not be extreme to the extent that it focuses attention on the wearer and causes a distraction or disruption in the classroom, hall, or throughout the building. The administration has the authority to determine inappropriate clothing, attire or costuming. Failure to wear proper attire will result in the student being asked to change attire. If the student is unable or unwilling to change clothing, they will remain in ISS for the remainder of the day. Some examples may be, but are not limited to the following:

1. Clothing and tattoos which displays obscene, sexual or drug/alcohol related messages;
2. Halter tops, tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, tank tops, mesh tops worn alone, and clothes that expose the midriff or undergarments; shoulders and straps must be covered;
3. Torn clothing (visible holes or rips regardless of undergarments) or cut off shirts; Using tape to cover holes, inside or out, is not permitted;
4. Underwear worn as outerwear; underwear that can be seen;
5. Coats are not permitted to be worn during the school day;
6. Shorts and skirts that are inappropriate;
7. Tops that expose cleavage or are too revealing;
8. Hats and all other head apparel, such as but not limited to bandanas, sweat bands, visors, hoods, sunglasses;
9. Chains, pins, dog collars, dangling jewelry or other ornaments that may be disruptive or present a safety hazard;
10. Excessively large, sagging, improperly-fitting clothing, and pajamas;
11. Stretch pants, leggings, or any form-fitting pants without an additional layer of clothing;
12. Studs or rivets on clothing;
13. Clothing not worn as designed/intended;
14. Clothing of unacceptable length;
15. Costume effect contact lenses;
16. Excessive makeup and/or face paint;
17. Gang-related attire;
18. Any clothing or buttons that mock, ridicule or otherwise deliberately demean or provoke others because of race, religion, national origin or individual views.
19. Shoes must be worn at all times; any shoe that poses a safety threat is not permitted.
20. Headphones, earbuds, airpods or any in-ear or other sound device is not permitted during the passing of classes or in class unless given permission by the teacher and/or monitor.
21. Blankets

The administration will consider factors of safety, cleanliness, suitability to the activity, and commonly held standards of decency to determine the appropriateness of clothing.

Students have the right to govern the length or style of their hair, including facial hair. Any limitation of this right shall include evidence that length or style of hair causes disruption of the educational process or constitutes a health or safety hazard. Where length or style of the hair presents a problem, some types of covering should be considered.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, shops, extra-curricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to insure the health or safety of the student.

Students have the responsibility to keep themselves, their clothes, and their hair clean. School officials may impose limitations on student participation in the regular instructional program where there is evidence that the lack of cleanliness constitutes a health hazard.

#### LAVATORY USE

Students must have permission from the classroom teacher to leave class to use the lavatory. Students will not be permitted to use the lavatories during transition times between classes. Lavatory visits should be limited to a reasonable amount of time. Any students caught vandalizing the lavatories will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If the lavatories or their contents are abused, certain lavatories may be shut down. Loitering in the lavatories is not permitted.

#### LOCKER USE

Every Middle School student is issued a hall locker located in the area near his/her homeroom. Locks are issued at the beginning of the school year by homeroom teachers. A duplicate record is kept of the lock combinations and the locker numbers assigned to each homeroom teacher. This record is maintained in the Middle School office throughout the year. The following rules and regulations govern the use of lockers:

* All lockers should be kept locked at all times.
* The school district is not responsible for items lost or stolen from lockers. School locks are required and will be provided by the Middle School, free of charge. Students are not permitted to use personal locks.
* All personal items including cell phones, and backpacks must be kept in the student lockers at all times. Students will be permitted to carry their school issued laptop bag as well as a small 5x8 wristlet.
* Lockers remain the property of the school and will be inspected periodically to ensure that they are being properly cared for and that all contents are in no way harmful to the owner, other students, or the school building.
* Congestion in the halls during class change will require that we limit students going to their lockers after each class. Students are permitted to use their lockers in the morning before homeroom, before and after lunch, at the discretion of their classroom teacher and at dismissal time.

#### STUDENT FUNDRAISING

Soliciting or selling of any kind by any student or student group is prohibited during the school day unless it is directly related to a school-sponsored activity and approved by the Middle School Principal. Furthermore, all fund- raising activities by school-sponsored groups must be approved, in advance, by the Middle School Principal.

All school-related (but not sponsored) groups, such as the PTA and Booster Clubs must obtain the High School Principal's permission to use school facilities or engage students during the school day in any fundraising activity. “Use of Facilities Forms” are available in the middle school office and on the school website.

#### PANTHER PREP

* Students will arrive to homeroom/Panther Prep and be quiet while roll is being taken.
* All students leaving Panther Prep for any reason will sign out.

#### WORKING PAPERS (EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES)

All working papers and employment certificate information can be obtained in the Central Office at the Secondary Complex. Students involved in employment are subject to Child Labor Laws and the compulsory attendance requirements of the Public-School Code.

### CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

#### BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

One of the major goals of education is to help students learn self-discipline; to know how to act and how not to act in various situations; and to accept responsibilities. Meeting the expectations of the school is part of the educational process. The purpose of this code is to make known the responsibilities of each student, so that all students may realize their full potential, and so we may be able to provide the best possible learning climate.

