



HILLSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 – 2022

Hillside School
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Dr. Tali Axelrod, Principal
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Absence Reporting: hillsideabsences@brrsd.org or 908-231-1905 – Option 1

District Mission Statement

We will teach them One and All
Young to Old and Big to Small
Inspire, engage and educate
Improve our world and make it great
Challenge All to grow, exceed
So one day they will take the lead...

Hillside Motto

Work Hard and Be Kind!

Name:

School Year: 2021-2022

9:00am First Bell

9:05am Homeroom Begins

9:09am Morning Announcements

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PERIOD 1 9:18 – 10:01					
PERIOD 2 10:04 – 10:47					
PERIOD 3 10:50 – 11:33					
PERIOD 4 11:36 – 12:19					
PERIOD 5 12:22 – 1:05					
PERIOD 6 1:08 – 1:51					
PERIOD 7 1:54 – 2:37					
PERIOD 8 2:40 – 3:23					
Dismissal 3:26 – 3:40					

ABSENCE-ATTENDANCE

Children are required by State law and Board of Education Policy to be in attendance at school every day that school is in session, except in cases of illness, death in the immediate family, or excused religious holidays. It is the responsibility of the students and their parents to assure that non-essential absences are avoided.

1. When a student is absent or expected to be absent from school the parent or guardian **must** report the absence by 9:00AM. The parent/guardian may call, however an email is preferred (see Hillside Intermediate School Absence Reporting Details on page 1). Please include the student's full name, grade, teacher, reason for absence and expected date of return.
2. When a child is absent for any reason, New Jersey State Law requires that written notice be provided to the school. An email to the absence reporting address listed on page 1 will fulfill this requirement. **If the parent/guardian leaves the school a phone message they must follow up with a note to the student's homeroom teacher on the day the student returns to school.** If a note is not sent in then the absence will remain unexcused. A note verifies the absence, but does not necessarily excuse the absence.
3. The Attendance Officer, in accordance with State law and Board Policy, will investigate chronic absenteeism. Any student absent for three or more consecutive days because of illness must report to the nurse upon returning to school.
4. Students must be present in school a minimum of 2 hours to receive half-day credit and a minimum of 4 hours to receive full-day credit.
5. A student must be in school by 11:00am in order to participate in a contest/practice/activity that day. An exception will be made if the student has a medical or other approved appointment, in which case a signed statement by the physician or other authority must be submitted.

ABSENCES-MAKING-UP WORK

The student is responsible for all classwork, homework assignments and assessments missed because of absence. Teachers are available for assistance at a mutually agreeable time.

Student responsibilities include:

1. Asking the teacher(s) for the assignments that they have missed during their absences and arranging for extra help sessions/test make-up as needed.
2. Checking for missed assignments and homework by accessing the OnCourse System Homework Portal at www.oncoursystems.com/homeworkportal/index/brisd.
3. Making up classwork, homework, and assessments due to school-related activities (i.e. music lessons, rehearsals, meetings, class trips)

For an Absence of two days or less -

Students and parents/guardians should access the OnCourse System Homework Portal at <http://brisd.oncoursystems.com/> to check all assignments. Students are required to make up work due to an excused

absence. It is the student's responsibility to seek the work. If a student does not have the necessary materials to complete the work at home, he or she will be expected to finish the work upon returning to school.

For an Absence of three days or more due to illness – On the **third day** that a student is absent parents may request homework. **This request must be made to the Guidance Office by 10am.** The assignments will be ready for pick up by the end of the school day on the third day. Assignments can be sent home with another student.

Students have two days to make up missed work for every one day of absence, in consultation with their teacher.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating and plagiarism are dishonest acts that negatively impact teaching and learning. Any student giving or receiving answers on schoolwork without doing the work themselves will be considered guilty of cheating. Incidents of cheating, contributing to cheating, or engaging in plagiarism will be addressed by the teacher, guidance and/or administration.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/PARENT PICK UP

The Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District encourages students to participate in after school and evening activities. The school cannot assume responsibility for care or supervision after the designated activity time. The following guidelines have been established to ensure that children are safe and cared for at the end of activities.

- When appropriate, before the end of evening activities, students will be reminded of the ending time and the need to call home if necessary.
- When parent/guardian is not present at the end of an activity, school staff will attempt to call the parents after 15 minutes. If staff cannot contact a parent, the person in charge will notify the police. Staff will remain with the child until the parent or police arrive.
- If the parent/caregiver has been contacted and is en route, staff will remain with the child. If the parent does not arrive within 30 minutes the staff may notify the police.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

- Students should arrive at their assigned bus stop prior to the scheduled pick up time.
- Students being dropped off by parents or walking to school should arrive at the school **no earlier than 8:55 a.m.** Adult supervision is not provided until 8:55 am unless the student is attending an approved before-school activity (rehearsal, extra help, etc.)
- Walkers must use sidewalks and not walk through the school parking lot or neighboring yards.
- **Parents unloading students:** Parents are requested to unload students in the **designated areas only.** Please drive carefully while exiting the parking lot and obey all posted signs to ensure student and staff safety.