These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive, however, as they do not cover every situation and every condition. Therefore, if in the judgment of the middle school administration, a student's inappropriate behavior is not defined in the code of student conduct, the administration will take appropriate action in the best interest of the student and the school.

Section 1317. Authority of Teachers, Vice Principals and Principals over Pupils. Every teacher, vice principal and principal in the public schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them (1317 amended July 25, 1963, P.L. 315, No. 169).

#### BUS CONDUCT

Students who ride to and from school on school-provided transportation are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. They must respect the drivers and not abuse the buses or furnishings. This accommodation is provided by the school district and is to be considered a privilege and a courtesy.

Students may be assigned seats on the bus and in cases of misbehavior, students may be assigned detention, suspended from school or be deprived of transportation for a duration of time to be determined by the offense or number of offenses. Students who are not regularly assigned to ride a bus may not ride any bus in order to visit friends, go to a relative, get to work, etc. without written permission. Permission must be accompanied by a written request from a parent. Students are not to leave the bus drop-off area once they arrive at school. At no time are bus students to go to the parking lot.

#### Gum

#### To maintain a clean and distraction-free environment, gum chewing is not permitted in school. This helps prevent issues with cleanliness and potential distractions in the classroom.

#### Any violation is subject to the following schedule of consequences:

#### First Offense-The student will receive a verbal warning about the policy and asked to dispose of the gum immediately. The student will be reminded of the no-gum policy and its importance.

#### Second Offense-The student will be required to dispose of the gum and will receive a written warning. Parents will be contacted informing them of a repeated infraction.

#### Third Offense-The student will be required to dispose of the gum, parents will be contacted, and a detention will be issued..

#### Water Bottles/Drinks

#### Students are permitted to bring water into the school. To ensure compliance and maintain a conducive learning environment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

#### Allowed: Water Only

#### Prohibited: Sports drinks, energy drinks, coffee, or soda

#### Any violation is subject to the following schedule of consequences:

#### First Offense-The student will receive a verbal warning about the policy and be instructed to discard or store the prohibited drink. The students will be reminded of the expectations/guidelines.

#### Second Offense-The student will be required to dispose of the prohibited drink, and a parent/guardian will be contacted to inform them of the repeated infraction. The students will receive a written warning.

#### Third Offense-The student will be required to dispose of the prohibited drink. The student’s parents will be contacted. A detention will be issued for the infraction.

#### CELL PHONES & PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We realize by today’s living standards the use of personal electronic devices is common place. It is the procedure of the School Board to prohibit the use of electronic devices by students, including, but not limited to, cellular telephones and/or any other personal electronic devices during regular school hours. These items must be turned off and stored in lockers between the hours of 7:45am and 2:30pm. Lunch privileges of cell phone usage is at the discretion of the building principal. Remove

##### Any violation is subject to the following schedule of consequences:

**First Offense**- Electronic device is removed from the student’s possession and will remain in the teacher’s custody for the remainder of the school day. The student may pick up the device after school hours.

**Second Offense**- Electronic device is removed from the student’s possession and will remain in the administrative custody until a parent/legal guardian personally picks up the device at school.

**Third Offense**- Electronic devices are removed from the student’s possession and will remain in administrative custody until parent/legal guardian personally picks their device up at school. Students will serve at least 1 day of detention and further disciplinary actions may be imposed at the discretion of the building principal.

##### \*\* Students who refuse to relinquish their phones when asked will be immediately suspended\*\*

Parents and students are reminded that the intention of this policy is not to limit contact among families. Parents may call the school’s main office to have important messages forwarded to students. Students may also, with permission, utilize the middle school office phone or their own cell phone to make a call while in the office.

#### DANCES

Several dances are held at the middle school throughout the year. The following rules apply:

* + Dances will be for students presently attending Bloomsburg Middle School- no guests.
  + Students must attend school the day of the dance in order to attend the dance.
  + No one will be permitted to leave a dance and return later, even if the person offers to pay a second time.
  + Anyone suspended in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS) on the day of a dance may not attend the dance.
  + Students who are academically ineligible for the week, will not be permitted to attend the dance.
  + As with all school functions, school rules regarding behavior, drug and alcohol use will be enforced.
  + Chaperones will exercise their authority in maintaining proper standards of conduct.

#### EXTRACURRICULAR BEHAVIOR

All school rules and policies are in effect for school sponsored and approved athletic/musical/field trips and/or competitions. Students violating the rules and policies will be subject to disciplinary action. If in the judgment of the high school administration, a student's inappropriate behavior is not defined in the code of student conduct, the administration will take appropriate action in the best interest of the student and the school

#### SCHOOL PROPERTY

School property shall include not only the actual buildings, facilities and grounds on the school campus, but also school buses, school parking areas, and any facility being used for a school function.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

***STUDENT ATHLETES***

All school rules and policies are in effect for school sponsored and approved athletic/musical/field trips and/or competitions. Students violating the rules and policies will be subject to disciplinary action. If in the judgment of the high school administration, a student's behavior is not defined in the code of student conduct, the administration will take appropriate action in the best interest of the student and the school.

***STUDENT SPECTATORS***

Students are to show proper respect for the opposing team, coaches, cheerleaders, and fans at all times. This respect should be demonstrated at both home and away games.