- Parents who have students who attend Before Care: please follow the program's specific procedures for student drop-off.
- Students attending extra help: Students attending extra help should not arrive any earlier than **five minutes prior** to the start of extra help. **Students should not be in the hallways without their teacher being present** - this includes accessing their lockers.
- Students are to proceed directly to their classrooms when dismissed from their bus. All students must be seated in their classrooms when the bell rings at 9:05 a.m.

Please refer to the section on Tardiness for information about late arrival to school.

BICYCLES

Students who ride bicycles must wear helmets and lock their bicycle with a lock in the bicycle racks provided. The school system is not responsible for bicycle theft or damage. Bicycles are not to be ridden on any part of the school property. No students are permitted to have motorized vehicles on school property, at any time, either when school is in or out of session.

BUS CONDUCT

The bus represents an integral part of the school system and, as such, the same standards of conduct that apply to a classroom apply to the school bus.

For the safety of all riders, students are required to conduct themselves as indicated below:

1. Show respect for the driver, bus rules, and fellow passengers at all times.
2. Enter and leave the school bus in turn. No pushing or crowding.
3. Face forward and remain seated in the assigned seat while the bus is in motion. Seat belts, where provided, **must be fastened.**
4. Keep feet, hands, and belongings out of the center aisle.
5. No part of the body or any belongings may extend out of a window.
6. Talk in a reasonable tone of voice. No shouting. No profane or abusive language or behavior.
7. Keep the bus clean - no littering or defacing the bus. Students and their parents or guardians will be held financially responsible for any acts of vandalism.
8. No throwing of liquids or objects within or out of the bus.
9. No eating or smoking on the bus.
10. No physical contact with other students.

Students must ride to and from school on their assigned bus, and get on and off the bus at their designated bus stop. The transportation department must approve any change in bus assignments.

BUS – PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents of children who are transported at public expense are asked to cooperate by seeing that the following rules are observed:

1. Ensure that their children arrive at the bus stop before the scheduled pick up time in the morning.
2. Safety is imperative - educate their children as to proper methods of going to or coming from the bus stop.
3. Accept joint responsibility with the school authorities for proper conduct of the children at all times.
4. In the event that there is a loss of bus privileges, parent/guardian must provide transportation to and from school for the student and cooperate with the school authorities in helping their child understand the seriousness of the action which resulted in loss of the bus privilege. If a parent does not provide transportation, the student will be considered truant for the time when the bus privilege is denied.
5. Students assigned to buses are not permitted to walk home from school unless an approved transportation waiver is on file at the school.

Questions or comments regarding Transportation can be directed to District Transportation at:
908-722-1820.

BUS - PASSES

Students must only ride on their assigned bus to and from their assigned bus stop. Policy allows for transportation to a babysitter on a five-day a week basis. **An emergency transportation pass for another bus or to another bus stop can only be issued in the event of death, sudden illness or other emergency in the family.** All requests must be made in writing. If the request is approved a special bus pass will be issued by the principal/assistant principal.

BUS - VIOLATIONS

New Jersey State Law, Chapter 18A:25-2, states:

"The driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for order; he/she shall never exclude a pupil from the bus, but if unable to manage any pupil, shall report the unmanageable pupil to the principal/assistant principal of the school he/she attends."

"A pupil may be excluded from the bus for disciplinary reasons by the principal/assistant principal and his/her parents shall provide for his/her transportation to and from school during the period of such exclusion."

The following consequences may be imposed for bus conduct violations:

1. **First Offense** - The student is reported to the school principal/assistant principal. A letter is sent to the student's parent/guardian, informing them of the problem, and indicating what procedures will be followed if a second or third offense occurs during the school year. Parents/Guardians will be provided a copy of the "Student Discipline/Code of Conduct" policy.
2. **Second Offense** - The student is reported to the school principal/assistant principal. The student is excluded

from the bus for a period of five (5) school days and his/her parent/guardian shall provide transportation to and from school during that period. Absence from school during this period will be considered truancy. A letter will be sent to the student's parent/guardian informing them of the problem and the action taken, as well as what procedures will be followed if additional offenses occur during the school year.

3. **Third Offense** - The student is reported to the school principal/assistant principal. The student will be excluded from the bus for a period up to thirty (30) school days and his/her parent/guardian shall provide transportation to and from school during that period. Absence from school during this period is considered truancy. A letter will be sent to the student's parent/guardian informing them of the problem and the action taken, as well as what procedures will be followed if additional offenses occur during the school year.
4. **Any Offense beyond the Third Offense in a school year** - The student will be reported to the school principal/assistant principal. The student will be excluded from the bus for up to an additional thirty (30) school days up to the end of the school year, at the discretion of the school principal/assistant principal. The student's parent or guardian shall provide transportation to and from school during that period. Absence from school during this period will be considered truancy. A letter will be sent to the student's parent/guardian informing them of the problem and the action taken, as well as what procedures will be followed if additional offenses occur during the school year.