* + The use of profanity is strictly prohibited.
  + Individual players or coaches should not be singled out by fans and/or players.
  + Students should remain respectful when opposing cheerleading squads are performing a cheer.
  + Noisemakers are not allowed.
  + No person may throw objects onto the playing surface.



A student may be withdrawn from a class if there is a continuous disciplinary problem in the classroom, or if the student is a potential danger to the teacher, other students, or himself. The student will receive a mark of WF (withdraw-failing) for the quarter and as a final grade for the year. No credit will be earned for any WF course. A student who displays persistent negligence of rules and procedures may be placed in an alternative learning setting.

#### STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

This school recognizes the relationships that develop between students while attending school. The school does not, however, accept certain conduct, which is considered to be in poor taste in public. The following conduct will not be permitted in school: kissing, embracing, or holding another student, walking or standing with arms around student or with hands on another student.

#### TARDINESS TO CLASS

If a student is tardy for a class, a pass should be obtained from the previous classroom teacher. If the tardiness is not legitimate and persists after being warned, a detention will be issued by the current period teacher.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The purpose of the Bloomsburg Area Middle School discipline plan is to provide a safe, orderly, and positive learning environment that fosters the educational development of individual students. This will be accomplished through the cooperative effort of students, parents, and school personnel.

#### REPORTING OF INFRACTIONS

Infractions can be reported by students, parents/guardians, staff, teachers, and administrators. A copy of the Voluntary Written Statement form can be obtained by students in both the guidance and main office.

Regardless of how the referral is initiated, administrators will investigate all claims and assign consequences when necessary. Due to student confidentiality, student names and specific consequences cannot be shared with anyone other than the student in question and his/her parents/guardians.

#### TEACHER-ASSIGNED DETENTIONS

Teachers may assign consequences for most Level One offense without the involvement of building administrators. In the case of a teacher-assigned detention, teachers must document the steps taken to proactively deal with the behavior before assigning a consequence. Examples include conferencing with the student, changing seating arrangements, and contacting home. Detentions may be assigned on the first violation, however, depending upon the severity of the infraction. Teachers assigning detention will inform the student of the consequence, schedule the detention with the student, and contact home in order to discuss the infraction. Students and parents will be given notice of at least 24 hours prior to the detention.

#### TEACHER-INITIATED DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS

Teachers will refer students for all Level Two through Level Four offenses to building administrators. Once referred, building administrators will investigate the infractions in a timely manner. When multiple referrals are received, administrators will investigate those referrals **according to the severity of the claim**, not necessarily the order in which they are referred. In addition to reading the referral and conferencing with the referring teacher, building administrators will conference with the student reportedly in violation. Administrations may also speak with additional students if necessary and/or consult video surveillance. Once a determination is made, students and their parents will be informed of all consequences specific to their children.

#### DETENTION

Detention may be assigned at the discretion of the instructional staff to students who exhibit unacceptable behavior. Each student assigned a detention is required to sign the detention form to indicate that he/she is aware of the detention being assigned. Students who are assigned detention will have a choice of attending one of the two upcoming detention days. If a student does not serve an assigned detention, he/she will be assigned an additional detention. Failure to serve both detentions will result in the student being assigned an in-school suspension.

Detentions will only be rescheduled for cases of medical reasons (excuse required), court appearances, or other exceptionally urgent reasons authorized by administration.

Detention – Middle and High School Students

AM - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:20 – 7:50

PM - Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:00

Students must be engaged in schoolwork for the entire duration of the detention period. If a student is late for detention, he or she will be asked to stay for additional time or may be assigned another detention.

Transportation from detention is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent/guardian.

#### 

#### WRITTEN CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

In cases when one student has been identified as having inappropriate interactions with another student, a written cease and desist order may be put in place. This document names the students involved and the reason for the order. It may be put in place individually or in conjunction with another consequence.

#### BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

When inappropriate behaviors continue even after progressive consequences, a behavior management contract may be created. This purpose of this document is to assist the student in improving behavior; to enlist the support of the parent/guardian; and to document the school’s attempts to provide resources to promote student success.

#### SUSPENSIONS

Students may be assigned to either in-school suspension (ISS) or out-of-school suspension (OSS).

Students on in-school suspension will be responsible to complete assignments given by teachers. The student will be isolated from the rest of the student body and will be subject to certain restrictions. The ISS monitor directs and supervises students on in-school suspension.

Students suspended in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS) may not attend or participate in any after-school function, activity, or event during the day(s) of the suspension. Participation in all school related activities may resume upon full completion of the suspension. Students suspended out-of-school may not come onto school property (except for schoolwork or appointment approved by the administration). Participation in all school related activities may resume upon full completion of the suspension.

Students shall be permitted to complete all assignments missed due to the suspension from school. If assignments are not received by the suspended student before departure from school, the parent or guardian may request the assignments by calling the middle school office. Any student suspended out-of-school (OSS) three separate times or a total of five times (ISS or OSS) throughout the year will forfeit his/her privilege to participate in sports, all school activities and all dances (including the Holiday Dance and the Prom) for the remainder of the school year.

#### Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Placement

On occasion, the behavior of a student becomes such that it interferes with this objective and becomes a disruptive factor throughout the school. Behavior that is chronically disruptive and/or blatantly disregards the policies of the school and/or the respect of others has a tremendous negative impact on the entire school climate. In addition, the resources available to deal with these types of behaviors often prove to be of limited value. When behaviors persist and disciplinary actions become more frequent and severe, the child’s educational program suffers. At times, a single behavioral incident is disruptive enough to prompt an AEDY placement

An alternative program proves an additional option for students exhibiting these behaviors. It provides a more focused setting for the student while eliminating disruptive and distracting behaviors from the regular school

environment. Distractions are minimized in both the alternative setting and in the mainstream.

#### POLICE REFERRAL

As part of the Bloomsburg Area School District’s efforts to provide a safe environment for all students to learn, collaboration exists with the Town of Bloomsburg Police Department. All evidence collected as part of school investigations can and will be shared with police for incidents that may be criminal in nature. The school’s consequence for misconduct is separate from any consequence imposed by the police. As such, it is possible that students can receive both a school and legal consequence for the same incident.

#### EXPULSION

1. Expulsion is exclusion from school by the Board of School Directors for a period exceeding 10 school days and may be permanent expulsion from the school rolls. All expulsions require a prior formal hearing under Section 12.8.
2. A formal hearing may be held before the Board of School Directors or a duly authorized committee of the Board, preferably composed of no fewer than three members of the School Board. The hearing committee's decision is advisory to the School Board where expulsion is recommended. A majority vote of the entire School Board is required to expel a student.
3. At the formal hearing, the following due process requirements are to be observed:

(a.) Notification of the charges in writing, sent to the parents or guardian by certified mail, and to the student.

(b.) Sufficient notice of the time and place of the hearing.

(c.) The right to an impartial tribunal.

(d.) The right to be represented by counsel.

(e.) The right to demand that any such witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.

(f.) The student's right to testify and produce witnesses on his/her own behalf.

(g.) A record must be kept of the hearing either by a stenographer or audio recorder. The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy of the transcript.

1. If requested by the student or the student's parents, the hearing shall be in private.
2. Where the student is dissatisfied with the results of the hearing, recourse can be had to the appropriate state court. If it is alleged that a constitutional issue is involved, the student may file a claim for relief in the appropriate federal district court.

#### OFFENSES

In an attempt to clarify disciplinary actions, offenses have been categorized into levels indicating seriousness. Appropriate disciplinary actions have been listed for each level.

#### CONSEQUENCES

The school's primary concern is to assist students in correcting undesirable behavior. To this end, school officials will work with the students, their parents or guardians, as well as resource people and community agencies to achieve more appropriate behavior.

In order to apply disciplinary action uniformly for all students, the administration has developed a set of specific disciplinary measures for each level of offense. Most often these can be handled as a routine matter. However, for very serious cases of misconduct, further action may be taken by the Superintendent or Board of School Directors.

#### DISCIPLINARY LEVELS

These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive; however, as they do not cover every situation and every condition. Therefore, if in the judgment of the middle school administration, a student's inappropriate behavior is not defined in the code of student conduct, the administration will take appropriate action in the best interest of the student and the school.

Section 1317. Authority of Teachers, Vice Principals and Principals over Pupils. Every teacher, vice principal and principal in the public schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them (1317 amended July 25, 1963, P.L. 315, No. 169).

***SUGGESTED LEVEL ONE OFFENSES***

Include, but are not limited to:

* Academic dishonesty
* Classroom disruption
* Dress code infraction
* Excessive unexcused tardiness to class
* Failure to report or leaving assigned area without permission
* Horseplay
* Inappropriate display of affection
* Mild Inappropriate language: name calling, teasing, mild expletives, disrespectful slang terms
* Misuse of computer/network
* Other minor infractions of unacceptable behavior or any condition that causes a disruption of the educational process or constitutes a health and/or safety hazard
* Pestering/teasing others
* Refusal to participate in class
* Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices

***SUGGESTED LEVEL ONE CONSEQUENCES***

May include, but are not limited to any combination of the following:

* Phone communication with parent AND
* Student conference with teacher, counselor, and/or building administrator AND

One or more of the following possibilities:

* Loss of privileges
* Detention (before school, after school, and/or lunch)
* In-School Suspension (ISS)

***Suggested Level Two Offenses***

Include, but are not limited to:

* Inappropriate language-disrespectful or offensive remarks including profanity, derogatory remarks related to race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
* Auditorium/Bus/Cafeteria misconduct
* Damage and/or destruction to school property
* Defiance/Insubordination
* Excessive unexcused tardiness to school
* Failure to comply with building procedures
* Failure to serve consequences
* Forgery/falsification
* Leaving school grounds without permission
* Repeated Level One offenses

***SUGGESTED LEVEL TWO CONSEQUENCES***

May include, but are not limited to any combination of the following:

* Phone communication with parent AND
* Student conference with teacher, counselor, and/or building administrator AND

One or more of the following possibilities:

* Loss of privileges
* Multiple Detentions (before school, after school, and/or lunch)
* Exclusion from extra-curricular activities
* Behavior management contract
* In-school suspension
* Out-of-school suspension
* Referral for supportive resources (SAP, etc…)
* Suspension of transportation privileges
* Police referral

***Suggested Level Three Offenses***

Include, but are not limited to:

* Extreme cases of inappropriate language that involves severe threats or targeted harassment including hate speech, deeply offensive slurs, threats of violence or severe intimidations, repeated use of highly offensive language despite previous warnings.
* Bullying/Cyberbullying/Harassment
* Fighting and/or disorderly conduct
* Major computer use/network violations
* Physical Assault
* Possession of pornography
* Repeated Level Two offenses
* Theft
* Use/possession of tobacco products (includes vaporizers and e-cigarettes along with accessories)
* Threats
* Vandalism\*

\*Act 16 of 1994 amends the Crimes Code to expand the offense of “institutional vandalism” to include carrying aerosol spray-paint cans, broad-tipped indelible markers or similar marking devices into an institution, such as a school building, with the intent to vandalize. Pa. C.S. Section 3304 (a) (4). Act 17 of 1994 amends the Crimes Code to define defacing public and private property with spray paint or indelible markers as “criminal mischief.” The Act also provides the court with a community service sentencing option in lieu of jail time for such an offense. Pa. C.S. Section 3307 (a.3).

***SUGGESTED LEVEL THREE CONSEQUENCES***

May include, but are not limited to any combination of the following:

* Phone communication with parent AND
* Student conference with teacher, counselor, and/or building administrator AND One or more of the following possibilities:
* Loss of privileges
* Exclusion from extra-curricular activities
* Behavior management contract
* In-school suspension
* Out-of-school suspension
* Referral for supportive resources (SAP, etc.…)
* Suspension of transportation privileges
* Police referral and/or charges filed to Magistrate
* Administrative review for recommendation to the Board of School Directors for an expulsion hearing

***Suggested Level Four Offenses***

* Arson or tampering with fire alarms, extinguishers, or activating a false alarm
* Commission of any other act punishable under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code
* Possession of weapons on school property, school bus or any other school-sponsored activity
* Possession and/or use of drugs and/or alcohol or any unauthorized substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; intent to sell and/or distribute drugs and/or alcohol or any unauthorized substance. This includes school grounds, school buildings, school buses or while participating in or attending an approved school function.
* Production/distribution of pornography (including pictures or videos of sexually explicit images)
* Repeated Level Three Offenses
* Substantiated threats of harm made against the school (verbal, written, and/or posted on social media)

Level Four acts include those which result in violence to another person or their property or which pose a threat to the safety of others in school. These actions are often criminal and are so serious that they require administrative actions, which result in police involvement and in the immediate removal of the student from school.

***SUGGESTED LEVEL FOUR CONSEQUENCES***

May include, but are not limited to any combination of the following:

* Phone communication with parent AND
* Student conference with teacher, counselor, and/or building administrator AND
* One or more of the following possibilities:

Loss of privileges

* Exclusion from extra-curricular activities
* Behavior management contract
* Out-of-school suspension
* Referral for supportive resources (SAP, etc.…)
* Suspension of transportation privileges
* Police referral and/or charges filed to the Magistrate
* Administrative recommendation for Alternative Education plan
* Administrative review for recommendation to the Board of School Directors for an expulsion hearing

The Federal Gun-Free School Act of 1994 states, “Any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school (as defined in Section 912 of Title 18, United States Code) shall be referred to the criminal justice system.” (Public Law 103-382)

The definition of “weapon” includes: [a]ny bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or otherwise, any stun gun, stun baton, taser or other electronic or electric weapon or other implement for the infliction of serious bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose, knives, cutting instruments, cutting tools, martial arts devices, nunchaku , firearms, shotguns, rifles, air rifles, BB gun, pellet gun, and pistols, sling shots, explosive devices, chemical agent, and any other tools, instruments, or implements capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, where the intent is to use such a tool, instrument, or implement as a weapon is present. Also included are “look-alikes” of the weapons listed above.

See Pennsylvania Department of Education Act 26 of 1995. See BASD Policy 218.1.

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

#### EMERGENCY EPINEPHRINE OPT-OUT

Emergency epinephrine is used to counteract anaphylaxis (a rapid, severe, life-threatening allergic reaction) and is available in BASD by order of our school physician. If you wish to **decline** administration of emergency epinephrine for your student, you must contact the certified school nurse to review and sign an opt-out form.

#### ILLNESS

Students who become ill during school hours should:

* Acquire a pass from their teacher in order to be admitted to the health room.
* Then go directly to the nurse’s office, located in the Middle School.
* The nurse will sign the pass and record the time if the student is sent back to class.
* Arrangements for students sent home due to illness will be made by the nurse.

Arrangements to leave school made prior to the consent of the school nurse will be recorded as unexcused.

#### MEDICATIONS

Whenever possible, medications should be administered at home. If it is necessary for a student to receive medication during school hours, the following procedures must be followed:

* Any medication brought to school by a parent or student is to be brought directly to the nurse’s office, which is located in the Middle School. Please come to the Middle School office when dropping off any medication, even for high school students. All medication must be in the original container.
* Medication will only be given when accompanied by a note from a parent/guardian.
* In addition to a parental note, prescription medication requires a written order from the prescribing physician.
* Students are to take home any remaining medication at the end of the school year. Any medication not taken home at that time will be discarded.