Please Note: Bus suspensions may be carried from school year to school year.

CANDY/GUM CHEWING

Candy and gum chewing are not allowed during school hours or on the bus.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been established to make the lunch period a relaxed but orderly time. All students are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Students must remain seated in the cafeteria unless purchasing food or throwing trash away.
- Food must remain in the cafeteria unless a student has the permission of a staff member to remove it.
- Students are to place all trash/recyclables in the proper container.
- All students at each table are responsible for leaving their tables and the surrounding area clean.
- Students may leave the cafeteria to go to the lavatories by getting permission from the cafeteria assistants and signing the bathroom log sheet.
- Students may be permitted to attend other activities at this time if they have been issued a pass by a teacher. The pass must be presented to a cafeteria assistant before the student leaves the cafeteria.

- Students must wear suitable outer garments for outside recess. Please label outerwear and lunch bags with the student's name.
- Meal payment accounts are available for all students through the computerized cafeteria system – visit www.mypaymentsplus.com for details.
- No electronic devices or cell phones may be used during lunch or recess.
- Students must follow the rules and the directions of the Cafeteria Assistants. Proper Lunch Room behavior is expected at all times.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not permitted to use cell phones or electronic devices while school is in session. These items must be turned off and stored in students' lockers while in the school building and throughout the school day. If a call home needs to be made during the school day, the phones in the classrooms should be used. The school assumes no liability or responsibility for these items.

Please note: Making phone calls, texting, gaming and taking pictures/videos are not permissible during the school day.

Under no circumstances, inside or outside of school, should cell phones be used to photograph or film other students or used in a way that constitutes cyber-bullying behavior.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Intermediate Schools are dedicated to providing an educational center that optimizes learning opportunities in a cohesive and positive environment. Our faculty and staff are committed to the well-being of all members of the school community.

One of the ways we can facilitate this mission is through character education. Character can be referred to as "*what we do when no one is looking.*" A number of programs at the Intermediate Schools promote character education.

CLASS TRIPS

Class trips taken throughout the year play a role in the well-rounded education of students. To ensure the best experience for all students, guidelines will be set for any scheduled class trips. These include permission slips, dress requirements and responsible student citizenship. **Students with a history of unacceptable behavior and/or suspension may lose their privilege to participate in class trips.**

COMPUTERS/USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District believes that technology is a tool to provide students with 21st Century skills which will keep them competitive in the global workplace. It is not enough to simply add technology into existing teaching methods. Instead, technology must be strategically implemented to maximize the benefit to the students. The benefits of a technology-infused classroom include the ability for teachers to deliver personalized

learning to students, increase students' 21st Century skills, and empower students in the learning process.

The use of district devices and networks must support and be consistent with educational objectives. Students are expected to follow the policies outlined by the district, including but not limited to the Acceptable Use Policy 2361, Electronic Communication and Recording Devices Policy 5516, and the Responsible Use Agreement. **Inappropriate use as outlined in the District's Policy 2361 may result in denial of the student's use of the computers and computer networks.** Violations of policy are unethical and may constitute a criminal offense.

At the beginning of each school year parents/guardians must sign the acknowledgement on the PowerSchool Emergency Form, agreeing that they accept responsibility for their child's use of computers and computer networks in school and out of school.

DETENTION

Teachers and school administrators may assign detention. Detention may take place during lunch, recess, or before or after school. Students receive a minimum of one day's notice for a detention that will take place outside of school hours. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation as it relates to before or after school detention.

DISCIPLINE

The professional staff of the school is expected to ensure student conduct conducive to an orderly educational program, to maintain an effective learning environment both in and outside the classroom and to help students achieve self-discipline necessary for the responsible use of freedom. (Refer to Board policy 5600).

The school staff reserves the right to take disciplinary action in the form of student conference, parental conference, lunch detention, before-school detention, after-school detention, restriction of privileges, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion for the following disciplinary infractions, including, but not limited to:

- insubordination
- disrespect
- physical altercations
- disruptive behavior
- obscene gestures
- inappropriate language
- leaving school grounds without permission
- gambling
- possession or distribution of items that are dangerous or distracting
- any conduct of such nature as to constitute a danger to the well-being of others, or a disruption to the learning environment

A strong and ongoing partnership between home and school is crucial in addressing and correcting student misbehavior.

Any student guilty of flagrant or repeated violations will be assigned more severe consequences.

Serious and/or repeated offenses may warrant a student being referred to the principal/assistant principal. Please refer to the Intermediate Level Chart of Discipline.