Doctor’s order and parent request forms for medication are available in the nurse’s office.

#### PHYSICAL EXAMS

PA School Health Law requires a physical examination for all students in Gra. This

examination may be completed by the student’s family physician up to a year prior to the junior year, or by the school physician during the junior year with a signed permission from a parent or guardian. Students failing to complete the physical examination will not be allowed to begin the next school year until the required examination has been completed (BASD Policy #209.9).

### SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

For an entire list of Board Policies, please visit the School Board Tab under the District’s website. The section governing Pupils includes the following policies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [200](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6Q70577D) | Enrollment of Students |
| [201](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CCZMKP5BA68E) | Admission of Students |
| [202](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6S705785) | Eligibility of Nonresident Students |
| [203](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6T70578A)  [203.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6U70578B) | Immunizations and Communicable Diseases  HIV Infection |
| [204](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6V70578D) | Attendance |
| [205](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6W70578F) | Postgraduate Students |
| [206](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6X705790)  [207](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6Y705791) | Assignment Within District  Confidential Communications of Students |
| [208](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS6Z705792) | Withdrawal From School |
| [209](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS72705794) | Health Examinations/Screenings |
| [209.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS73705795)  [209.2](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS74705796)  [209.2-AR-0 Vol I 2017](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KAL50F032) | Food Allergy Management  Diabetes Management  Diabetes Management |
| [210](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS75705798) | Medications |
| [210.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7970579F) | Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors |
| [211](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7A7057A0) | Student Accident Insurance |
| [212](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7B7057A1) | Reporting Student Progress |
| [214](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7C7057A2) | Class Rank |
| [215](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7D7057A3) | Promotion and Retention |
| [216](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7E7057A4) | Student Records |
| [217](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7G7057A6) | Graduation |
| [218](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7H7057A7) | Student Discipline |
| [218.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7J7057A8)  [218.2](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7K7057A9)  [218.3](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7L7057AA) | Weapons  Terroristic Threats  Conduct at School Events |
| [219](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7M7057AB) | Student Complaint Process |
| [220](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7N7057AC) | Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials |
| [221](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7P7057AD) | Dress and Grooming |
| [222](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7Q7057AE) | Tobacco |
| [223](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7R7057AF) | Use of Bicycles and Motor Vehicles |
| [224](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7S7057B0) | Care of School Property |
| [226](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7T7057B1) | Searches |
| [227](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7U7057B2) | Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia |
| [228](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7V7057B3) | Student Government |
| [229](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7W7057B4) | Student Fundraising |
| [230](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7X7057B5) | Public Performances by Students |
| [231](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7Y7057B6) | Social Events and Class Trips |
| [232](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS7Z7057B7) | Student Involvement in Decision-Making |
| [233](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS827057B8) | Suspension and Expulsion |
| [234](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS837057B9) | Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students |
| [235](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS847057BA)  [235.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS847057BA) | Student Rights and Responsibilities  Surveys |
| [236](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS867057BD) | Student Assistance Program |
| [239](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS887057BF) | Foreign Exchange Students |
| [240.1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CCDME25A73F1) | Contests/Academic/Performance Competitions |
| [246](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS897057C0)  [246-AR-0](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KAR50F03A)  [246-AR-1](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KAV50F03E)  [246-AR-2](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KAZ50F043)  [246-AR-3](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KB550F045)  [246-AR-4](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KB950F049)  [246-AR-5](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KBD50F04C)  [246-AR-6](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KBH50F04E)  [246-AR-7](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KBM50F050)  [246-AR-8](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KBR50F053)  [246-AR-9](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AM8KBV50F057)  [247](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8A7057C1)  [247-AR-0](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BSDKXP536B99)  [247-AR-2](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BSDKXT536B9D) | School Wellness  Nutrition Education and Promotion  Physical Activity  Physical Education  Fundraisers  Letter to Parents/Guardians – In-School Birthday Celebrations  School Based Activities  Safe Routes to School  Healthy School Environment  Marketing Plans for School Wellness  Vending Machines  Hazing  Hazing  Notice to Complainant and/or Parents/Guardians of Complainant |
| [248](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8B7057C2) | Unlawful Harassment |
| [249](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8F7057C6) | Bullying/Cyberbullying |
| [250](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8G7057C7) | Student Recruitment |
| [251](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8H7057C8)  [252](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8J7057C9)  [255](http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bloo/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AKYS8N7057CB) | Homeless Students  Dating Violence  Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |

### SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

##### Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, for Gifted Students and Protected Handicapped Students

**Notice to Parents**

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts (SDs), are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district, intermediate unit, and charter school of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district shall publish written information in the handbook and on the web site. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the appropriate staff member identified at the end of this notice.

##### Evaluation and Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or reevaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. Once written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

##### Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

##### Confidentiality of Information

The SDs maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible school entity listed below. For school age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting: Dr. Ricki Boyle, 570-784-5000.

### STUDENT RIGHTS

The Bloomsburg Area Board of School Directors has adopted a code of student conduct, which includes policies governing student discipline and a listing of student rights and responsibilities as outlined in Chapter 12 of the Pennsylvania School Code. A complete copy of Chapter 12, Student Rights and Responsibilities, is available online by searching PA School Code Chapter 12.

#### DUE PROCESS

The Board of School Directors believes that education is a fundamental right, and students must be afforded all appropriate elements of due process if they are to be excluded from school. In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing, which is a fundamental element of due process.

1. Informal Hearings
   1. When a suspension exceeds three school days, the student and parents or guardian shall be given the opportunity for an informal hearing consistent with the requirements set forth in Section 12.8(c) (relating to hearings). See Bloomsburg Area School District Policy #233.
   2. The purpose of the informal hearing is to enable the student to meet with the appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being suspended, to demonstrate that there is a case of mistaken identity or to show that there is some compelling reason why the student should not be suspended. The informal hearing also encourages the student's parents or guardian to meet with the principal to discuss ways by which future offenses can be avoided.
   3. At the informal hearing, the following due process requirements are to be observed:
      * Notification of the reasons for the suspension in writing, given to the parents or guardian and to the student.
      * Sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing.
      * A student has the right to question any witnesses present at the hearing.
      * A student has the right to speak and produce witnesses on his own behalf.
      * The district shall offer to hold the informal hearing within the first five days of suspension.
2. Formal Hearings
   1. Expulsion is exclusion from school by the Board of School Directors for a period exceeding 10 school days and may be permanent expulsion from the school rolls. All expulsions require a prior formal hearing under Section 12.8.
   2. A formal hearing may be held before the Board of School Directors or a duly authorized committee of the Board, preferably composed of no fewer than three members of the School Board. The hearing committee's decision is advisory to the School Board where expulsion is recommended. A majority vote of the entire School Board is required to expel a student.
   3. At the formal hearing, the following due process requirements are to be observed:

(a.) Notification of the charges in writing, sent to the parents or guardian by certified mail, and to the student.

(b.) Sufficient notice of the time and place of the hearing. (c.) The right to an impartial tribunal.

(d.) The right to be represented by counsel.

(e.) The right to demand that any such witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.

(f.) The student's right to testify and produce witnesses on his/her own behalf.

(g.) A record must be kept of the hearing either by a stenographer or audio recorder.

The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy of the transcript.

* 1. If requested by the student or the student's parents, the hearing shall be in private.
  2. Where the student is dissatisfied with the results of the hearing, recourse can be had to the appropriate state court. If it is alleged that a constitutional issue is involved, the student may file a claim for relief in the appropriate federal district court.

#### FLAG SALUTE & THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It is the responsibility of every citizen to show proper respect for his/her country and its flag.

* Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the Flag on the basis of personal belief or religious convictions. The school district is required to notify parents in writing that their child is not reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
* Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interests of classmates who do wish to participate.
* The Pennsylvania Legislature passed Act 157 of 2002. The law states the following:

“All supervising officers and teachers in charge of public, private or parochial schools shall cause the Flag of the United States of America to be displayed in every classroom during the hours of each school day, and shall provide for the recitation of the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem at the beginning of each school day. Students may decline to recite the pledge of allegiance and may refrain from saluting the flag on the basis of religious conviction or personal belief. The supervising officer of a school subject to the requirements of this subsection shall provide written notification to the parents or guardian of any student who declines to recite the pledge of allegiance or who refrains from saluting the flag.”

#### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Students have the right to express themselves unless such expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate or serious harm to the welfare of the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's rights (PA Title 22, Section 12.9,b).

#### FREE EDUCATION

All persons residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, from the first day the child begins Kindergarten until graduation from high school or up to the age of 21, are entitled to a free and full education in the Commonwealth's public schools (Pa. Title 22, 12.1)

#### PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

The law is clear that school districts have a duty to protect students from sexual abuse and harassment. It is the policy of the Bloomsburg Area School District to prohibit improper conduct of whatever kind, including sexual abuse and harassment of students, by school employees, fellow students, and others who come in contact with students during school or through school activities. Students and school employees are encouraged to report any suspected violations of this policy to the guidance office, high school administration or superintendent without fear of retaliation. A list of contact names and phone numbers to turn to for help (e.g., The Women’s Center) is available at either the nurse’s office or the guidance office.

#### SALE & DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS

Students have the right to express opinions, take stands, and support causes both publicly and privately. There should be no interference in school with these liberties or students' expression of controversial points of view. However, the administration must have the authority to prevent, control, or stop whatever is disruptive to the educational process.

* School officials shall prohibit material which is obscene, libelous, or which inflames or incites other students so as to create a clear and present danger.
* Printed materials to be distributed on school property must be submitted to the High School Principal, at least two days prior to the distribution, for it to be evaluated properly.
* Materials to be distributed on school grounds are to be circulated before or after school hours on the grounds, or in the cafeteria during normal lunch hours.

#### SEARCHES & SEIZURES

The Bloomsburg Area School District recognizes that the Fourth Amendment provides that students have a right "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures." However, with the passage of the Gun Free Schools Act, the Safe Schools Act, and Act 26 of 1995 that amends the School Code, it is imperative that the school also recognizes its responsibility to protect and maintain the health, welfare, and safety of all students.

Consequently, the school district contends that school lockers and desks belong to the school, and that students are only given permission to use them. It is with this understanding that students should assume no expectation of privacy and realize that searches may be conducted by school officials with or without any

suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the student. Students should be aware that all student desks and lockers may be searched at any time and for any reason, with no qualifications or exceptions.