DISTRACTIONS

Sometimes items that are brought or sent to school can be disruptive or pose a safety hazard to the educational environment. Therefore, students should bring to school only those materials needed for their academic studies.

The following are some examples of items that hinder instruction: jewelry, toys, electronic devices, games, locker decorations, skateboards, roller-sneakers, valuables, and large sums of money.

The sale or offering for sale of items or personal property by students is forbidden. Students should not bring items to school with the intent of bartering during lunch or anytime during the school day. This includes trading cards, electronic games, etc.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Bridgewater-Raritan School District's student dress code supports equitable educational access. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, the dress code shall be enforced in a manner that does not reinforce or increase the marginalization of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

The dress code shall be enforced on all district campuses and at school-sponsored activities.

The dress code works to ensure:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.

Our student dress code is designed to accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment.
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs, or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the rights of others, or create a reasonably

foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.

- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is racist, vulgar, or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others and/or draws attention to an illegal substance.
- Require students to wear clothing or accessories that promote accepted safety standards, including, but not limited to: goggles, lab aprons, sneakers, etc. as required for specific courses.
- Promote student participation and engagement in class.

Students May Not Wear:

- Violent language or images, including gang-related attire and weapons.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity).
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Language or images that create a hostile or intimidating environment or have been used historically to oppress any protected class or consistently marginalized group.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (Sheer tops or bottoms), an exception is bra shoulder straps.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Shorts with a bottom edge that does not meet their leg. Shorts should have an inseam and cover the buttocks completely.
- Shirts that do not meet the tops of pants/bottoms.
- Shirts that do not cover the back (backless shirts).
- Underwear cannot be worn as outerwear.
- Slippers may not be worn as shoes.
- Hats and hoods may not be worn in school. (This excludes head coverings worn for religious purposes.)

EARLY DISMISSAL/PARENT PICK UP

If a student is to leave school before the regular dismissal time, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. The student must hand in a written note to the homeroom teacher, signed by the parent/guardian, with the first and last name of the student, indicating the time they are to be dismissed, the reason for the early dismissal, and who will be picking up the student, **or** an email with this information may be sent to the absence reporting line.

2. In the event of an emergency appointment, please call the main office prior to your arrival so that we may notify your child and the appropriate teacher.
3. Students will only be dismissed to a parent/guardian, unless otherwise indicated in the note. Proper identification may be requested.
4. A student returning to school later the same day must be signed in and obtain a pass from the main office.
5. Please note that students must be present in school for four hours to receive full-day credit and two hours to receive half-day credit.

EXTRA HELP

If a student is having difficulty in any subject, help outside the content of the regular school day is available. It is the student's responsibility to seek help. All teachers are available for help on specified days as posted in each classroom and on the Teacher Websites. If help is desired, the student and/or parent should make an appointment for extra help in order to confirm the time and place. The guidance counselors are available to assist in resolving difficulties with schoolwork as well as to coordinate extra help sessions.

Students should not arrive more than five minutes before the start of before-school extra help.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student records. Records are defined by FERPA. It also provides parents/legal guardians with the following rights:

- To request and inspect their child's records.
- To request to amend the record if they believe it to be inaccurate.
- To disallow any disclosure of directory information.
- To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding district's failure to comply with FERPA.

FIRE/SECURITY DRILLS

New Jersey School Law requires that each school hold fire drills regularly. Each classroom will have Fire Drill rules and directions posted. Students should be familiar with the exits from each room where they attend classes.

Regularly there are other drills related to various types of emergencies. Staff members will educate students on these drills. During these events, students are expected to remain silent and follow staff instructions.

GUIDANCE

The guidance program provides our students with individual, group, and crisis counseling services. Students must get a pass from the classroom teacher or from the school counselor, and make arrangements for conferences, as needed. The school counselor may also be contacted to discuss academic and/or developmental concerns.

HALLWAY/STAIRWAY COURTESY

To facilitate movement within the building, students are expected to travel to classes appropriately:

1. Keep the corridors open to traffic by walking to the right and walking no more than two abreast. Do not block traffic by standing in groups.
2. Physical contact of any kind is inappropriate in a school environment.
3. Pass through corridors quietly and safely. Be considerate of others in the halls and classrooms.
4. Place trash and recycling in the appropriate container.
5. Use appropriate language in the school building or on school grounds.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

(HIB)

Introduction (see NJSA 18A:37, NJAC 6A:16, and Board Policy #5512): The Board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on school buses, and, as appropriate, in other instances away from school grounds. Active or passive support for acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying is also prohibited.

Definition (see N.J. Public Law 2010, chapter 122): Harassment, intimidation or bullying means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristics that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus or off school grounds that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:

- A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property;
- Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause disruption, in or interference with, the orderly operation of the school; or
- Creates a hostile educational environment for the students; or
- Infringes on the rights of the student at school by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Expected Behavior The district prohibits active or passive support for acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Students are encouraged to support other students who walk away from these acts when they see them, constructively attempt to stop them, and report acts to the building principal or designee. Each building principal will develop and

provide a school-based program for appropriate recognition for positive reinforcement for good conduct, self-discipline, good citizenship, and academic success.

The Board expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of school facilities and equipment. The Board believes that with the appropriate infusion of character education into the curriculum, modeling of appropriate behavior by adults and the support and assistance of parent/guardian, students, and the community, we will produce an environment that encourages students to grow in self-discipline.

Please see Board Policy 5512: Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, for full text.

HEALTH OFFICE

It is the goal of the Health Office to provide services which will aid each student in achieving their optimum health potential, thereby enabling them to benefit from the educational program.

Illnesses - If a student becomes ill at school, they will obtain a pass from their teacher and report to the Health Office. Parents will be notified if the student must go home.

Students are not permitted to use their cell phones to contact their parent/guardian regarding pick up for illness.

Absence - If a student is absent, parents must notify the school by calling the School Absence Phone Number, or by emailing the absence reporting address. See the first page of this handbook for contact information.

Elevator Use (Hillside School Only) – Restricted to temporarily or permanently disabled students. Keys are distributed at the discretion of the school nurse and a signed behavior contract is filed with the nurse for the duration of the usage period.

Accidents - All accidents, no matter how minor, are to be reported immediately to the supervising teacher. The supervising teacher will then notify the school nurse and follow her instructions. The nurse will administer first aid and notify parents if additional treatment is needed. If the nurse is not in her office, the student will report to the main office.

Medication – Whenever possible, students should be administered medication at home rather than at school. This includes both over-the-counter as well as prescription medication. If your child must take medication during the school day, district forms stating the name of the medication, dosage, time to be given, and other pertinent information must be filled out by the child's physician and the parent/guardian and returned to the school nurse. The forms may be obtained from the nurse's office or from the Health Office page under the "Parents" link on the Hillside website. Medication must be in the original container labeled by the pharmacy or physician. It will be kept in the School Health Office. Medication should not be kept by students to be self-administered except in special situations, documented by the child's physician, where the student has asthma or a life-threatening condition. Arrangements must be made through

the school nurse and the child’s physician. Medication must be dropped off and picked up by a parent or guardian.

Health Screenings – School health screenings are conducted on an annual basis per New Jersey state guidelines, unless a physical exam is completed by the student’s healthcare provider. Documentation of the physical exam must be submitted to the School Nurse. Parents will be notified if follow-up care is needed.

Screenings are performed by the School Nurse as follows:

Height, weight, blood pressure – all students are screened once per school year.

Vision - 6th grade students are routinely checked once per school year; 5th grade students may be checked upon parent request.

Scoliosis – 5th grade students are routinely checked once per school year. A student may be excused from scoliosis screening upon written request to the School Nurse by a parent or guardian.

The nurse is available during school hours. Please feel free to contact the Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

HOMEWORK

Homework is defined as an assignment to be prepared or completed at a time other than during regular class time and serves to reinforce instruction that has taken place or to prepare for an upcoming class topic.

Homework is an important part of the educational process. Repeated studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between effective study habits and completion of assignments and a student’s success in school. Homework, properly planned and purposeful in nature, should help students:

- Learn to work independently and become self-reliant.
- Organize and plan for their schoolwork.
- Extend proficiency in effective habits and skills.
- Increase knowledge and its application.
- Develop insight and stimulate creativity.

Students must assume responsibility for homework assignments. Parents/guardians and teachers are partners in the education of students. Their joint effort in assessing and monitoring homework provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership.

A teacher typically assigns homework 3-5 days per week. Developmental, achievement, and ability differences among student all impact the actual time that students may spend on assignments. Long term assignments will require additional time management skills.

Time Guide for Out-of-Class Study

Gr	Amount Per Day	Academic Level	Amount Per Day
5 th	40-60 min.	5 th E/AI	40-90 min.
6 th	20-30 min. per course 100-150 min.	6 th E	20-30 min. per course 100-150 min.

	maximum		maximum
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*Nightly independent reading for students at all levels is strongly encouraged and is not subject to the homework limits in the chart above.

Homework assignments can be accessed through the OnCourse System Homework Portal at www.ouresystems.com/homeworkportal/index/brrsd.

INSURANCE

Parents/Guardians have an opportunity to purchase accident insurance for their student, for both the School Day and Around-the-Clock-Time. Information will be available to parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year, with instructions on how to enroll.

The form to be completed in the event of an injury requiring medical attention is available in the Health Office. It is the responsibility of each student to be sure that any accident occurring on school property is reported to the Health Office. It will be the responsibility of the parent to process all claims since the school is not the agent. Any questions about any claim must be directed to the insurance company and not the school.

LIBRARY

The Library is available all day for classes or individuals. Students may use the library during lunch as a quiet place to read or study, to complete classwork, or for STEAM projects. If an item is lost or not returned, a hold will be placed on the student's records until payment is made or the item is returned. Students may not have more than three items on loan at one time.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year for his or her personal use. All lockers are the property of the Board of Education. The school reserves the right to inspect or search lockers at any time, and teachers do inspect lockers at various intervals throughout the year. Students should maintain an orderly locker and remove material that is not current. Pictures, slogans, or other items may not be posted outside lockers. No child may enter another student’s locker for any reason. There is a fee for lost/damaged locks/lockers.

The school assumes no responsibility in case of loss or theft.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who have lost articles may go to the designated Lost and Found before school, during lunch, or after school to look for them. After a reasonable time, articles are donated to charity.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents may arrange conferences with teachers, counselors, or the principal/assistant principal at any time by calling the school.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Photographs and videos for such purposes as news media coverage of school activities, except for events open to the public, must be authorized in advance by the superintendent or principal in accordance with Policy 9400, News Media Relations. Parents/guardians shall be notified annually in the student handbook that photographs and videos of pupils may be taken for news and media purposes. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their child(ren) not be included in any photograph or video taken for school district and/or outside publication.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students participate in physical education. It is necessary that all students be properly clothed for physical education class. Students are required to wear tied sneakers, unrestrictive, comfortable clothing and no bulk jewelry.

Physical education excuses are issued by the school nurse in the case of temporary disability. P.E. excuses for more than three days require a doctor's note. Students cannot resume P.E. activities after a serious illness, injury or surgical procedure without a medical release from his/her physician. A student who is injured during a physical education class must report the incident to both the P.E. teacher and the school nurse.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are issued through the PowerSchool Parent Portal on a quarterly basis, midway through each marking period. These notices are posted to keep parents and students informed of academic progress and to suggest ways for removing deficiencies and improving grades.

PROMOTION

Each student must demonstrate satisfactory academic performance to advance from one grade level to the next.

RECESS/OUTSIDE PLAY

Students have recess outside if weather permits and should dress appropriately for the weather. No food or drink is permitted at recess. Playground equipment must be returned to the Cafeteria Assistants at the conclusion of recess. Once outside, students are expected to follow the same rules established within the classroom and the school. Appropriate supervision is provided at all times and students must follow the rules and the directions of the Cafeteria Assistants.

REPORT CARDS

Progress in school is vitally important to students, parents and teachers. The report card is designed to help students and parents understand the student's progress so that the school and home can work together in improving that progress. Report cards are accessible on the Power School Parent Portal on a quarterly basis. Students and parents/guardians are expected to review student progress via PowerSchool on a regular basis.

Gr. 5 & Gr. 6 Marking System

A+	97 - 100
A	92 - 96
A -	90 - 91
B+	87 - 89
B	82 - 86
B-	80 - 81
C+	77 - 79
C	72 - 76
C-	70 - 71
D+	68 - 69
D	66 - 67
D-	65
U	Below 65
I	Incomplete
M	Medical

A plus mark (+) indicates a greater degree of progress. A minus mark (-) indicates a lesser degree of progress. All "Incomplete" (I) marks must be made up within three weeks of the issuance of the report card. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements for the make-up work.

RIGHT TO SEARCH

Lockers, desks or storage places provided for student use are, and remain at all times, property of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education. These areas and the contents, therefore, are subject to a random search at any time, pursuant to board policy. Administrators are authorized to conduct reasonable inspections of school property, or of students and items brought upon school grounds, where there is a reasonable cause to believe that a law or a school rule has been violated.

SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAYED OPENING/EARLY DISMISSAL

If school is closed or delayed in opening because of bad weather, an announcement is made on the district website www.brrsd.org and radio stations WCTC (1450 AM), WPST (94.5 FM), New Jersey (101.5 FM), Television News 12 NJ, and on the internet at www.weatherclosings.com starting at 6:15 a.m. Please note that the school district cannot control the timing or accuracy of radio and television school closing information. We are referred to as the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District. In addition, the district has implemented the School Messenger System. The registration process completed through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Registered users may also log onto this website to update their contact information. This system is used for urgent, unforeseen, or emergency notification and you must register online in order to receive notifications.

SCHOOL HOURS

Regular Main Office Hours: 7:45 am - 4:15 pm
Regular School Day: 9:05 am - 3:30 pm
Delayed Opening: 11:05 am - 3:30 pm

Emergency Early Dismissal: 9:05 am - 1:40 pm
 4-hour Session: 9:05 am - 1:25 pm

School Bell Schedules:

REGULAR DAY SCHEDULE

Period	Time
First Bell	9:00
Homeroom	9:05 – 9:15
1	9:18 – 10:01
2	10:04 – 10:47
3	10:50 – 11:33
4	11:36 – 12:19
5	12:22 – 1:05
6	1:08 – 1:51
7	1:54 – 2:37
8	2:40 – 3:23
Dismissal	3:30

4 HOUR SESSION SCHEDULE

Lunch Served

Period	Time
First Bell	9:00
Homeroom	9:05 – 9:14
1	9:16 – 9:44
2	9:47 – 10:15
3	10:18 – 10:46
4	10:49 – 11:17
5	11:20 – 11:48
6	11:51 – 12:19
7	12:22 – 12:50
8	12:53 – 1:21
Dismissal	1:25

EMERGENCY EARLY DISMISSAL

Lunch Served

Period	Time
First Bell	9:00
Homeroom	9:05 - 9:14
1	9:16 - 9:46
2	9:49 – 10:19
3	10:22 – 10:52
7	10:55 – 11:25
4	11:28 – 11:58
5	12:01 – 12:31
6	12:34 – 1:04
8	1:07 – 1:37
Dismissal	1:40

DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE

Lunch Served

Period	Time
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First Bell	11:00
Homeroom	11:05 - 11:17
1	11:20 - 11:48
2	11:51 - 12:19
3	12:22 - 12:50
4	12:53 - 1:21
5	1:24 - 1:52
6	1:55 - 2:23
7	2:26 - 2:54
8	2:57 – 3:27
Dismissal	3:30

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school.

Students who vandalize property, or cause damage to school property or equipment, are required to pay for the repair or replacement of the item(s). Incidents classified as vandalism will involve further school consequences and may involve the police. Any theft or damage to property may be cause for police notification.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Activities are held throughout the year to provide students with another opportunity for social development. Proper conduct is required at all times.

SMOKING

By law no smoking, tobacco, or vaping products are permitted on school buses, school grounds, or in school buildings. Students are prohibited from possessing and/or carrying cigarettes or other tobacco or vaping materials on school grounds, in school buildings or on school buses. Violators face confiscation of the items and suspension.

STUDENT RECORDS

Parents, legal guardians, and adult students have a right to access pupil records. To learn about the procedure to inspect pupil records please refer to BRRSD Board of Education Pupil Records Policy #8330 or contact the school principal. Health and Special Education records are maintained separately from the student academic record file.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students attend and participate in the school program so that they may develop to their fullest potential. With this in mind, students have the following responsibilities:

1. Accept responsibility for their actions.
2. Respect the rights of others, including the right to secure an education in an environment that is orderly and disciplined.
3. Attend school on a regular basis.
4. Be punctual.
5. Dress appropriately and maintain habits of personal hygiene.
6. Respect school property and help keep it free from damage.

7. Recognize that the school staff assumes the role of a surrogate parent in matters of behavior and discipline, from the time the student leaves home and until they return home, including school transportation and during any school-sponsored activities.
8. Make an earnest effort to do their best work.
9. Contribute toward establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that generates mutual respect and dignity for all.
10. Obey school rules and regulations.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

District students are entitled to attend school free from the hazards and disruptive influence of drugs. The Board of Education defines drugs as alcohol and any controlled dangerous substance as identified by state law which includes, but is not limited to: marijuana, PCP, LSD, any chemical which releases fumes causing a condition of intoxication or dulling of the senses, and any behavior-altering chemical substances used or intended to be used for purposes other than the treatment of sickness or injury as prescribed by a physician.

Unauthorized use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs by students, or others in the school setting, which includes school buses and school functions, will not be tolerated, nor will the presence in the school setting of anyone under the influence of drugs, including alcohol.

- Students violating this policy will be referred for intervention. Following due process, such students may be subject to strict disciplinary procedures including suspension and/or expulsion. In addition, such students may be subject to court imposed penalties for violation of laws.
- Any person engaging in the illegal use, possession or distribution of drugs in the school will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- Inspections for the location of drugs are matters relating to health and safety, and may be regarded as reasonable purposes for searches by school personnel. (See section entitled LOCKERS).

More detailed information can be found in Board of Education Policy 5346 and 5346R. In addition, the dangers of substance abuse, and effective decision-making skills for leading a drug-free life, are addressed in the health program and partnership programs such as S.H.A.R.E. and PRIDE.

TARDINESS

Students are considered tardy for school if they are not in their assigned rooms at 9:05 a.m.

Procedure for Arrival after 9:05 a.m.:

1. Student and Parent/Guardian report to the Main Office.
2. The Parent/Guardian **must sign in the student** and indicate the reason for tardiness. Tardiness to school due to a medical appointment must be accompanied by a doctor's note to be considered an excused absence.
3. The student will be given a pass in order to proceed to class.

A student is considered tardy to a particular class during the day if he/she is not in the designated classroom prior to the period bell.

If a teacher detains one or more students, who as a consequence arrive late to the next class, each student has the responsibility to request a pass from the teacher to bring to their next class thereby excusing the lateness.

TESTING

The NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessments) computer-based assessments will be administered during the spring testing window. Additional information may be accessed at <https://nj.pearsonaccessnext.com/>.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are issued to all students. Books must have covers to protect them at all times. At the end of the school year, or upon transfer, all books checked out in a student's name must be returned to the teachers. Payment must be made for lost or damaged books.

TRANSFERS

When a student transfers out of the District a Parent/Guardian may have student records forwarded to a student's new school by completing the "Parent Authorization for Release of Pupil Records" form. This form can be obtained from the Guidance Office. A transfer card and all records will be forwarded to the new school when all books have been returned and all fines have been paid.

VISITORS

Visitors must park in the designated "**Visitor**" parking spaces. **Vehicles may not be parked along the yellow curbs in front of the school at any time, per the Bridgewater Township Police Department.** Visitors must enter through the main entrance of the school by using the video/buzzer system. Please face the camera, press the button on the wall and identify yourself and the purpose of your visit. After being buzzed in, please report to the Main Office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Please be aware that you may be asked to provide additional information. You must wear a visitor's badge at all times while on school property. **Police will be called for any person entering the school property or buildings without signing in.** Visitors may only visit the approved location within the building. Please return promptly to the Main Office at the end of your visit and sign out.

Items requiring delivery to a student must be left in the Main Office for student pick up at a time convenient to the student and class schedule.

WEAPONS/DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Education, Administration, and Professional Staff of the Bridgewater-Raritan School District stand united in their expression of intolerance for the presence of weapons in our schools. A weapon is defined as any instrument of offense or defense, which is capable of inflicting injury or death to someone.

In accordance with the Board of Education Policies 5611 and 8467, students who are found guilty of possessing a weapon in school, on school grounds, or on a school bus will be subject to expulsion from the school. To expel means to be removed from the school permanently. In addition, criminal charges will be filed with the Bridgewater or Raritan Police Departments.

Examples of items which would be considered weapons include, but are not limited to, the following:

Guns (loaded or unloaded): revolvers, BB guns, pellet guns, stun guns, air guns, dart guns, shotguns, rifles. *Also defined as any device or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile or bullet, or any gas, vapor or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the lighting of flammable or explosive substances. This includes mace, pepper spray or like substance.

Knives: pocket knives, hunting knives, switch blades, gravity knives, daggers, stilettos, dirks.

Other: pipes, tire irons, billies, blackjacks, brass knuckles, sandclubs, slingshots, leather bands studded with metal, laser pointers, lighters, any flame producing device.

Chart of Discipline - Intermediate Level

Infraction	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Profanity/Obscene Gestures/Disruptive or Disrespectful Behavior/Insubordination	Warning or detention	Detention or ISS	ISS or OSS
Inappropriate Use of School Equipment or Materials	Detention or loss of privilege(s), restitution	Detention and/or additional loss of privilege(s),restitution	ISS/OSS, loss of privilege(s), restitution
Violation of Computer Regulations	Warning or temporary loss of computer privileges	Detention and/or extended loss of computer privileges	Detention, loss of computer privileges pending parent conference
Dress Code Violation	Warning, change of clothes	Detention, change of clothes	ISS, change of clothes
Cafeteria/Playground Misconduct	Warning or temporary loss of privilege	Loss of privilege	Detention(s)
Inappropriate Bus Conduct	Warning, possible seat change	Seat change, detention, warning of potential loss of bus privileges	Seat change, loss of bus privileges for five days
Possession of Inappropriate or Distracting Item(s), including electronic and communication and recording device(s)	Warning, item(s) may be stored in locker or kept until end of school day	Detention, item(s) held for parent pick-up	Detention or ISS, item(s) held for parent pick-up
Possession of Weapon(s) or other Dangerous Item(s)	ISS or OSS	ISS or OSS	OSS
Threats and/or Physical Altercation(s)	Detention or ISS	ISS or OSS	OSS
Theft/Vandalism	Detention, restitution	Detention or ISS, restitution	ISS or OSS, restitution
HIB	Detention, ISS, or OSS	Detention, ISS, or OSS	Detention, ISS, or OSS
Smoking, Possession of Tobacco Products, Lighters, Matches, Fireworks	ISS or OSS	ISS or OSS	OSS
Vaping, Possession of Vaping Materials	ISS or OSS	ISS or OSS	OSS
Refusal to Comply with Health and Safety Requirements	Warning	Parent contact	Detention

Violations of any other BOE policies not listed can also include consequences which are determined by the administrator.

These and all incidents will be determined on a case by case basis, with principal discretion as to the final consequence. Every behavior needs to be weighted independently, and measured against past behavior. Multiple infractions may lead to extended suspensions and removal from school functions.