Student lockers and desks will be inspected from time to time to ensure that they are being properly cared for and that the contents are in no way harmful to the student and other persons in the school building. Any illegal material may be seized. Along with police, drug detection canines may be used to search school grounds.

Students may also be asked to empty their pockets, book bags, (plastic or mesh see through), purses, and other personal articles to search for illegal, controlled, or criminal material. Parents will be contacted and made aware of the reasons for the search.

#### STUDENT PRIVACY

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

* Political affiliations
* Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family.
* Sexual behavior and attitudes
* Illegal, anti-social, self-incrimination and demeaning behavior
* Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships
* Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers
* Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program) without the prior written consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an un-emancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent. Such survey, analysis, or evaluation may, however, be conducted on a wholly voluntary basis, provided that the student and parents have been notified of their rights.

***NETWORK/INTERNET GUIDELINES***

***TERMS AND CONDITIONS SIMPLIFIED***

***RESPONSIBILITIES OF BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT/EMPLOYEE/NON-EMPLOYEE, IN THEIR USE OF THE BASD NETWORK AND/OR INTERNET ACCESS***

*This document, designed specifically for student/employee/non-employee in the Bloomsburg Area School District, is a synopsis of the Terms and Conditions for the use of either the BASD Network and/or Internet Access. All student, employee and non-employee users agree to this contract as a condition to the use of the BASD Network and/or Internet Access. This "shortened version", taken from Board Policy 815, is designed to help students/employee/non-employee to clearly understand their responsibilities as users of the BASD Network and/or Internet Access. If any student, employee and/or non-employee should have a question about the legitimacy of their activities, they should ask either the System Administrator or the Technology Coordinator.*

*• The use of your account must be in support of your education or teaching environment in the Bloomsburg Area School District and consistent with the educational objectives of the Bloomsburg Area School District.*

*• As a user of this community system, students, employee and/or non-employee will notify a teacher, the System Administrator, or the Technology Coordinator if any violations of this contract take place by other Bloomsburg Area School District students, employees, or outside parties.*

*• You may NOT give your password to anyone.*

*• You may NOT use or play games via the network, unless it is part of a class assignment or project.*

*• You may NOT use or alter anyone else's BASD Network or Internet account.*

*• You may NOT offer BASD Network or Internet access to any individual via your account.*

*• You may NOT break in or attempt to break in to other computer systems.*

*• You may NOT create or share computer viruses.*

*• You may NOT destroy another person's data.*

*• You may NOT monopolize the resources of any BASD Network system; this includes things such as running large jobs during the day, sending massive amounts of mail to other BASD users, or using system resources for games.*

*• You are NOT permitted to get or put onto any BASD Network system, any copyrighted material (including software), or any threatening or obscene material.*

*• Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial communications on the BASD Network or Internet is prohibited.*

*• Purposefully annoying other BASD Network and/or Internet users, on or off the BASD Network system is prohibited; this includes such items as continuous talk requests.*

*• Illegal activities may not be conducted via any BASD Network system.*

*• All communications and information accessible via any BASD Network system, should be assumed to be school district property.*

*• For-profit purposes, product advertisement, or political lobbying via any BASD Network system is prohibited.*

*• Use of the BASD Network or Internet Access for non-work or non-school related communications is prohibited.*

*PROPER USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL*

*• Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.*

*• Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.*

*• Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of other students or colleagues.*

*• Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the appropriate authorities.*

*The Bloomsburg Area School District reserves the right to log BASD Network and Internet use, and to monitor fileserver space utilization by district users, while respecting the privacy right of both district users and other outside users. The school district reserves the right to remove a user account from the network to prevent further unauthorized or illegal activities. Authorized staff members are permitted to view student home directories that are stored on the BASD network.*

*All data on the Bloomsburg Area School District's servers, PCs, laptops, or network is considered property of the Bloomsburg Area School District and can be accessed at any time necessary by the system administrator(s) and superintendent.*

*Reference School Board Polices 224 Care of School Property & Policy 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources.*

***PARENT* & *STUDENT SIGNATURE PAGE FOR STUDENT HANDBOOK* & *INTERNET USE***

**The handbook includes essential information for both students and their parents/guardians. Students who do not return this page, signed by a parent or guardian, will not be allowed to access the BASD network or use the internet at school. Please review the student handbook and internet usage policy on the school's website, and return the completed form by August 30, 2024**

[**https://www.bloomsd.org/Domain/1033**](https://www.bloomsd.org/Domain/1033)

PLEASE PRINT:

Student Name:

Panther Prep Teacher: Grade:

***HANDBOOK AGREEMENT***

Both I/we and my/our child have read this handbook and are familiar with its contents. We have contacted the administration to seek clarification regarding anything we did not fully understand.

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date:

***NETWORK/INTERNET USE AGREEMENT***

I have read the "Simplified Terms and Conditions" for my child to use the BASD network/internet. Please note, students will need access to the BASD network in order to use the computers for simple operations such as word processing.

PLEASE CHECK ONE STATEMENT:

I give permission for my child to access the BASD network and internet.

I **do not** give permission for my child to access the BASD network and internet.

Parent Signature:

Date: