



BERKSHIRE SCHOOL  
STUDENT/FAMILY HANDBOOK  
2024-2025

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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	Dean of Faculty, John West	413-229-1251
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Technology:	Director of Technology, Jason Epstein	413-229-1270
<b>Form Deans</b>		
Form III:	Chris Perkins	413-229-1266
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Form V:	Kathryn Barnhardt	413-229-1264
Form VI:	Mike McCabe	413-229-1255
<b>House Heads</b>		
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Buck:	Elizabeth Perkins	413-717-8654
Crispin/Gordon/Rose:	Sheri Mahoney	413-717-8646
de Windt:	John Palmer	413-717-8650
Eipper:	Robert Rose	413-717-8642
Godman:	Becky McCabe	413-717-8587
MacMillan:	Tim Cary	413-717-8648
Senior House:	April Burch	413-717-8636
Spurr:	Lisa Marshall	413-717-8647
Stanley:	Lissa McGovern	413-717-8649

**Advisor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Berkshire School Student/Family Handbook is published and distributed to members of the Berkshire School community for the purpose of providing information on aspects of student and campus life so that students may gain as much as possible from their experience at the School. This Handbook is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to create, nor does it create, a contract or part of a contract in any way, including but not limited to, between Berkshire School and any parent, guardian or student affiliated with or attending Berkshire School. Berkshire School reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to add, revise and/or delete policies and appendices contained herein before, during, and after the school year.*

## **STATEMENT OF MISSION**

Rooted in an inspiring natural setting, Berkshire School instills the highest standards of character and citizenship and a commitment to academic, artistic, and athletic excellence. Our community fosters diversity, a dedication to environmental stewardship, and an enduring love for learning.

## **CORE VALUES**

Berkshire School was founded in 1907 beneath the “dome” of Mt. Everett by Seaver Burton Buck, a Harvard graduate who taught at Hackley School. During the thirty-five years that Mr. Buck was headmaster, Berkshire evolved into a substantial and vibrant institution. Today, Berkshire School is committed to creating and supporting a just, nurturing community based on the following core values:

**Curiosity:** To question, to explore, to discover, to learn about oneself and others, and to embrace new experiences, not just for school but for life.

**Integrity:** To be honest and accountable to oneself and to others, to trust and be trusted, to be disciplined and responsible, in all academic pursuits and in all relationships.

**Respect:** To respect oneself and others, one’s place and surroundings, to consider intent and impact, and to act in ways that show consideration and understanding.

**Inclusion:** To understand and learn from differences, to welcome the open exchange of ideas, and to create safe and affirming communities that value every person.

**Perseverance:** To be steadfast and persistent in the face of challenge or obstacle, to rise above mistakes and failures, and to see things through to completion.

**Resilience:** To set a new direction in response to changing circumstances, to manage and adapt to adversity, and to bounce back and regain one’s footing with confidence and purpose.

These core values include every aspect of life at Berkshire, e.g., our admission process, our standards of academic integrity in our classrooms, social climate of our dorms, sportsmanship in athletic programs, leadership and community service opportunities, and our standards of discipline.

Berkshire School offers academic programs designed to challenge and motivate a diverse population of students to engage in creative, critical and reflective thinking and questioning. Our faculty and staff value hard work and authenticity in experience, perspective, and opinion. We are committed to engaging students from a variety of academic backgrounds in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

## **TO THOSE ENTERING BERKSHIRE**

Welcome to Berkshire. It is likely that you will encounter much that seems strange or different at first. Certainly, you will find your first few days confusing. Don’t worry about it. All members of the community will do their best to help you feel at home, and soon you will find yourself part of Berkshire School. Our student leaders are available from the outset to answer questions, explain our customs, and help you feel at home. As a new student, you will participate in orientation activities with some of the student leaders that will help you understand more about the School.

New students are assigned an advisor at the start of the school year. While this person will help you get settled, you will have the opportunity to switch advisors after the first month of school. However, many assigned advisors work with students for all four years. It is very important that you have connections with adults on campus. Therefore, the School works very hard to help you find the adult with whom you can build a trusting relationship. Early in the year we will help students understand that there are some obvious limits on the confidentiality of your relationship with your advisor.

Your advisor will be closely involved with all phases of your career at Berkshire. Go out of your way to get to know your faculty advisor well; you will find them ready to help whenever you need assistance or guidance. You can always reach out to the Student Life Office if you need assistance in changing advisors. In addition, Form Deans are designated to each class. Form Deans work closely with advisors to oversee your academic progress, and they will try to get to know you well. During the opening days of school, your form dean will be able to answer questions about many aspects of the School.

At Berkshire, we believe that the purpose of a secondary education is not merely to prepare students for college, but also to prepare them to flourish as caring, productive members of society. Here under our beautiful Mountain, we aim to be a cohesive community, and, as with any community, there must be rules to ensure safety, respect, and fairness for all. These regulations are carefully spelled out within these pages. At first, they may seem overwhelming in number and detail, but overall you will find that most of them are dictated

by common sense. If you use consideration and common sense, you will have no difficulty with the rules. If there are rules or procedures that you do not understand, feel free to speak with the Dean of Students.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Much of the government of the School is directed by the students themselves, not only by the Prefects, All-School Presidents, and sixth-form class, but also by the Student Government. It is a major aim of the School to develop in every student a sense of responsibility to and for the community. It should be one of your priorities to be a cooperative and constructive citizen in your new environment.

The central agency of self-government at Berkshire is the Student Government, led by the All-School Presidents and Prefects, a group of Sixth Formers who have demonstrated special qualities of leadership and high character. The All-School Presidents work closely with the Form representatives, and the Prefects assist in the supervision of the dorms and accept a large share of the responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the School's affairs.

Student Government positions are typically elected in the spring for the following school year. The members of each class elect the class officers. Prefects are elected in May before their sixth-form year by the faculty. The Head of School selects the Head Prefects.

Leadership, of course, carries responsibilities, and students who are on Probation will not be eligible for election. Student Leaders who are placed on Warning or Probation for a Major School Rule during their term of office will forfeit their positions of leadership. Students whose Probation period has ended will again be eligible to stand for election. The Head of School will decide questions about eligibility.

All Forms are given valuable experience in self-government through participation in Student Government. As students progress through the School, they are awarded a greater share of the privileges and responsibilities of democratic living. Thus, through a predictable and gradual process, students develop a sense of personal and group responsibility that is recognized in the sixth-form year by a substantial measure of self-government.

### **Prefects, 2024-2025**

<b>Allen:</b>	<i>Hemin Khalid</i>	<i>Duhok, Iraq</i>
<b>Allen:</b>	<i>Caspar Meredith-Jones</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<b>Buck:</b>	<i>Alex Flynn</i>	<i>Dhahran, Saudi Arabia</i>
<b>Buck:</b>	<i>Stella Schafer</i>	<i>Rye, NY</i>
<b>CGR:</b>	<i>Akari Ikeda</i>	<i>Ashikaga City, Japan</i>
<b>CGR:</b>	<i>Emma Leahy</i>	<i>Rye, NY</i>
<b>CGR:</b>	<i>Layla Pallone</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<b>de Windt:</b>	<i>Yaya Barak</i>	<i>Belmont, CA</i>
<b>de Windt:</b>	<i>Mohamed Morsi</i>	<i>North Bergen, NJ</i>
<b>de Windt:</b>	<i>Noboru Tsuru Davara</i>	<i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>
<b>Eipper:</b>	<i>Jeremiah Chaves</i>	<i>Roxbury, MA</i>
<b>Eipper:</b>	<i>Eli Haskel</i>	<i>Westport, CT</i>
<b>Eipper:</b>	<i>Deven Hikspoors</i>	<i>McKinney, TX</i>
<b>Godman:</b>	<i>Miller Burr</i>	<i>New Canaan, CT</i>
<b>Godman:</b>	<i>Sofia Esposito</i>	<i>Greenwich, CT</i>
<b>Godman:</b>	<i>Mia Vargas</i>	<i>Waterbury, CT</i>
<b>MacMillan:</b>	<i>Toby Huang</i>	<i>Hong Kong, Hong Kong</i>
<b>MacMillan:</b>	<i>Hans Scheibe</i>	<i>Groton, MA</i>
<b>MacMillan:</b>	<i>Trevor Sullivan Weinstein</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<b>Senior House:</b>	<i>Billy Adkins</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<b>Spurr:</b>	<i>Natalie Heldfond</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<b>Spurr:</b>	<i>Mia Zayas Echevarria</i>	<i>Ponce, Puerto Rico</i>
<b>Stanley:</b>	<i>Mairead Campbell</i>	<i>Concord, MA</i>
<b>Stanley:</b>	<i>Angela Pham</i>	<i>Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam</i>
<b>Day Student:</b>	<i>Ellie Grimmett</i>	<i>Lenox, MA</i>
<b>Day Student:</b>	<i>Gus Wilmore</i>	<i>Lakeville, CT</i>

## **Student Government, 2024-2025**

<b>All-School Presidents:</b>	<i>Stella Demmert</i>	<i>Salisbury, CT</i>
	<i>Michkael McKenzie</i>	<i>Hartford, CT</i>
<b>Sixth-Form Presidents:</b>	<i>Riki Ishiyama</i>	<i>Kobe, Japan</i>
	<i>Nora Wendell</i>	<i>Hingham, MA</i>
<b>Fifth-Form Presidents:</b>	<i>Winnie Freund</i>	<i>Bedford, NY</i>
	<i>Hugh Weidinger</i>	<i>Locust Valley, NY</i>
<b>Fourth-Form Presidents:</b>	<i>Kate O'Keefe</i>	<i>Pembroke, Bermuda</i>
	<i>Jacob Reece</i>	<i>Trenton, NJ</i>

Elections to determine the Third-Form Representatives for 2024-2025 will be held in September.

## **HONOR CODE**

Honor and integrity sit at the heart of the Berkshire community and are the basis of student life at Berkshire. Students understand that they are at all times to act honestly in all aspects of life at Berkshire, and the Honor Code places in their hands the responsibility for honorable conduct as a way of life. Founded on the basic principles that a student's word is their bond, that a student respects the integrity of personal property, that a student models academic honesty, and that a student's conduct is based on courtesy and concern for others, the Berkshire School Honor Code highlights the School's commitment to these values and provides a process for ensuring that they are promoted and perpetuated.

### **PREAMBLE**

The cornerstone values of Berkshire School are honesty and integrity. The Honor Code codifies and symbolizes our collective commitment to these values. We believe that it is every community member's personal responsibility to uphold them by adhering to the spirit and the letter of Berkshire School's Honor Code.

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **Article 1: Violations**

- Academic Violations: plagiarism, cheating, lying with respect to academic matters
- Social Violations: theft, vandalism, lying with respect to non-academic matters
- Violations associated with an Honor or Discipline Committee proceeding: it is a violation of the Honor Code to lie, mislead, or evade questions during an appearance before the Honor or Discipline Committee.

#### **Article 2: Process**

Any student who has violated the Honor Code may be required to appear before the Honor Committee or the Discipline Committee. In general, Academic Violations of the Honor Code are heard by the Honor Committee while Social Violations are heard by the Discipline Committee (whose composition and procedures are detailed under Disciplinary Response).

The Honor Committee is a standing committee of student leaders, faculty members, and a non-voting Chair. When the Honor Committee convenes to hear a case, it consists of three student members, three faculty members, and the Chair. On occasion, circumstances may necessitate convening a Committee that consists only of adults. The student appearing before an Honor Committee has the right to be supported in that appearance by their advisor, form dean, and a student leader. The Honor Committee hears the case, which includes a period of questioning from the Committee, and makes a recommendation to the Head of School.

#### **Article 3: Consequences**

The Honor Committee generally recommends the following consequences to the Head of School but may offer others if circumstances warrant:

- Warning with Respect to all Future Violations of the Honor Code
- Warning + Suspension
- Dismissal

Upon receiving the recommendation from the Honor Committee, the Head of School will impose a sanction on the student, taking both the recommendation of the Committee plus any other pertinent information or circumstances into account.

#### **Article 4: The Honor Pledge**

The phrase "I pledge my honor" is short for "I pledge my honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid" and should be written on work handed in for credit and followed by a signature. On work submitted electronically, it should be typed out and followed by the student's name. Requiring and writing The Honor Pledge provides a constant reminder to all members of the community that honor and integrity inform our daily lives at Berkshire. On exams and large papers, the phrase should be written out in full.

#### **Article 5: Promotion and Perpetuation**

The PREAMBLE and the CONSTITUTION are explained to all students at the beginning of every academic year. In addition, the Honor

Committee especially, but all members of the community may take whatever measures deemed necessary to promote and perpetuate Berkshire School's Honor Code.

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, presenting as one's own work an idea or product taken from another source, or using another person's ideas, concepts, or language without proper documentation. To avoid plagiarism, students must cite everything that is not the direct result of their own thinking. Paraphrases (the translation of facts and ideas into your own words) must also be cited. Single words or phrases that are particularly appropriate or illuminating, the organization of ideas, and the ordering of examples given in a source must all be documented.

The School defines cheating as availing oneself of the means to cheat and facilitating the capacity of another to cheat. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. taking notes or unauthorized aids (including wireless communication devices) into a test, examination, or quiz;
2. copying from, or being influenced by, another's work while doing homework or during an assessment of any type;
3. use of help on homework, tests, or written work which is beyond the limits specified by the classroom teacher; this includes the use of artificial intelligence;
4. giving unauthorized aid to another student, allowing another student to copy work, or allowing another student to present "borrowed" work as original. In cases where one student aids another in this fashion, both are subject to disciplinary action.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of each member of this learning community to maintain and model the highest standards of personal and academic honor, honesty, and integrity. Those with questions about academic honesty/integrity should consult with their teachers, advisor, form dean, and/or the Dean of Academics.

## **LYING WITH RESPECT TO ACADEMIC MATTERS**

Students must be entirely forthright in their discussions about academic matters. Any lying with respect to academic matters may subject them to disciplinary action. Examples of lying with respect to academic matters include, but are not limited to, the following: lying about the completion of academic work, lying to avoid satisfying an academic obligation, and lying about the electronic submission of assignments.

In addition to a possible appearance before the Honor Committee, students determined to have lied, plagiarized, or cheated will generally be awarded no credit for the work in question.

# **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

## **ACADEMIC GUIDANCE**

Teachers, advisors, form deans, and the Dean of Academics oversee students' academic progress at Berkshire. The advisor and form dean serve as the primary link between family and School. Families receive communication from the appropriate form dean at the beginning of the year outlining guidance and counseling procedures. Families may always contact the Dean of Academics, appropriate form dean, or advisor for additional information.

Teachers have regularly scheduled office hours and are willing to make other arrangements upon request. Additionally, through prior enrollment in the Kenefick Center for Learning (KCL), families may arrange for their child to receive tutoring for an hourly fee.

## **CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to graduate, students must earn 18 credits and fulfill the School's distribution requirements. Students earn one credit upon successful completion of a yearlong course, one-half credit upon successful completion of a semester course, and one-third credit upon completion of a trimester course.

### **Distribution Requirements:**

<i>Arts:</i>	one credit of visual and/or performing arts (all Third Formers take a full year of art)
<i>English:</i>	four years of form-level English, and required every year while enrolled
<i>History:</i>	two years, including US History (plus World History for Form III, Modern World History for Form IV)
<i>Languages:</i>	three years of the <u>same</u> language through level III
<i>Mathematics:</i>	three years, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (four years strongly encouraged)
<i>Science:</i>	two years of core laboratory science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
<i>Health and Wellness:</i>	required for Fourth Formers

Credit earned at other secondary schools can be applied toward a student's graduation requirements if the courses taken elsewhere are equivalent to those taught at Berkshire. Some elective courses may be credit-bearing but do not count toward fulfillment of distribution requirements. Questions concerning credit should be directed to the Dean of Academics.

In keeping with our School motto, *Pro vita non pro schola discimus* ("Learning—not just for school, but for life"), Berkshire School expects its graduates to achieve a level of social and behavioral maturity in addition to acceptable academic performance. Students who are unable or unwilling to follow the institution's behavioral expectations will not be awarded a Berkshire diploma.



## GRADING SYSTEM

Berkshire uses a grading system of A through F, with the following values assigned for computation of the grade-point average (GPA):

<b>A+</b> = 4.3 (97-100)	<b>B+</b> = 3.3 (87-89)	<b>C+</b> = 2.3 (77-79)	<b>D+</b> = 1.3 (67-69)	<b>F</b> = 0.0 (0-59)
<b>A</b> = 4.0 (93-96)	<b>B</b> = 3.0 (83-86)	<b>C</b> = 2.0 (73-76)	<b>D</b> = 1.0 (63-66)	
<b>A-</b> = 3.7 (90-92)	<b>B-</b> = 2.7 (80-82)	<b>C-</b> = 1.7 (70-72)	<b>D-</b> = 0.7 (60-62)	

### Basic Expectations of Students:

All Berkshire students are expected to approach their studies with the seriousness that they deserve. Such an approach not only impacts their own success, but also the success of all other students. Following are the basic expectations that all students are expected to meet:

- abide by the Honor Code at all times
- attend class
- arrive to class on time, within dress guidelines, and with appropriate materials
- complete homework and assessments on time
- engage productively and respectfully during class
- engage in timely and appropriate communication with teachers
- work up to demonstrated potential
- adhere to school policies on the appropriate use of technology

A Berkshire student who receives a notice of *Not Meeting Expectations* on any grade report is a student who has excessive tardies or absences for a single class during the marking period, and/or habitually arrives to class unprepared, and/or does not turn in work consistently when work is due, and/or exhibits disruptive behavior during class that distracts from the learning taking place, and/or has an Honor Code violation. Any student who is *Not Meeting Expectations* will not qualify for academic honors.

## CELL PHONES AND HEADPHONES

Students will place their cell phones in the designated collection box at the beginning of each class meeting; teachers will enforce these expectations. Students may not wear headphones, even if off, while in class unless explicitly permitted by their teacher.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Berkshire School is, first and foremost, a school, and, as such, we ask our students to meet high standards in and out of the classroom. Thus, it is imperative that students meet their obligations across all aspects of school life, and in doing so demonstrate their commitment to their community. Berkshire students are expected to be present and engaged in the life of our school, including extracurricular and co-curricular commitments and *Pro Vita* programming and events.

Given these expectations, a student's absence is not taken lightly. When a member of our community is not present, we are diminished—and each commitment missed detracts from the student's learning and experience. Put simply, we believe that the full Berkshire experience requires consistent presence. Consequently, the decision to take time away from school is a serious one with particular expectations.

Understanding that being present in an engaged academic classroom is essential to an optimal learning environment, students should **not miss more than 20% of any given course. Long-term or accrued chronic absence from class in excess of 20% of the total course meetings—whether excused or unexcused—jeopardizes a student's ability to earn credit and may necessitate a student engage in summer or credit-recovery work or an alteration to the student's current and/or future courses.**

Anticipated absences should be reported to the Student Life Office and the student's form dean in advance of the absence in order to be considered "excused." Students anticipating an absence from School will be asked to meet with their form dean and complete a leave form. While absences will be tracked by form deans and the Student Life Office, it is important that families also keep track of absences.

**Please note that major school dates are published a year in advance and early departures during exam weeks, *Pro Vita*, or at the end of a marking period are not permitted.**

Any sixth-form student who accumulates six (6) or more unexcused absences across school commitments in the spring trimester may be suspended and/or may be excluded from attending graduation and may have their diploma delayed or withheld.

**Tardy vs. Absent:** Students will be marked *tardy* if they arrive late to class or other commitments but **within the first ten (10) minutes**. Students arriving to class **after ten (10) minutes** should stay for the duration of class but will be marked *absent*.

Faculty are expected to begin all classes on time. Students are expected to wait for their teacher in the classroom for the duration of the academic period unless they are formally dismissed by an authorized administrator, such as the Dean of Academics, Dean of Faculty, or Department Chair.

## LATE WORK POLICY

Any student who misses work or instruction as a result of absence from class because of illness or other excused reasons is

responsible for seeing that the work is made up. Students who expect to be out of School for more than one day, or boarding students who are sent home to recover from illness, are responsible for communicating with individual teachers via email and/or keeping up with daily assignments as posted on Veracross as their condition permits. **Work missed during an excused leave must be completed within seven (7) days upon a student's return to school.** Extensions beyond the seven-day period must be approved by the student's form dean, who will communicate any approved extensions to the student's teacher(s).

Work submitted more than two weeks beyond the initial deadline will not be graded for credit. Without explicit permission from the Dean of Academics, teachers can not grant an extension for credit beyond two weeks of the original due date.

In the case of a Leave of Absence, the student's form dean will work with the student and their teachers to create a list of essential work that must be completed. Cases will be handled individually.

**Missed Assessments:** Any student whose absence is unexcused during an in-class assessment may make up the assessment with a 10% deduction. Students who willfully skip assessments could find themselves subject to a steeper penalty up to and including failing the assessment. Some smaller assessments may not be made up for credit and will receive a zero.

## GRADING POLICY

Each academic department, in consultation with the Dean of Academics, determines the relative weights of class discussion, homework, quizzes, tests, papers, and other work. The classroom teacher will announce the weight of each component of the grade at the beginning of the trimester. To pass a yearlong course, the average of the three trimesters must be a passing grade. Additionally, Sixth Formers must pass all course work undertaken in the spring trimester in order to graduate.

## GRADE REPORTS

The academic year consists of three trimesters. Grades are available to families online in the Veracross Parent Portal at the end of each trimester; progress reports are available at each midpoint. Comments from teachers are written at the close of each trimester. For students who receive a grade of C- or lower and/or students who receive a *Not Meeting Expectations*, teachers also write comments at the midpoint of each trimester. Advisor comments are included with the fall and winter mid-term progress reports and at the end of the year. Families may stay informed of their child's progress through the advisor and appropriate form dean.

## ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Exceptional scholastic achievement is recognized through the Honor Roll at the end of each trimester. Students who have a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher, no grades below C+, no incompletes, and no reports of *Not Meeting Expectations* are placed on the Honor Roll. Students who have a GPA of 3.7 or higher, no grades below B, no incompletes, and no reports of *Not Meeting Expectations* are placed on the High Honor Roll.

## ACADEMIC STANDING

At the close of each trimester, the entire faculty reviews the academic and social progress of all students who have had academic or disciplinary difficulties and recommends appropriate support and action. Students are placed on Academic Warning if they have failed one course, or have a grade point average below 2.3, or receive two *Not Meeting Expectations* in a given trimester. Students are placed on Academic Probation if they have been on Academic Warning for two consecutive trimesters; additionally students are placed on Academic Probation if they have failed two courses, or have a grade point average below 2.0, or receive three or more *Not Meeting Expectations* in a given trimester. Any student on Academic Probation who falls below the threshold for Academic Warning during the probationary period (two trimesters) will be subject to dismissal. Any student who fails two or more courses for the year will also be subject to dismissal.

## TESTS

Teachers announce tests and other major assessments at least one week in advance. Students who have three or more tests scheduled for the same day may arrange at least 24 hours **in advance** to have one test rescheduled. The test that is rescheduled is typically the last test that was scheduled.

## KENEFICK CENTER FOR LEARNING (KCL)

In addition to academic resources such as office hours provided by teachers, the Math Resource Center (MRC), and the Writing Center, the Kenefick Center for Learning (KCL) offers one-to-one support in the areas of executive function, study skills and learning strategies; there is also math-specific tutoring. Learning specialists communicate with teachers and advisors to ensure that everyone is informed on the student's progress. Sessions occur during the student's free period(s) of the academic day, and math tutoring is during evening study hall hours. Questions about enrolling in KCL should be directed to the Director of KCL and appropriate form dean.

## COURSE SELECTION

Academic offerings are listed in the *Curriculum Guide* on Berkshire School's website. Questions about particular courses should be addressed to the Dean of Academics, appropriate form dean or department chair. Courses of study for the following year are formed through consultation among students, advisors, form deans, and department chairs in the spring of each year. For new students, the Dean of Academics and department chairs propose a program that suits each individual's academic background and interests, and this is sent to parents/guardians for their review. Advanced level/Advancement Placement course(s) are determined by the appropriate department chair in consultation with department faculty.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

Advanced Placement courses require the successful completion of all course prerequisites and departmental approval. Students who take an AP course are **required** to take the AP exam for that course. Please note that colleges will not award credit for an AP course without successful completion of the AP exam to the specific standards of the admitting school. In addition to the exams for AP classes currently offered at Berkshire, only the following supplemental exams will be offered based on student interest: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Music Theory, and Psychology. The fee for the 2023-24 AP exam was \$98 per subject. Please contact the Standardized Testing Coordinator for more information on AP exams.

## **CHANGING COURSES**

Students may request course changes during the first two weeks of each trimester. In order to make changes in an approved schedule, students must initiate with their form dean a formal course-change request. If at any point it becomes apparent that a student's placement within a given discipline is inappropriate, the School reserves the right to make appropriate changes to the student's schedule. If a student drops a course after the first trimester, the drop will be reflected on the transcript.

## **AUDITING COURSES**

Students wishing to audit a course (attend it without receiving credit) must obtain written permission from the Dean of Academics.

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECTS**

Motivated students who demonstrate the commitment and aptitude to work independently at an advanced level may develop a project in partnership with a faculty advisor. An independent study is taken as a sixth course, either for a trimester or yearlong, and requires department and committee approval. Contact the Independent Study Coordinator for more information.

## **MAJOR SCHOOL RULES**

In coming to Berkshire, you have entered a diverse community made up of people from all over the world and from all racial, ethnic and spiritual backgrounds. For such a community to work, each of its members must share a commitment to the School's core values. This expectation includes every aspect of life at Berkshire: our admission process, standards of academic integrity in our classrooms, social climate of our dorms, sportsmanship in athletic programs, leadership and community service opportunities, and our standards of discipline. More specifically, at Berkshire we believe the following:

- We must treat others with dignity, sensitivity, and acceptance.
- The respect of property, whether the School's or an individual's, is vital to the well-being of the School.
- Good citizenship in the community entails a respect for the rules.
- Each member of the community has the opportunity to serve others.
- Without personal integrity, our community cannot function.

## **GENERAL**

Students shall always act honestly and with consideration for others. Conduct that violates the law or reflects badly upon the School, whether committed in School or elsewhere and whether committed while School is in session or not, may be cause for discipline, including dismissal.

A student's standing at Berkshire is determined on the basis of scholarship, engagement, and conduct. Failure to maintain a good standing in any one of these areas may result in dismissal and/or the denial of a diploma. Certain rules, which the School considers particularly important for the well-being of the individual and the community, are grouped together as the Major School Rules. Violation of any of them may be considered as grounds for dismissal.

It shall be a condition of a student's enrollment and continued attendance at Berkshire School that a parent or guardian, and the student upon reaching the age of majority, shall agree in writing that the student shall abide by the Major School Rules and such other disciplinary rules as appear in the *Student/Family Handbook*. Students who reach the age of 18 will be required to sign an addendum to the enrollment agreement which provides permission for the School to release information and records to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). Sixth Formers who violate Major School Rules after spring recess, in all likelihood, will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Both parents/guardians and students should understand that while students are away on weekends, their conduct and welfare is the primary responsibility of their hosts, not of the School; however, students who take weekends to nearby homes must not be in violation of Berkshire rules if they return to the School or to the Sheffield area during the weekend. In addition, students who take weekends to homes in the immediate Sheffield area must not be in violation of Berkshire rules when leaving the homes of their hosts.

When students leave Berkshire to participate in off-campus programs, whether it be short trips, or trimester/semester/year-long programs, they do so with the School's recommendation and thus serve as representatives of Berkshire. These students are expected to act in a manner consistent with the guiding principles and expectations of the Berkshire community. If a student does not act accordingly, the School will respond appropriately to the situation.

The School reserves the right to search student rooms and vehicles for evidence of violation of Major School Rules.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

No student may use, possess, or attempt to purchase any dangerous or illegal drugs, hallucinogens, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol at School. Vaporizers, including all vape devices and e-cigarette systems, constitute drug paraphernalia. Students in possession of an e-cigarette or vaporizer should expect to be drug tested by the School.

Boarding students, and day students in the company of boarding students, may not violate any aspect of the Alcohol/Drugs Rule in the general neighborhood of School, including Sheffield and nearby towns. In addition, day students' use of alcohol and drugs (including hallucinogens) is subject to the general prohibition against violation of the law and conduct reflecting badly upon the School while away from Berkshire. The School may initiate random drug and alcohol testing in situations where a student's behavior indicates the likelihood that the student may be using drugs or alcohol. A positive test for alcohol or drugs will be evidence of a violation of the rule. The School does not distinguish between on-campus and off-campus use.

- Arrival at School with evidence of use of such drugs or alcohol is a violation of this rule, whether by boarding students following a day leave permission, weekend, or vacation, or by day students at any time.
- Use of alcohol on leave permissions, even in the company of parents/guardians, is a violation of this rule.
- All students aware that the Alcohol/Drugs Rule is being broken in their presence, and who do not make an immediate attempt to leave the vicinity, are in violation of it. Questions as to whether a student was so aware will be resolved by a committee composed of the Head of School, Dean of Students, and the student's form dean and advisor.
- Students are not permitted to drink nonalcoholic beer at School.
- Students are not permitted to possess a fake I.D. Possession of a fake I.D. may constitute a violation of a Major School Rule and initiate a discipline response.

## **MOTOR VEHICLES**

Students may ride in or drive motor vehicles only when operated by, or under the direction of, a person approved by their parent or guardian on the Travel Waiver, which must be on file in the Student Life Office. This rule applies to all travel to and from destinations on weekends and day leave permissions, and arrival from and departure for vacations. Boarding students are forbidden to have automobiles or other motor vehicles on campus or within 30 miles of School and are not allowed to arrange car service or taxis for local day leave permissions unless permission is obtained from the Dean of Students or Duty Administrator.

Day students who have a legitimate driver's license may drive to School and may drive other day students (in accordance with Massachusetts state law age limits) providing that written permission from both the driver's and the rider's parents/guardians is received by the Student Life Office. Other unlicensed day students are not permitted to ride in a motor vehicle to and from School or to and from School functions held either at Berkshire or some other school unless accompanied by a parent/guardian, faculty member, or an adult approved by name. Day students are never to give boarding students rides unless given permission by the Student Life Office.

Boarding students on weekends may not drive motor vehicles to Sheffield, other nearby towns, or the general neighborhood of the School at any time during the weekend or at the conclusion of the weekend.

Any exceptions to the Motor Vehicles Rule must be approved by the Dean of Students well in advance of the requested date. Some exceptions to the rule will require written permission from the parents/guardians of the student and the parents/guardians of the driver, and proof of the driver's liability coverage. Driving permissions can never be accepted over the telephone.

## **PERMISSIONS**

Boarding students are not allowed to leave School property after 7:45 PM without permission and are not allowed outside the School buildings after lights out until after 6:00 AM the next morning. Students found out of their dorms at unacceptable times will be considered in violation of the Permissions Rule. Day students who are on campus on school nights after 7:45 PM must follow the evening study hall expectations for their Form. All day students, with the exception of third-form students assigned to evening structured study hall, may be in the library at night without a pass. Day students must be off campus by the check-in time for their Form on Saturday nights. Boarding students may not go out of Sheffield without permission. Filling out a weekend permission form with the intent to deceive or going to an unapproved destination is a violation of the Permissions Rule. (See Sign-Out Procedures for more information.)

## **VISITATIONS**

Students are not permitted to have individuals of the opposite sex in dorm hallways, student rooms or behind any closed door, except as specified by the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth-Form Visitation Privileges. Parents/guardians are permitted in their child's rooms at any time, and other close relatives may visit student rooms with prior permission from a dorm parent. Students may secure special permission to visit faculty in any dorm for extra help and dorm functions. Intimate sexual contact during visitation periods or at any other time or place on campus is unacceptable at Berkshire and is a violation of the Visitations Rule.

## **FIRE HAZARDS**

Creating a fire hazard is a violation of a Major School Rule. Examples of such actions are irresponsible or unauthorized use of fire extinguishers, matches, lighters, candles, cooking appliances, incense, or other combustibles in or around a School building, use or

possession of fireworks, and tampering with alarms or fire equipment. Using a common room microwave and consequently causing something to burn will be considered a violation of the Fire Hazards Rule. Personal belongings left in hallways and stairwells as well as hanging items from exposed fire sprinkler lines is a major fire safety hazard for emergency exit. Phoning in a false alarm will also be a violation of this rule. Smoking anything within, or adjacent to, any of the School buildings is a violation of the Fire Hazards Rule. (Refer to the section on Tobacco and Nicotine Products for additional information.)

## **FIREARMS**

This rule prohibits the possession or use of firearms including, but not limited to, BB guns, pellet guns of any kind, or paint guns.

## **KEYS**

Students found using or in possession of digital keys (apps or other), key cards, or physical keys that were not legally issued to them, as well as students found in unauthorized areas of the School, are in violation of this rule.

## **RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT**

Students may not engage in reckless acts that expose others or themselves to an obvious risk of serious injury. For instance, going out on the roofs of the School buildings is a violation of this rule.

## **THEFT**

The theft of property or identity (fraud) is prohibited. Students are advised not to bring valuable jewelry to School because it is often misplaced or lost. Families may want to consider a lock box for small electronics and other valuables. ***Berkshire School is not responsible for the loss of personal property.***

## **GAMBLING**

Gambling is strictly prohibited on school premises and during all school-related activities. This prohibition includes poker or other card games involving betting, regardless of whether money or other valuables are at stake. It also encompasses sports betting including, but not limited to, online platforms such as DraftKings, ESPN, or other sports betting websites or apps.

## **GENERAL CONDUCT**

Any and all conduct off campus that is inconsistent with the expectations set out in both the Honor Code and the *Student/Family Handbook* that brings the name of Berkshire School into disrepute is considered a violation of a Major School Rule. Students are expected to meet their daily commitments at the School and are also expected to uphold the standards of the community. Any behavior unbecoming of a Berkshire student, especially disrespectful behavior, is considered a violation of this rule. Students who repeatedly reach Disciplinary Probation or whose general conduct is deemed unsatisfactory will not be allowed to remain at Berkshire.

## **COMPUTER USE**

Students who do not comply with the School's Responsible Use Policy (RUP) as defined in this Handbook are in violation of a Major School Rule. Please reference *Appendix A: Policies Governing the Use of Technology for Berkshire School Students: Responsible Use Policy*.

## **HARASSMENT**

All members of the community have the basic right not to be harassed. Harassment entails behavior that is inappropriate and that should not take place through ignorance or thoughtlessness. The School recognizes and respects individual differences in background with regard to culture, race, ethnic origin, religion, gender and sexual orientation. Inappropriate behavior in any form (verbal, physical, written, drawn, etc.) that demeans or offends others is unacceptable. It includes unwelcome physical advances, unwarranted verbal remarks, derogatory statements, or discriminatory comments and can occur between two individuals or groups of individuals. Technology and/or electronic devices may not be used to harass others. Violations of this rule will most likely result in dismissal for a first offense.

## **HAZING AND BULLYING**

Berkshire School adheres to the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269 and Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010, that regard hazing and bullying as crimes, which makes it unacceptable at Berkshire. Please reference *Appendix B: Berkshire School Hazing Statute Acknowledgement Sheet* and *Appendix C: Berkshire School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan*.

## **TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS**

For reasons of student health and in compliance with state regulations, students are prohibited from using or possessing tobacco products and other nicotine delivery products on campus or in the local towns, regardless of age. In response to a first offense, the student will be required to meet with the Dean of Students, call their parents/guardians, meet with the school physician, and the student will be invited to meet with the school counselor. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Warning, and the student's room may be searched. A letter will be sent home to document the incident and response. In response to a second offense, the student will be required to meet again with the Dean of Students and school physician, and the student will be required to meet with the school counselor to discuss the need for ongoing treatment. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Probation, the student's room will be searched, and a letter will be sent home outlining a school suspension in the case of a third offense. Subsequent occurrences may lead

to a longer or permanent separation from the School. Smoking anything within, or adjacent to, any of the School buildings will be referred to the Dean of Students as a violation of the Major School Rule with regard to creating a fire hazard.

### **VAPORIZERS AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

Items identified as vaporizers and electronic cigarettes are not permitted. Such devices are used to consume nicotine and can be used as drug paraphernalia. A student in possession of an electronic cigarette or vaporizer should expect to be drug tested. A positive test for drugs is a violation of the Alcohol/Drugs Rule. A negative test is a violation of the Tobacco/Nicotine Rule.

## **DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE**

When a student violates a Major School Rule, the case is referred to the Dean of Students, who will either refer the case to the Discipline Committee or set a penalty in accordance with guidelines established by the Discipline Committee. Every attempt will be made to have multiple trusted adults present in the process and in the information gathering period, such as a student's advisor, coach or dorm parent. The Discipline Committee is composed of three students and three faculty with a nonvoting faculty chair. Students who appear before the Discipline Committee will have an opportunity to make a statement regarding the circumstances of the infraction. The student's advisor and form dean will also be invited to the meeting to speak in support of the student, but no other representatives may participate in the Disciplinary process.

The Discipline Committee may recommend Warning periods, Probation periods, suspensions, or combinations of these; dismissal; or other responses its members deem appropriate.

A student may, in some cases, be placed on Warning in regard to the rule that was violated for a period of time recommended by the Discipline Committee. Warning indicates that a student will likely be dismissed if they violate that rule again during the period of Warning.

A student who violates more than one Major School Rule or whose conduct warrants such a response may also be placed on Probation by recommendation of the Discipline Committee or by the Dean of Students with the approval of the Head of School. Probation indicates that a student will likely be dismissed for violating any Major School Rule during the period of Probation. Reaching Disciplinary Probation once, although a violation of a Major School Rule, will not normally lead to the dismissal of a student on Probation.

Of course, the Discipline Committee may recommend the dismissal of a student for a first violation of a Major School Rule if it feels the circumstances warrant such action. Students found selling drugs or alcohol or procuring drugs or alcohol for other students will be dismissed for a first offense. Students found using or possessing illegal drugs or prescription drugs required to be kept in Student Health Services may be dismissed for a first offense.

Whenever students are placed on Probation, their parents/guardians are required to come to School to discuss their child's overall record.

In rare cases, the Head of School and the Dean of Students reserve the right to dismiss a student or withhold a diploma for grave failure to maintain good standing in scholarship, effort, or conduct, without resorting to the foregoing disciplinary procedures.

### **DISCIPLINARY DISCLOSURE ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

Upon direct request from some colleges for information pertaining to a student's discipline record, the *student* must honestly and fully disclose if they have been subject to a disciplinary response including, but not limited to, probation, suspension, dismissal, or withdrawal from Berkshire School. The college will most likely follow-up with their college counselor, and the student should work closely with their counselor to ensure that both are responding in a consistent and thoughtful manner.

If a student's disciplinary status changes after the filing of college applications in the sixth-form year, the student has the obligation to inform all schools that ask about discipline status in the application, or the school at which the student has submitted an enrollment deposit, if they require it. The student should notify the college or colleges within two weeks from the date of the change in status. Two weeks after the change in status, the Director of College Counseling will notify the colleges in writing that the student's status has changed and the reason for the change.

This policy is in compliance with the National Association for College Admission Counseling's Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

### **RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE BERKSHIRE COMPUTER NETWORK**

It is the general policy of Berkshire School that all technology and network services are to be used in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the School. Users of the Berkshire network must acknowledge their understanding of the general policy and guidelines as a condition of using the network. All community and guest users are responsible for adhering to these Berkshire policies and procedures for network use.

Use of the network is a privilege, not a right. Failure to act in accordance with the Responsible Use Policy may result in a loss of network access, disciplinary action, or criminal penalties under applicable state and federal law. Information on observed or reported violations will be turned over to the Dean of Students for disposition.

Acceptable use of the network includes activities that support learning, teaching, and communication. Students and faculty are

encouraged to explore and develop new ways of using technology to support Berkshire teaching and learning objectives.

Berkshire School makes no express or implied warranty for the Internet access it provides or the resources available through the use of our network. We cannot completely eliminate access to information that is offensive or illegal and residing on networks outside of the Berkshire School campus. Berkshire cannot guarantee the availability of access to the Internet and will not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical and/or other difficulties.

All parents/guardians and students must agree to the Responsible Use Policy (RUP). Please reference *Appendix A: Policies Governing the Use of Technology for Berkshire School Students: Responsible Use Policy* in this Handbook.

## **CONDUCT SYSTEM**

Berkshire's conduct system is not designed to penalize students for every minor infraction of the School's regulations. It is, however, a system that allows us to track patterns of behavior that can reveal a student's struggle to meet basic expectations such as timeliness, attendance, and respect. Conduct points are cumulative for each trimester. A description of each student's points is available to all advisors. (Please refer to the Attendance Policy section under the Academic Program for additional information regarding missed commitments.)

Conduct and attendance reports will be monitored by the Student Life Office and form deans. Students and advisors will receive notification from Veracross when conduct points are assigned; students are also expected to monitor their own conduct reports on Veracross. Students have 48 hours to address the points with the faculty member who assigned them if they feel they are not accurate. Excuses for conduct reports will not be accepted beyond 48 hours of being issued.

Students who miss class for illness must report to Student Health Services before the class meets. Students taking medications may not miss classes or meetings to pick up their prescriptions. If a student is in need of counseling services during the academic day and a counselor is not available they must go to Student Health in order to have an absence excused.

It is the responsibility of each student to meet required appointments. Alarm clock problems will never be accepted as an excuse for missing class or any other obligation. (We recommend that students who have a hard time waking up in the morning use an actual alarm clock or a rooster instead of their phones.)

### **Please note the following standardized penalties:**

5 point offenses: absence from class (*extreme lateness of 10 minutes or more is also considered an absence*), school meetings, athletics or afternoon programming, study hall or tutoring, visitations violation

3 point offenses: late weekend forms, absence from Community Dinner, leaving room after lights-out, missing scheduled doctor appointments at SHS, failed room inspections

2 point offenses: lateness (*extreme lateness carries larger penalties, see above*)

Continued violation or abuse of a School rule or regulation may result in a more serious penalty than the one normally applied.

Conduct records are maintained each trimester and will close on the last day of the trimester.

## **DISCIPLINARY WARNING**

Students who have accumulated a total of 15 points (or three absences) during a trimester will be placed on Disciplinary Warning. A student placed on Disciplinary Warning:

- is restricted from leaving campus during the day or for a weekend during the period of their Warning;
- must leave campus by 7:45 PM on weekdays in the case of a day student;
- must serve Weekend Detention (Saturday 8:30-10:30 PM), required for day *and* boarding students who reach Disciplinary Warning;
- may not use Interdorm Visitation Privileges for one week.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROBATION**

Students who have accumulated 25 points (or five absences) during a trimester will be placed on Disciplinary Probation, and their cases will be referred to the Dean of Students for violation of a Major School Rule. Students with leadership roles who reach Disciplinary Probation may risk losing their title and responsibilities. A student placed on Disciplinary Probation:

- is restricted from leaving campus for a two-week period while on Probation;
- must leave campus by 7:45 PM on weekdays in the case of a day student;
- must serve two Weekend Detentions (Saturday 8:30-10:30 PM), required for day *and* boarding students who reach Disciplinary Probation;
- may not use Interdorm Visitation privileges for two weeks.

In addition to any disciplinary action, the Dean of Students will automatically review the record of each student on Disciplinary Probation at the end of the trimester, or earlier if the situation warrants, and will refer the matter to the Discipline Committee for further action if necessary. Students placed on Probation more than once will receive stiffer penalties, and faculty will review their records at the end of each conduct term.

Students on Disciplinary Warning or Probation will be allowed to leave campus only for a school-required activity. This permission will be granted by the Dean of Students or the Duty Administrator and will not interfere with evening restrictions.

Students who have received any discipline that involves a weekend restriction will not be allowed to leave campus. Students are encouraged to recognize that there are consequences for their actions, and that they must think ahead about whether or not there is an important weekend engagement coming up. Discipline will generally not be changed for the convenience of students or their families.

### **DISCIPLINARY RESTRICTION**

Students who exceed the threshold of 35 conduct points will be placed on Disciplinary Restriction. Restriction is taken very seriously and is intended to provide a highly structured environment that promotes accountability and identifies the underlying issues that are preventing a student from thriving at Berkshire. After a comprehensive review of the conduct record and a conversation with the Dean of Students and advisor, students on restriction will be expected to adhere to specific guidelines, such as reduced access to certain privileges, enhanced study time, engagement with counseling or tutoring services, and regular check-ins with their advisors.

Furthermore, adjustments may be made within the residential life department to create an environment that supports a student's personal development. Strategies for change may include assigning a dorm parent who can provide additional guidance, conducting regular meetings to assess the student's progress, or establishing clear expectations regarding the student's behavior within the dorm.

In order to encourage self-reflection and accountability, the Dean of Students may request that a student complete a written reflection to share with the advisor and Student Life Office. This reflection should delve into the student's behavior, mindset, challenges faced, and strategies for improvement. Students can gain insights into their actions and work towards personal growth by engaging in this process.

Finally, both the student and their families should understand that reaching a cumulative total of 35 disciplinary points more than once, regardless of the trimester, may result in the student being suspended from School. Students must understand the seriousness of this warning and take the necessary steps to avoid such consequences.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING**

If a student is confronted with concerns of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and there is reasonable suspicion of use based upon the student's behavior or the circumstances, the School may test the student for alcohol and other drugs with an immediate urine or breathalyzer test at Student Health Services or the Student Life Office. A student who is present in a room/group where illegal substances are present, or where there is a concern of use by someone in the room, or where it has been established that another student in the room/group has violated the Alcohol/Drugs Rule, may also be tested.

The test will be administered by the nurse on duty, Dean of Students, or Duty Administrator. When a student admits to use prior to the test, a drug and alcohol test may be administered to help determine appropriate health treatment and gain an understanding of usage by the student. Berkshire School does not differentiate between substance use off campus and on campus. Students refusing to take a test will be considered in violation of the Alcohol/Drugs Rule. Results of the test will be shared with parents/guardians.

A student who is found in violation of the Alcohol/Drugs Rule, and who is allowed to return to School, may be subject to random drug or alcohol testing for the remainder of their career. In these situations, the Dean of Students will initiate the time and date of the test. Drug and alcohol testing will be administered through Student Health Services under the supervision of the school nurse. A positive test will be considered a violation of the Alcohol/Drugs Rule, and the student will be dismissed from School for a second alcohol/drugs violation. Parents/guardians are responsible for testing costs.

Prior to a student's return to campus following a Major School Rule violation involving drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances, they must undergo an evaluation by a professional substance use and abuse specialist. This evaluation is mandatory and aims to support the student's well-being by deepening their understanding of the role of substances in their life. The student will not be permitted to return until the evaluation is completed and confirmation is received by our Counseling Office. Berkshire School has established a relationship with a local provider to facilitate this process. Additionally, the evaluation fee can be waived for families experiencing financial hardship, ensuring that all students have access to the necessary support regardless of their financial situation.

### **FIRST RESPONSE**

Berkshire's first priority is the safety and well-being of its students. To encourage students to seek medical help for their peers, students are assured that seeking medical help in an emergency will initiate medical rather than a disciplinary intervention. Consequently, students may voluntarily use Student Health Services in any medical crisis, including the consumption of drugs and alcohol, to ensure appropriate medical help.

This process must begin with a phone call to Student Health Services from the student or from a student assisting. Alternatively, a student may contact a staff or faculty member for assistance in contacting Student Health Services. Faculty are required to report infractions of Drug and Alcohol policies and, therefore, cannot declare First Response for a student.

A student confronted about alcohol or substance use cannot claim that they had intended to go to Student Health Services or was en route there. However, once the phone call establishes the intent, the student will not sit before the Discipline Committee, be suspended,



or placed on probation. Final determination as to whether a specific case has met the criteria for First Response will rest with the School.

If First Response is enacted for a student, the student will go home for a short leave to spend time with family/guardians. The student's parents/guardians will be asked to come to School for a conference with the Head of School and other appropriate faculty to discuss measures that will be taken to support the student. Students will then be required to have an independent assessment within two weeks of returning to School. The results of the assessment will be shared with the School's Director of Counseling. Students must follow recommendations established for them, or they will most likely have to withdraw from School.

In the event that a student uses First Response procedures a second time or has already been involved in the disciplinary process because of alcohol or substance use, their behavior would initiate a conversation to determine if there is a need for more resources and support than Berkshire is able to provide, and the student will be allowed to withdraw from School.

## **BOUNDS, DAY PERMISSIONS, AND OVERNIGHT PROCEDURES**

Bounds, day permissions, and overnight sign-outs are based on the principle of the Honor Code that "a student's word is their bond." Discussing your plans with the Student Life Office or having your parents/guardians call in does not relieve you of the responsibility of signing out properly. It is assumed that when students take an overnight or a day trip, they are going to the place that was approved by their parents/guardians and the School. They may not take an overnight or day trip to any other place without parental and School permission. All permissions to be away from the School for medical appointments must be first cleared through Student Health Services. Such appointments should be limited to the middle of the week, not on Saturday mornings when classes/programming are in session since the School does not sanction the combining of medical and social permissions. All sign-out and sign-in procedures are handled by the Student Life Office.

### **BOUNDS**

The non-wooded areas of campus mark the daytime bounds of the School. Nighttime bounds are defined by those areas of campus with lantern lighting. In the evenings, students are expected to remain in those areas where academic and social activities are scheduled. The football field may be used during evening free time for recreational activities. Students who sign out to the Mountain must follow the procedures listed under Local Day Permissions. The Mountain, which includes all wooded areas around campus, is closed at 7:00 PM or dark, whichever comes first. The Mountain is also closed during hunting season and may be closed if safety or weather conditions warrant it. The ropes course is out of bounds for all students unless a faculty member accompanies them. All fire escapes, rooftops, basements, and boiler rooms are considered out of bounds. Violation of bounds is considered to be a permissions violation and will result in disciplinary actions being taken.

### **DAY LEAVE PERMISSIONS**

Day leave permissions are submitted by students in the REACH Boarding application (REACH). For all day leave permissions, students must properly "SISO" (Sign In and Sign Out) when they leave and scan back into their dorm when they return, using the online REACH Boarding application. Whenever a student leaves campus—whether on foot for a hike, by bicycle to visit town, by motor vehicle, or using any other mode of transportation—they must complete the appropriate REACH form. Students are not allowed to walk to the center of Sheffield or arrange car service/taxis for local travel without the permission of the Dean of Students or Duty Administrator. All weekday day leave permissions end at 7:45 PM.

Saturday permissions start after a student's last commitment (class or athletic) and end at 10:00 PM. No students may be excused from class to get an early start. Sunday permissions run from 8:00 AM to 7:45 PM. Students leaving early Sunday morning are advised to submit their day leave permission the day before. Students may not sign out for dinner on nights when Community Dinners are served.

### **DELIVERIES**

To prioritize campus safety and minimize disruptions, all same-day deliveries—including takeout orders, Instacart, DoorDash, and other similar services—must be directed to the space adjacent to the Post Office on the lower level of the Jackman L. Stewart Center or the main lobby of the Soffer Athletic Center. No exceptions will be made. Deliveries to other locations or outside designated hours will be sent to the Student Life Office for disposal, and repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

### **SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES FOR OVERNIGHTS AND SPECIAL REQUESTS**

Students must always complete and submit permission forms through the REACH Boarding application when leaving campus overnight. With certain exceptions explained below, students are allowed to leave Berkshire on Saturday as long as they do not miss any classes or afternoon program commitments.

- Weekend overnights start after a student's last commitment (class or athletic) on Saturday and end at 7:45 PM Sunday. No student may be excused from class for an early departure. Friday departures after commitments are permitted when there is a free Saturday and no afternoon programming.
- Students placed on Disciplinary Warning and Probation lose weekend and day leave privileges.
- Students may not take a weekend overnight on closed weekends. During 2024-2025, closed weekends fall on the following dates:

September 7, October 26, November 16, January 11, February 1, May 17 (Sixth Form), and May 24 (Underformers).

- The Weekend Overnight leave form must be submitted on the REACH Boarding app by 12:00 PM on Thursday. The online form is available from Monday morning until 12:00 PM on Thursday. For vacations, travel forms are to be submitted on the REACH Boarding app. Students should check their email and listen to meeting announcements for deadlines.
- A Special Request leave form needs to be completed when missing School obligation(s) for any outside commitments other than athletic events or college visits. Special Request leave forms are located in the Student Life Office and must be turned in, completed, to the Student Life Office three days prior to the departure date. Students must first obtain a signature from the Dean of Students, followed by their teachers, coach, advisor, and form dean.
- A three-point penalty will be assigned to students handing in late forms. Failure to submit a form prior to departure may result in a student being placed on restriction or be found in violation of a Major School Rule violation concerning Permissions.
- When students go to their homes, the School expects that a parent/guardian or an adult approved by a parent/guardian will be present. Additionally, students may not sign out to a hotel or any other location unless their parent/guardian, the parent/guardian of another student, or an adult approved by their parent/guardian is present for the entire weekend.
- Students must also have an invitation and approval from their host for the weekend whenever they leave School to visit any place other than their own homes. The host name, email, and contact information should be submitted in the leave form on the REACH Boarding app.
- When attending a concert or other function before going to their home or to the home of their host family, students must be picked up from School by their own parent/guardian or their host parent/guardian.
- Students departing campus on a leave must sign out (SISO) through the REACH Boarding app prior to departing campus. Failure to sign out will result in a three-point penalty.
- Students returning from a leave must sign in (SISO) by scanning in with the REACH Boarding app at their dorm no later than 7:45 PM. Failure to sign in by 7:45 PM will result in a three-point penalty.
- If a student is delayed returning from a weekend for any reason, they should immediately call the Duty Administrator at 413-429-6132 before 7:45 PM. Berkshire School expects all students to make every effort to avoid late returns to campus.

## **COLLEGE DAYS**

Students are allowed to miss up to four class days during their Berkshire career for the purpose of visiting colleges. College Visit Request leave forms are located in the College Counseling Office and must be turned in to the Student Life Office three days prior to the departure date. Students must first obtain a signature from their college counselor, followed by their teachers, coach, advisor, and form dean. A three-point penalty will be assigned to students handing in late forms. Failure to submit a form prior to departure may result in a student being placed on restriction or be found in violation of a Major School Rule violation concerning Permissions.

Students are encouraged to use School vacations for college visits to allow them to use their College Days for visits in late April after college acceptances have been received. Students who find it unavoidable to take an extra College Day will receive class cuts at the discretion of the Director of College Counseling and the Dean of Students. Please refer to the Attendance Policy section under the Academic Program for additional information regarding missed commitments.

Sixth Formers should understand that College Days are to be used only for the purpose of meaningful college visits and should not be viewed as “free days” they are entitled to take for any purpose. In most cases, the College Counseling Office will not approve visits from Friday through Sunday.

## **DAILY LIFE AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

### **ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AT BERKSHIRE SCHOOL**

To thrive at Berkshire School, students must demonstrate a range of essential functional skills crucial for growth and development during adolescence. We believe that fostering these skills supports success within our community and lays a strong foundation for future endeavors, whether in college or beyond. At Berkshire School, we encourage students to cultivate their abilities in self-management and relationship skills, understanding that these are integral to personal growth and maturation.

Students must demonstrate proficiency in regulating their sleep, meeting deadlines, fulfilling obligations, maintaining a healthy environment, practicing self-care, managing impulses, and adhering to medication compliance. Appropriate use of our student health and support services is also essential for ensuring overall well-being and academic success.

Additionally, within our nurturing environment, students must exhibit the capacity to share living spaces respectfully, which includes effectively living with a roommate, embracing diversity, establishing healthy boundaries, communicating effectively, and engaging in interactions characterized by honesty, respect, and kindness. These skills are fundamental for students to thrive and excel in their academic and personal journeys at Berkshire School.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR INTERPERSONAL STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS**

Every student in the Berkshire community has a right to be treated with civility and respect. Our curriculum emphasizes respect for differences, and teachers are clear in their expectations for student behavior. In addition, the Head of School, Dean of Students and other school administrators use school meetings and similar community gatherings to make sure students are well informed about what is expected of them and to reinforce positive conduct.

Students should give careful consideration to how they communicate with others. Students are responsible for their words, actions, appearance, and use of technology—none of which should have a negative impact on others. The School actively educates students about healthy and appropriate relationships to ensure a positive school culture based on personal responsibility and development of the School's core values.

### **SEXUAL INTIMACY, DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION, AND CONSENT**

Berkshire School is concerned about the physical and emotional health and development of its students. The School recognizes that sexual intimacy is a very private matter, yet it also feels the decision to be sexually intimate requires a high level of mental, physical, and emotional maturity for which most teenagers are not well prepared. Therefore, Berkshire School considers intimate sexual contact between students on campus unacceptable and reserves the right for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Abstaining from sexual intimacy while at School is essential for our community to function in a manner that supports our core values and allows us to grant students the level of independence they desire in their day-to-day life on campus. In addition, public displays of affection that are overly physical or explicit are not appropriate in the environment of the School. Students must conduct themselves in a manner in which others are not offended.

If students are found to be involved in sexually intimate activity, or in a situation that suggests they have been intimate, the School will respond with support for the student's health and may include notification to the parents/guardians. The School will respond with disciplinary action when sexually intimate activity is accompanied by other school rule violations.

The School has legal obligations which must be clear to all students and parents/guardians. Massachusetts State Law stipulates that any person who engages in sexual intercourse or unnatural sexual intercourse with a person less than 16 years of age is subject to prosecution under state law. Often referred to as Statutory Rape, sexual activity with a person under 16 can never be considered consensual—that is, it is always considered rape. In certain situations, Berkshire School is required by law to report inappropriate sexual activity to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. The School will consider a disciplinary response for students under the age of 16 who engage in sexual intercourse and for students age 16 or over who engage in sexual intercourse with a student under the age of 16.

The state of Massachusetts also prohibits students from engaging in non-consensual sexual activity, and therefore the School considers it a major disciplinary violation which will most likely result in dismissal. Consent is clear, voluntary, and an unambiguous agreement to participate in a particular sexual activity. Consent must be voluntarily given and is not valid:

- by law in Massachusetts if under the age of 16;
- by law in Massachusetts, there can be no consent to touching the buttocks, breasts, or genitals of a person under the age of 14;
- if obtained by physical force, coercion, or threat;
- when a person is asleep or incapacitated;
- when an intellectual or other disability prevents a person from having the capacity to give consent.

Consent is ongoing and may be withdrawn at any time. Consenting on one occasion is not transferable to other occasions and consenting to one behavior does not obligate a person to any other behavior.

### **PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING HARRASSMENT, HAZING, BULLYING, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

Individuals might unintentionally act in a manner that others experience as harassing or humiliating. Attempts to justify such behavior as a "prank" or "joke" do not change its harassing nature if the object of the joke is not a willing participant. Whenever possible, explaining the unwelcome and inappropriate nature of the behavior to the offender should precede more formal actions. Harassment is not to be confused with honest constructive dialog or expression of difference of opinion, that is valued by the School.

Harassment, including violations of privacy through recordings or images, is strictly prohibited. This includes recording or photographing individuals without their express permission. Additionally, using Artificial Intelligence to manipulate another community member's likeness without their consent is also considered harassment and is forbidden.

The School does not tolerate physical, verbal, or digital behavior that constitutes harassment, hazing, bullying, sexual assault, or sexual harassment and is committed to addressing reported behavior by any member of the community that occurs:

- anywhere on School grounds and at School-sponsored events, activities, functions, and programs;
- on school buses and other vehicles owned, leased, or used by the School, and through use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased, or used by the School;

- at a location, activity, function, or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at School for a targeted student; infringes on the rights of a targeted student at School; or materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the School;
- on the school network (even on a personal device), technology equipment, or on School-sponsored digital channels.

Individuals who believe they have been a victim of, or are aware of, harassment, hazing, bullying, sexual assault, or sexual harassment should report the alleged incident to a Berkshire School administrator or faculty member. In all situations the School will intervene immediately to investigate the situation and respond in a timely and direct manner to address the behavior. When a complaint is brought to the attention of the Head of School or Dean of Students, an assessment is made as to whether any initial steps need to be taken to protect the well-being of students and to prevent disruption of their learning environment while the investigation is being conducted.

In all cases, a prompt, thorough, and fair investigation of the circumstances will be undertaken. An impartial investigation of the complaint is conducted by the Head of School or by someone designated by the Head of School. That investigation may include (but will not necessarily be limited to) interviews with the person who made the complaint, with the student who was the target of the alleged behavior, with the person or persons against whom the complaint was made, and with any students, faculty, staff, or other persons who witnessed or who may otherwise have relevant information about the alleged incident.

Depending on the circumstances, the Head of School or designee conducting the investigation also may choose to consult with other teachers and/or the School Counselor when conducting the investigation. The utmost discretion will be used consistent with the requirements of the law in the conduct of the investigation. The goal of an investigation, and any disciplinary or other remedial process that is imposed following that investigation, is to correct the situation to the extent it is reasonably possible and to take such steps as can be taken to prevent there being a repetition of the incident and to prevent the student or students targeted and others who participated in the investigation from being subject to retaliation. If an investigation indicates that an inappropriate or unlawful act has, in fact, occurred, immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, up to and including dismissal. In addition, the Head of School will determine whether to notify the local law enforcement agency of the reported incident.

In all situations, the amount of information shared by the School may be limited by confidentiality laws protecting records, privacy considerations, and other concerns regarding the investigatory process.

Note: All Berkshire students receive yearly education regarding harassment, hazing, bullying, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. They also receive information on reporting and the School's First Response program. For more information regarding the School's policies in this area, students are encouraged to meet with an administrator of their choice. The School's *Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan* is in Appendix C of this document. The plan includes additional information about investigation procedures and legal definitions.

## **RETALIATION**

Retaliation of any kind against any individual for reporting violations, whether by the subject of the complaint or by someone else, will not be tolerated and is considered a violation of a Major School Rule. Retaliation includes any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or payback behaviors directed against a student who reports or brings forward incidents and behaviors that violate community values and/or Major School Rules, provides information during an investigation of such behavior, or witnesses or has reliable information about such behavior. Payback behaviors include, but are not limited to, ostracizing or "icing out," spreading or promoting the spread of rumors or misinformation, and demanding to know what a student shared or reported to initiate or as part of an investigation. Students who violate the School's retaliation policy face possible dismissal, even if they have no prior disciplinary history. *Students who believe they have been the target of retaliation should immediately contact their advisor, a member of the Student Life Office, a Form Dean, or another trusted Berkshire School community member.*

## **COMMUNITY NORM REPORTING SYSTEM**

Berkshire School is devoted to maintaining an inviting, respectful, and collaborative community in support of all its members. Dedicated to principles that foster integrity, civility, and dignity, our commitment to building our best culture is demonstrated through efforts focusing on continual growth and improvement. In support of monitoring and responding to incidents impacting the institutional climate and culture, the Community Norm Reporting System was developed.

A Community Norm violation is an incident where a member of the Berkshire School community acts, behaves, and/or makes a decision that disregards the School's Anti-Discrimination Policy and Core Values. Norm violations refer to conduct, speech, images, or expression that, in part or in whole, target individuals or groups based on--but not limited to--their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion/spiritual affiliation, socioeconomic status, or other social identities.

The Community Norm Reporting System is for reporting non-emergency incidents only. For emergencies, including safety concerns for community members, please contact any faculty member at School.

## DRESS GUIDELINES AND APPEARANCE

Berkshire School's guidelines for dress are used to help students present themselves in a way that aligns both with the School's community standards and values and allows for individual expression and comfort. Any questions about what is appropriate should be referred to the Student Life Office and/or Student Council Representatives. Students should expect to engage with adults in conversations about dress guidelines. If a student is asked by a faculty or staff member to change their attire because they are not in accordance with the dress guidelines, they should do so immediately. Students are responsible for any commitments missed while changing, including being marked late to or absent from class. **Insensitive, disrespectful, and offensive attire is inappropriate at all times. The dress guidelines are subject to change at any time.**

### Classroom Dress:

- required in academic and community spaces (including Allen Theater, dining hall) during the academic day (8:30 AM-3:00 PM) and during community dinner;
- tops and bottoms without tears or rips;
- clothing and footwear that is appropriate for an active classroom environment in any given season (fingertip length for skirts, dresses and shorts, navel covered);
- Berkshire quarter zips, sweatshirts (without hood), and team-issued tops (no t-shirts or jerseys) are allowed;
- clothing must cover undergarments; shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front and on the sides (under the arms);
- no t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, sweatpants, joggers, yoga pants, loungewear, athletic wear (unless a Berkshire top), cut-off jean shorts, mesh shorts, team jerseys, slippers, shower shoes, or other notably casual apparel;
- no hats in the classroom during the academic day, dining hall during meals, Berkshire Hall, Morgan-Bellas-Dixon, and Allen Theater

### Formal Dress:

- required at Senior Dinner, Prize Night, Commencement, other formal presentations, and events as determined by the School;
- tops may include: collared shirts with blazers and ties or bowties, blouses, dress shirts;
- bottoms may include: dress pants, khakis, skirts, dresses, formal jumpsuits

### Dress Down:

- dress down attire is permitted on certain days such as an extended break and other days communicated in advance;
- clothing worn on these special days must not be ripped or torn, and it must adhere to our community standards;
- sweatpants, hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, and other athletic wear are permitted

### Athletic Dress:

Berkshire School's indoor and outdoor athletics facilities allow students to enjoy physical exercise options and competitions. In this environment, students should adhere to the following:

- shirts, jerseys, or other team-issued tops, covering the midsection;
- sleeveless shirts are permitted but may not reveal the torso;
- being shirtless is strictly prohibited in any communal space on campus;
- bathing suits, swimsuits, and tank tops revealing the torso are only permitted on the softball field, while other School teams and programs are not using the field.

Students are asked to use common sense in choosing their attire and may be asked to change clothes if they are inappropriately dressed or their garments do not promote community standards. Clothing that advertises banned substances or hateful speech or ideology is not permitted at any time and could result in disciplinary action. If you have any questions about the guidelines for dress, please call the Student Life Office at 413-229-1219.

## MEALS

Because the dining hall is a very public place where families, students, faculty, staff, and guests gather every day, we expect everyone to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner considering the environment and the large number of people gathered. Students should be ambassadors of gracious living and must therefore clean up after themselves and deposit trash in the proper receptacles. Most meals in the dining hall are served buffet style, and students are free to sit where they wish. Once a week during the fall and spring the community gathers in the dining hall for a shared meal; seating at community dinners is assigned. All students are required to attend specified meals such as the holiday dinner.

**Breakfast** is served Monday through Saturday from 7:00 to 8:30 AM. On Sunday, continental breakfast is served from 8:00 to 9:00 AM, and brunch is served from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. (Students are required to check-in at brunch.)

**Lunch** is served Monday through Saturday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. (Advisory lunch begins at 11:35 AM on Wednesdays.)

**Dinner** is served from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. On nights with special meals, dinner times may vary.

**Community Dinner** occurs once a week during the fall and spring seasons. Attendance is required for all boarding students. Day students who are on campus during community dinners are required to attend. Students are required to sit at the tables to which they have been assigned. Students who do not sit at their assigned tables will receive dinner cuts. Also, if a table is not set, the students

assigned to that table are required to find a free seat at another table. In other words, students whose tables are “closed” are not excused from dinner.

We hope that eating in the dining hall will be pleasant for everyone, and we have designed procedures to minimize traffic and confusion. More important, however, we anticipate that everyone will follow, at both sit-down and buffet-style meals, the commonly established principles of decorum that make dining a civilized affair.

## SCHOOL MEETINGS

School Meetings are held Monday and Thursday mornings. As programs for School Meetings are normally of a serious nature, students are expected to enter Allen Theater quietly and take their assigned seats. **Cell phones are not permitted in Allen Theater unless communicated in advance.** Students should not stand in the aisles or in the front and rear of the auditorium before School Meetings begin. When the speaker for the day takes their place on the stage, students should stop talking immediately. At the conclusion of School Meetings, students should exit in a quiet, orderly fashion after allowing the Sixth Form and faculty to leave first. Students not in their assigned seats will be reported as absent.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Life Office works with the Student Activities Coordinator, Student Council, and the Green and Gray Coordinator and Captains to plan and coordinate events throughout the year.

Students have the opportunity to participate in many extracurricular clubs and activities at School. A full list of activities and clubs can be found on the school website.

Students who have special interests that fall beyond the scope of the activities listed are invited to start their own organizations with the School's permission and guidance of a faculty member.

## DAY STUDENTS

- **Illness or Lateness: Parents/guardians are asked to report by phone to Student Health Services (413-229-1275) before 8:00 AM each day if your child is not attending classes due to illness or a medical appointment.** When your child cannot get to School for other reasons or may be coming in late, please call the Student Life Office (413-229-1219).
- **Vehicles on Campus:** Day students are required to register their vehicle with the Student Life Office and will receive a Parking Permit that must be displayed in the vehicle at all times while on campus. Day student vehicles are to be parked in the lot adjacent to the Soffer Athletic Center. Day students are to use the access road that passes in front of the Jackman Stewart Athletic Center to travel to and from the parking lot. Day student drivers may not travel along the main driveway. Day student vehicles are only allowed to be used for traveling to school in the morning and leaving at the end of the day, except with special permission from the Dean of Students. (Boarding students are not allowed to have vehicles on campus or within 30 miles of School.)
- **Inclement Weather and Overnight Stays on Campus:** Day students are to make every reasonable effort to attend classes. As Berkshire holds classes regardless of weather, parents/guardians and day student drivers are to use their discretion and not take any unnecessary risks due to inclement weather. Also, if weather is a concern during the day, the school may excuse day students from subsequent requirements. Day students who leave early must sign out at the Student Life Office. Permission to remain on campus overnight because of inclement weather may be granted. In all such cases, day students must obtain the permission of the Student Life Office. Day students are invited to stay on campus on Saturday night on most open weekends. All requests to stay and permission from parents/guardians must be received in the Student Life Office by Thursday at 8:00 AM. Students must provide the name of the student with whom they will stay, as well as the dorm and room number.
- **Attendance for Special Programming:** Day students are required to attend special programming, such as guest speakers, held several times during the year as part of their school experience. Exceptions or conflicts must be cleared by the Dean of Students.
- **Locker Assignments and Showers:** Locker assignments will be issued at registration. Day student academic lockers are located in Berkshire Hall for the 2024-25 school year. Showers and locker room space are available to day students in the Soffer Athletic Center.
- **Evening Study Hall on Campus:** Day students who are on campus on school nights after 7:45 PM must follow the evening study hall expectations for their Form. All day students, with the exception of third-form students assigned to evening structured study hall, may be in the library at night without a pass. Students should contact their form dean with any questions.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are many opportunities for students to develop leadership skills. Student Council, student clubs and activities, dorm prefects, affinity space leaders, and peer listeners are just a few of the ways students from all Forms can assume leadership positions. Sixth Formers are responsible for the overall health and well-being of the community. Because we ask so much of our Sixth Form, the focus of our *Pro Vita* programming for the Fifth Form focuses on leadership skills. We work closely with the Fifth Form to help them develop a definition of leadership, identify their leadership strengths, and form an action plan for their sixth-form year.

## **Student Council**

The Student Council is a group of students who represent the ideas and opinions of the student body and act as liaisons between students and the faculty. There are two student presidents elected for each Form. The group is led by the All-School Presidents, two Sixth Formers selected by vote of the school community in the spring preceding the students' sixth-form year.

## **Dorm and Day Prefects**

Prefects are selected by a committee of faculty in the spring preceding the students' sixth-form year. The Head of School selects two of these students to serve as Head Prefects. The responsibilities of a Prefect are many. Most of the "duties" performed by a Prefect are of the "behind the scenes" type: talking to students in the dorm on an informal basis, filling the role of friend/mentor, and gently guiding students in the right direction or in making the right decision. Day Prefects focus on the experience of day students on campus. Some of the Prefect duties include:

- assisting with the day to day operations of the dorm or day student experience, such as supervising study hall and lights out, assisting with dorm/day student meetings, organizing schedules, and assisting with move-in days;
- being a consistent, positive, and visible presence in the dorm or student center, including most weekends, and available to both faculty and students;
- working to develop a keen understanding of the dorm or day student climate and any underlying issues;
- displaying an ability and willingness to connect with all types and ages of students and taking the initiative to check in with all residents of the dorm or day student group.

## **Green Key Leaders**

Green Key Leaders work closely with the Admission Office. The main responsibility of a Green Key Leader is to help coordinate the daily tour schedule. Green Key Leaders perform a variety of duties for the Admission Office, including helping around the office, attending off-campus admission events, and giving tours to placement directors from other schools as well as candidates for faculty/staff positions. Applicants must be current members of the Green Key Society.

## **1907 Society Student Leaders**

The 1907 Society is an enthusiastic group of students that organize fundraising activities such as phone-a-thons to ask alumni for their financial support of the mission of Berkshire School, as well as to thank alumni who have given in the past. The student leaders work closely with the Advancement and Communication/Marketing Offices. In addition, the society leaders participate in alumni events and act as the student liaisons between the Advancement Office and the student body.

## **Green and Gray Leaders**

Green and Gray Leaders organize and run school-wide competitions between the Green and Gray teams during the school year. Green vs. Gray, which began in 1907, was created with the purpose of creating a fun and spirited Berkshire community. All students and faculty/staff are selected for one of the two teams when they arrive on campus, and they remain on that team for their Berkshire career. The student leaders are responsible for organizing some of the School's traditional events and for creating new and exciting competitions which take place throughout the school year. Student leaders should be spirited, organized, work well in groups, and be committed to creating a positive school culture.

## **International Student Leaders**

International Student Leaders assist in orientation of new students, support all international students during the year, and work closely with the Director of the International Student Program.

## **Trailblazers**

Trailblazers is a mentorship and orientation program for incoming BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students. New Trailblazers connect with student and adult mentors and learn how to access the services and resources they need to successfully navigate a residential academic setting.

## **Peer Listeners**

Peer Listeners is a leadership position open to Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Formers. Based on the premise that students will seek the support of their peers during difficult times, their mission is to foster student emotional well-being through confidential peer-to-peer interaction. Working in collaboration with the Counseling Office and other adult facilitators, Peer Listeners are trained in active listening, problem solving, crisis response, and stress reduction. They also lead campus programming to raise awareness about mental health and decrease stigma around seeking support.

## **Affinity Space Leaders**

Affinity Groups bring together people who have a common social identity involving race, gender, religion, family structure, sexuality, etc. and are for students who identify as a member of that group. They are spaces where people can be their authentic selves so that everyone has a sense of belonging.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

All students are encouraged to perform community service. Students may also participate in community service as an afternoon activity (not offered every season). Students may perform community service on campus in such places as the Admission Office, Student Life

Office, Advancement Office, library, or with other large offices on campus. Students may also create their own service on campus, coordinating the tasks with an adult on campus (for instance, working around student dorms or working in a science lab). Note that each office may have its own unique requirements, so be sure to discuss those requirements thoroughly before committing your time. We also encourage students to perform service off campus (for instance, work in a soup kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, etc.).

## **CELL PHONES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

In order to communicate on campus, students must have a cell phone with voicemail set up and active. Berkshire will permit the limited use of cell phones and wireless communication devices (WCDs). At Berkshire we value face-to-face communication, therefore, it is not appropriate to text or to talk on the phone in public spaces. This includes the walkways and outdoor areas of the north campus. All devices are prohibited while in attendance in class, school meetings, dining hall, or study hall. While it is appropriate to check the time, a calendar, or the school schedule, students should not be using their phone when there is an opportunity for a face-to-face interaction on campus. This includes recognizing a person in passing on the campus.

The school has a small group of mandated apps that must be installed on the student's device. These apps should be installed, with notifications active, unless directly instructed otherwise. These apps are used for school-related purposes only. Apps currently used are: REACH Boarding and our emergency notification system. Other apps may be required and will be explained by School administration.

Berkshire takes very seriously the misuse of cell phones and WCDs in all academic and school function environments. All faculty reserve the right to confiscate cell phones in the case of misuse. Confiscated cell phones and WCDs will generally be held for 24 hours for a first offense. A second offense will result in the device being held for a longer period of time and additional disciplinary responses may be administered by the Dean of Students.

Students are responsible for keeping up with communications sent to them. **All students are expected to check their Berkshire email account, their personal cell phone/voicemail, and their post office box daily.**

## **FUNDRAISING**

Student governments, clubs, teams and organizations that wish to raise money for charitable causes, to help finance their activities, or for any other purpose must consult with the Dean of Students for approval of their methods and products. The Dean will not approve fundraising projects whose primary goal is to provide resources to feed the members of organizations. In other words, buy your own pizza and raise money for something worthwhile. Anything made for sale must be approved by the Dean of Students.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Berkshire School uses a conceptual model to present sustainability as the pursuit toward three interrelated objectives: (1) environmental integrity, (2) economic justice, and (3) social equity. A detailed description of all sustainability policies and guidelines can be found on the sustainability link of the School's website.

All members of the Berkshire School community are encouraged to:

- recycle paper/cardboard, beverage containers, electronics, batteries, coat hangers, clothing, and universal wastes such as batteries and printer cartridges; reduce waste by eating everything taken in the dining hall; and reuse whenever possible.
- conserve energy by turning off lights and electronics when not in use; use CFL bulbs; keep windows closed; set thermostats to 68°F in the winter and 76°F in the summer; and take shorter showers.
- consider the environmental impact of items purchased, i.e. buy Energy Star rated electronics, paper with high recycled content, and no bottled water.

## **STUDENTS 18 AND OLDER**

Students who reach the age of 18 before graduation will be required to sign an addendum to the (re)enrollment agreement that their parents or legal guardians signed. This will provide the School permission to discuss and release information and records to the student's parent(s) and legal guardians about any issues relating to the student's enrollment at the School. The addendum will cover all (re)enrollment agreements signed by the parent(s) or legal guardians during the student's enrollment in Berkshire School. Parent(s) and legal guardians will continue to be responsible under the terms of the (re)enrollment agreement.

## **DORM GUIDELINES**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES AND DISCIPLINE IN THE DORM**

House Heads and dorm parents are charged with maintaining a safe, healthy, and orderly environment in the dorms. While each dorm may develop its own distinct culture, the expectations regarding student conduct in the dorms are the same among all dorms on campus. These expectations will be enforced consistently through the application of the conduct system. Dorm residents are expected to respect each other's property, privacy, and quality of living. Residents are responsible for the cleanliness of their own rooms as well as common areas inside and outside their dorms. The audio volume of music, gaming, personal entertainment, etc., should be low enough so that it is inaudible outside of the room; it is recommended that students bring headphones so as not to disturb roommates who may be studying.

Furniture wider/longer than 60 inches, televisions or computer monitors larger than 32 inches, video projectors, LCD/Plasma monitors,



or any other type of video projecting device are not allowed in rooms. Students may not have more than four (4) devices on the school network at any time. This includes their computer and phone (allowing for two additional devices). Refrigerators may not exceed 3.2 cubic feet. Large televisions are installed in common rooms for students' viewing; however, televisions may not be used during the academic day, study hall, or after lights-out.

## **QUIET AND STUDY HOURS**

Quiet hours are in effect in the dorms from 7:45 PM until the end of classes the next day. Noise should not be audible outside students' rooms. Study Hall is held from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM (8:00 PM to 9:30 PM for Form III) Sunday through Friday nights. All students must check in for study hall at 7:45 PM and be accounted for by the dorm parent on duty at 10:00 PM. All students must be in their rooms during Study Hall (restricted study) unless they have a pass to sign out to another destination allowed by the School. Students who do not follow the appropriate sign-out protocol or who alter passes written by teachers will be found in violation of the Major School Rule regarding permissions. Students may not visit other rooms during evening study periods or after lights-out unless they receive permission from a faculty member. Students may visit faculty apartments in their own dorms after 10:00 PM if a specific invitation has been extended.

Form Deans reserve the right to place any student who is experiencing academic difficulties on restricted study. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Formers, except those identified by the form deans, are allowed to sign out of the dorm to designated areas during evening study hall. Students who are restricted for class absences or for reaching Disciplinary Warning will most likely lose study hall privileges for the period of the restriction. Students who reach Disciplinary Probation will lose the study hall privilege for the remainder of the trimester.

## **LIGHTS-OUT**

Lights-out for Third Formers is 10:30 PM; Fourth and Fifth Formers is 11:00 PM. Sixth Formers have unlimited lights, but may lose the privilege if they do not act appropriately and respectfully after 11:00 PM. Sixth Formers who host underformers in their room after 11:00 PM will lose the privilege. Third and Fourth Formers may request late lights for studying purposes two nights a week, but they must be in bed by 11:30 PM unless they have special permission from the dorm parent on duty. Fifth Formers can request late lights at any time, but they must be studying in their rooms after 10:00 PM unless they have received specific permission from the faculty member on duty. Late lights are not allowed on Sunday nights. The penalty for being out of a room after lights-out is two points for a first violation. Stricter penalties will be given to repeat offenders.

Saturday night check-in is 7-8:30 PM and 11:00 PM for all Third, Fourth, and Fifth Formers and 7-8:30 PM and 11:30 PM for Sixth Formers. All students are expected to be in their own room by 12:30 AM. For check-in on Saturday nights, students must report to the common room and have a face-to-face check-in with the faculty member on duty and sign-in personally. Students may not sign-in in groups but rather must see the faculty member individually.

## **DIRECTIONS FOR CARE OF ROOMS**

Students are responsible for the condition of their room. Rooms should be kept generally clean for reasons of fire insurance and health standards. Dorm faculty and Prefects will inspect rooms during the week to ensure that standards are being met.

- Students should make their beds, keep floors clean, and empty wastebaskets daily. Those who struggle to maintain a clean room and effective study space will be assigned an earlier dorm check-in time after dinner in which to clean their room.
- School furniture may not be moved within the room, from the room, and should not be modified in any way. Some rooms have furniture which allows the bed to be bunked or lofted. Any changes must be approved by the House Head and the Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life.
- Students are expected to use painters tape or *Command Hooks* to hang items on their walls. Tacks, nails, regular tape, glue, and other adhesives may not be used on the walls. LED light strips are permitted if hung with Command strips/hooks.
- Good taste should be used in decorating rooms. For instance, Berkshire does not permit advertisements for tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, or any items displaying nudity to be used as decorations.
- Perishable food must be stored in sealed plastic containers.
- No pets are allowed.

At the end of the year, students should leave their rooms in the same condition as when they arrived. Students are assessed the cost of any required damage repair, general cleaning, and/or trash removal.

## **FIRE AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

In the interest of safety and in order to comply with the Fire Marshal's regulations and safety codes, students must strictly adhere to the following:

1. Nothing may hang from or near the ceiling light fixtures or across the ceiling itself. Only one wall may be covered by a wall hanging, which must be fire-resistant and must be free and clear of any electrical outlet or fixture.
2. Rooms may not be subdivided by furniture, sheets, blankets, or hangings so as to prevent clear access or view to and from the door. Beds may not be placed in the middle of the room—they must be arranged with one long side against a wall. Bed legs must be on the floor. Bureaus must have their backs against a wall, and desks are to have one side against the wall. Waterbeds are not

permitted.

3. Cloth coverings may not be used on any tables, chairs, or pieces of furniture.
4. Halls must be kept clear at all times. Bicycles should not be stored in rooms.
5. Students may have additional furniture in their rooms (see size limitations above), unless it prevents an easy exit from the room.
6. The School provides approved fire-retardant mattresses. Anyone wishing to provide their own mattress must submit proof to the Student Life Office that it meets Massachusetts standards.
7. Each student may have one desk lamp and one other lamp, which is not to exceed 100 watts. No light may be attached to a wall near a blanket. Due to state fire regulations, halogen lamps are not permitted.
8. The use of electrical appliances such as toasters, popcorn machines, grilles, hot plates, hot pots, percolators, heating coils, space heaters, and heat lamps is prohibited. Such items found in dorm rooms will be confiscated. Students found using heat-producing appliances will be considered to be in violation of the Fire Hazards Rule.
9. No lighting fixtures or electrical appliances may be wired into the closets of student rooms. Extension cords are not permitted.
10. Tampering with lighting fixtures, outlets, switches, and panels is forbidden.
11. Open flames of any kind are prohibited.
12. Students may not tamper with fire hoses and extinguishers.
13. Fire doors should be kept closed at all times.

### **ROOM DAMAGES**

The facilities staff inspects all rooms a few times each year. Any damages over and above normal wear and tear will be charged equally to room occupants. Furniture, furnishings, and closet doors may not be removed from rooms assigned, or there will be charges for their restoration. Room doors should be kept free of stickers and markings. Adhering lights, mounting tape, or other sticking substances to the walls may damage the wall surface.

Students should lock doors when they leave and keep doors unlocked when they are in their rooms. No student may be in another's room unless a resident of the room in question is present. The School is not responsible for loss of personal property for any reason.

### **ROOM CHANGES**

Room assignments are made at the beginning of the school year. Learning to live with others is a central part of attending boarding school. Consequently, students will be permitted to change rooms only under the most unusual circumstances. Living together can produce occasional issues and conflicts between roommates. We do not discuss room changes until a series of meetings have taken place focused on helping students resolve residential issues. Students are encouraged to seek assistance as soon as they experience difficulties with their roommate. Requests to change rooms will not be entertained until Thanksgiving Recess and only by submitting a request to the Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life, who is in charge of student rooming.

### **SUMMER STORAGE**

There is no on-campus storage. Summer storage of personal items is handled by **Dorm Room Movers**, a private company. Information on how items can be stored during the summer will be available in the spring. The School will discard any articles left in students' rooms in June, if not stored with movers.

### **FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH-FORM VISITATIONS**

Fourth, fifth, and sixth-form visitation privileges will begin in the fall after the Head of School has spoken to the community and outlined the School's expectations with regard to student conduct. House Heads will also go over the procedures listed below to eliminate confusion about the details of signing in. Students must sign a contract stating that they understand the School's expectations regarding this privilege before visitation privileges may be used.

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Formers may visit each other's rooms from 7:00-7:40 PM (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Week 1 Friday), 7:00-9:45 PM (Week 2 Friday), and 7:00-10:30 PM (Saturday). The faculty member on duty or another faculty member covering must be present in the dorm if visiting is to take place. Hosts and their guests must sign in, in person, with the faculty member on duty in the dorm being visited and must sign out with that faculty member when departing. Guests may sign in only to the room of their host. Doors must be open.

The visitation privilege is extended only to Berkshire's Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Formers. Alumni and students not enrolled at the School are not permitted in the dorm without the permission of the Dean of Students or Duty Administrator.

Any of the following will be considered a violation of the sign-in procedures with regard to the visitation privilege:

1. allowing someone without proper permission—a Third Former, for example—to be in a room during visitation periods;
2. visiting a room other than your host's room;
3. a closed door while visiting;

4. failure to sign in or sign out properly with the faculty member on duty. Failure to comply with the sign-in provisions of the visitation privilege will be considered a violation of sign-in procedure and will result in three points and loss of the privilege for two weeks for the first offense. Visiting at a time when visitation is not allowed or violation of the sign-in procedures for a second time are both violations of the Major School Rule regarding Visitations.

## **FIRE SAFETY**

Tampering with fire extinguishers, hoses, smoke alarms, and fuse boxes can endanger lives and is a violation of a Major School Rule. Possession of fireworks constitutes a similar hazard. Smoking in the dorms is a violation of a Major School Rule. In addition, due to a severe risk of fire, no halogen lamps of any kind are permitted. Students may not have appliances that draw more than 300 watts in their rooms without approval of the House Head. Any appliance with a heating element must be stored in the common room and with the approval of the House Head. Fans may be used during heat waves with the approval of the House Head. No window fans are permitted at any time.

## **FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCIES**

Detailed instructions regarding procedures to follow in case of fire are presented in dorm meetings at the beginning of the year, but students should remember the following: if at any time students suspect a fire, they should report it to the nearest faculty or staff member immediately. If students are certain a fire exists, they should first break the glass on the nearest firebox. When fire alarms sound, students must leave the building immediately and report to their assigned check-in areas to wait for instructions.

All students should have the *Alertus* App on their mobile device. In case you are present or witness an emergency, you can call campus safety directly from the app. The app will also be used to alert the community in case of fire, emergency, or other important instructions in these situations.

Students should not attempt to put out any substantial fire unless instructed to do so by a faculty or staff member. If students are in their rooms when fire alarms sound, they should:

- awaken roommates
- turn on lights so faculty can make quick room checks
- close all windows and open shades/curtains
- dress as warmly as necessary
- check door handles, but do not open the doors if handles are hot (instead go to windows and wait for assistance); close but do not lock doors when leaving
- alert neighbors
- leave buildings by assigned escape routes and proceed to check-in points
- remain quiet and wait for instructions after leaving the building

# **ATHLETICS AND AFTERNOON PROGRAMMING**

## **ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS**

ALL NEW STUDENTS must participate in a sport or activity other than managing a team in the fall season. Third, fourth, and fifth-form students (grades 9, 10, and 11) must participate in at least two team programs per year and a third season of an individual pursuit, but may participate in three team programs if they wish. Sixth-form students (grades 12 and PG) must participate in at least one team program per year and a team program or individual pursuit in the other two seasons.

## **CLUB SPORT REQUIREMENTS**

Any request to participate in a club program, event or showcase that will result in missing an academic class, athletic commitment, or any Berkshire School event, must be submitted in writing to the Director of Athletics two weeks prior to the beginning of each athletic season. Requests will be reviewed by the Director of Athletics, Dean of Students, and Dean of Academics and will be decided upon before tryouts have been completed for said season. After approval from the Director of Athletics is received, an Athletic Special Request form must be submitted for each leave request where obligations will be missed. Athletic Special Request forms are located in the Athletic Office and must be turned in to the Student Life Office three days prior to the departure date. Students must first obtain the signature of the Director of Athletics, followed by their teachers, coach, advisor, and form dean. A three-point penalty will be assigned to students handing in late forms. Failure to submit a form prior to departure may result in a student being placed on restriction or be found in violation of a Major School Rule violation concerning Permissions.

## **INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC PROJECTS**

Independent Athletic Projects are available to Sixth Formers who have already met their athletic requirement and wish to pursue a passion that is not already offered within our current program. Project proposals are to be filled out and signed by a faculty advisor two weeks prior to the start of each athletic season. Proposals will be reviewed by the Director of Athletics.

## **THEATER PRODUCTION**

Participation in our theater production is limited to two seasons per year.

## **PROCEDURES FOR CHANGING SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES**

During the first two weeks of each season, students are free to change from one sport or activity to another. In order to change activities, students need the approval of the Athletic Office. When the grace period for changing activities has expired, students wishing to change activities must have permission from the head coach of the activity they want to leave, as well as permission from the head coach of the activity they want to join. After securing these permissions, students need to go to the Athletic Office and follow the procedures for switching. The Athletic Department may set maximum and minimum limits to the number of students participating in a particular activity.

## **ATHLETIC HEALTH CARE FACILITY**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:** 9:00 AM until the end of practices  
**Wednesday** (game days): 9:00 AM until approximately 30 minutes prior to game time  
**Saturday** (game days): 11:30 AM until approximately 30 minutes prior to game time

Two athletic trainers staff the Athletic Health Care Facility, located in the Stewart Athletic Center.

Athletic trainers (ATs) are healthcare professionals who render service or treatment, under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their education, training, and the state's statutes, rules, and regulations. They are not to be confused with personal trainers. As a part of the health care team, services provided by athletic trainers include primary care, injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

## **GEIER LIBRARY**

Geier Library is a warm, welcoming place for the entire Berkshire community. The open concept space is designed to accommodate classroom instruction, academic study space, and a place to relax. Small groups are welcome to use the library, and there is a designated area for quiet study at individual carrels. Librarians partner with teachers to provide skill-based information literacy instruction. In addition, students are encouraged to schedule follow-up one-on-one research consultation appointments with a librarian for additional help with projects and assignments. The library web page serves as a starting point to access all of our print and digital resources. A networked copier/printer and work station with office supplies is available in the library for student and faculty/staff use.

### **ACADEMIC COLLECTIONS**

The library houses a wide range of materials that meet both the academic and recreational needs of the Berkshire community. The collection consists of academic resources including a print collection that aligns with the curriculum and subscriptions to numerous college level academic databases that provide access to journal articles, magazines, ebooks, and streaming video content. Students and faculty/staff are encouraged to make requests and recommendations for resources to enhance the collection.

### **READING AND LEISURE**

The library maintains a collection of young adult fiction titles and graphic novels that reflect the diverse voices, experiences, and backgrounds of the Berkshire community that are available in print, ebook, and audiobook formats. The library provides access to digital news magazines through Flipster and offers access to feature films through a streaming video service.

### **BORROWING MATERIALS**

All print resources may be borrowed from the library. Four weeks is the normal check-out period, but renewals are available. You do not need to bring the book to the library to renew; simply stop by the front desk or send us an email with your information. We may request that material be returned if another student or faculty member requests the item(s) after the initial four-week period. We do not charge fines for overdue materials, but will request that lost or damaged items be replaced.

### **GUIDELINES AND HOURS**

The Geier Library staff are available for any questions about our resources and can assist in helping locate information and provide citation help for research needs. The rules of the library are few – make use of all resources appropriately and respect the needs of others. Students may have drinks in covered containers and light snacks; no greasy, messy or strong-smelling food is permitted.

#### **The library is open the following hours\*:**

Monday – Friday 7:45 AM-4:30 PM, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM  
Saturday 7:45 AM-12:00 PM  
Sunday 1:00 PM-10:00 PM

\*Hours may be adjusted as needed

#### **Contact Information**

Phone: 413-229-1284 or 413-229-1286  
Email: [library@berkshireschool.org](mailto:library@berkshireschool.org)

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Berkshire School takes advantage of its nondenominational status to encourage students to develop spiritual awareness through a

variety of activities. Whether through social service within the local community, participation in the voluntary campus religious services, or appreciation of the unique natural surroundings of the School, students will find ample opportunities for spiritual exploration. Students can sign up for transportation to local church services in the Student Life Office.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **ADVISORS**

While students are encouraged to look to all faculty members as potential mentors, a key person in each student's support network is the advisor. Acting in turn as advocate, surrogate parent and friend, advisors are charged with developing a supportive relationship with each advisee and maintaining frequent, informal and formal contact with parents/guardians. Advisors are the first points of contact for parents/guardians with any concerns about their child.

### **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**

The School employs masters-level licensed counselors that provide counseling services to help support the social and emotional needs of students at School. The counselors are available to meet with students and to consult with the School community regarding mental health. Communication between school counselors and a student may include, but is not limited to, meeting in-person, speaking via telephone, or communicating using third-party video communication applications such as Apple FaceTime, Doxy.me, Google Hangouts video, Zoom, or Skype.

The counselors, and any professional employed within the Berkshire School Counseling Office, are part of a team of faculty members and administrators who collaborate with respect to the students' educational experience at the School. As part of this collaborative effort, school counselors may share information obtained from parents/guardians and students on a "need-to-know" basis with other employees of the School, as deemed appropriate by the school counselor. In the case of an emergency where a student's safety or wellbeing is at risk, the counselors may communicate with any parent, guardian, or school personnel necessary to help ensure the safe treatment of the student. Parents should understand that the School generally does not disclose to parents when a student sees the school counselor or the information or topics discussed during a counseling session. The counselors always prefer and encourage students to inform parents/guardians when they are seeing a counselor, and communication from parents/guardians who have questions or concerns regarding their children is welcomed. However, information shared by the School to parents may be limited, unless there is a compelling reason for doing so, such as concerns about the student's safety. Please contact the Director of Counseling for more details pertaining to limits of confidentiality.

Additionally, Berkshire School retains an outside consulting psychiatrist who is available to meet with students. The Counseling Office will inform parents/guardians of recommendations for assessment by the psychiatrist and seek permission prior to any appointment. The doctor will bill parents/guardians directly per appointment. In the case where a student is over the age of 18, the student will be required to give consent for the doctor to share details of any appointments with parents/guardians.

Emergency mental health support is also available for students, as needed. In addition to having on-call trained health professionals while classes are in session, the School has partnered with a number of local resources for students to access emergency support. In the event a student is exhibiting behavior that raises concerns about the student's safety or wellbeing (or the safety and wellbeing of others), the trained health professionals screen the student to help determine whether an assessment by an outside provider is appropriate. Families and students should understand that school-trained health professionals may screen students for potential risks, but that outside providers are generally used for assessments. The results of such assessments should be shared with School personnel, so that appropriate recommendations can be implemented.

The Berkshire School Counseling Office offers support for students experiencing concerns in any area of their life at school or home. In the case of an acute mental health crisis, the Director of Counseling will meet with the Leave of Absence Team to determine if a Leave of Absence is necessary. These circumstances could include, but are not limited to, when a student is unsafe to remain on campus (as determined by the Director of Counseling), when they are unable to meet their commitments as a student, or when the crisis is creating an impact (whether directly or indirectly) on the broader wellbeing or functioning of the community. (See Leave of Absence policy for more information.)

Families seeking ongoing weekly counseling appointments for their student will be supported in obtaining a referral for a therapist or psychologist. Any appointments with a mental health professional not employed by Berkshire School will be paid for by the parents/guardians.

### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL INTERVENTION**

Berkshire's approach to drug and alcohol abuse is two-pronged. On one hand, the School's disciplinary system is based on the premise that students are accountable for their behavior. Thus, students found violating the Major School Rule concerning drugs and alcohol will sit before the Discipline Committee. However, Berkshire recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse is a serious health hazard. Students in trouble with substance abuse often will not seek counseling for fear that they will be punished rather than helped. Consequently, the School has instituted a non-disciplinary procedure through which students can get help for themselves or encourage their peers to do so. Any student who is concerned about themselves, or who is concerned about another student, is encouraged to contact, confidentially, any trusted adult, such as a classroom teacher, advisor, school counselor, form dean, or the Head of School. The student

will be made aware of the options available if further action is desired or available.

## **SMOKING INFORMATION AND CESSATION PROGRAM**

The School's commitment to healthful living has fostered a smoking information and cessation program. Since the health risks for tobacco are well established, Berkshire does not allow possession or use of tobacco products, including nicotine replacement products, by its students, regardless of age; this policy is consistent with Massachusetts state law. Nicotine-containing substitutes for smoking cessation must be picked up daily at Student Health Services.

## **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES (SHS)**

Prior to enrollment at Berkshire, all students are required to complete numerous medical forms and provide vital health information. Collection of this information is to be completed via Magnus Health, the secure electronic medical record system that SHS uses to collect and store student medical information. All medical information must be submitted directly to Magnus Health, not to SHS. Parents/guardians can login to Magnus Health via the Veracross Parent Portal where they can access all health forms and update information whenever necessary.

### **STAFFING**

A team consisting of registered nurses and a pediatrician staffs the Student Health Services. Student Health Services is centrally located in the lower level of de Windt dormitory.

### **HOURS**

Student Health Services has nurses available 24 hours a day. If a student is ill or needs to talk to a nurse, they should call SHS at 413-229-1275. The nurse will instruct the student on the next steps.

<b>Daytime Hours:</b>	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:</b>	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
	<b>Wednesday, Saturday:</b>	7:00 AM-1:00 PM
	<b>Sunday:</b>	11:15 AM-12:30 PM
<b>Evening Hours:</b>	<b>Monday-Sunday:</b>	5:00 PM-7:30 PM

Between 7:15 PM and 10:30 PM, students must first contact the dorm parent on duty before going to Student Health Services. Between 10:30 PM and 6:00 AM, students must be escorted by a Prefect (or a Sixth Former designated by the Prefect), and the dorm parent on duty must be notified. The Prefect or student assisting will first call Student Health Services. To get in touch with the nurse on call, phone 413-229-1275, or extension 1275 from all campus phones, 24 hours a day.

### **MISSING CLASSES**

At the discretion of the school physician or the nurse on duty, students may be excused from classes, athletics, and other school appointments. Excuses will not be granted to students who have missed a class because they have overslept. If students have a class commitment at the time they leave Health Services, they must go directly to the class in question. The nurse on duty will issue them a pass. Athletic excuses are issued by the school physician, nurse on duty, or athletic trainer on duty. Students are required to follow instructions given by nurses, athletic trainers, and doctors. (For information about day student absences due to illness or inclement weather, refer to the section on Day Students.)

### **MEDICATION**

Berkshire School's medication policy has been developed to ensure the health and safety of all students. Please read and review the following policy with your child before the start of school.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that we have a written order signed by a licensed medical practitioner for each prescription medication. Please have the prescribing practitioner complete the **Medication Form** for each prescription. Once completed (and before school starts), the form(s) must be uploaded into Magnus. If the prescription changes or a new medication is started during the school year, an updated Medication Form is needed within three days.

Students who take psychotropic and/or controlled medication must take each dose in person at Student Health Services and will enter through a separate entrance that is exclusively for medication only. These medications are not allowed in the student room and must be stored at SHS. Students who take psychotropic medications or controlled substances are not permitted to have these medications in their possession at any time, which means that they may not deliver them to School. There are exceptions to the possession rule for travel on and off campus, but only with permission from Health Services. There may be other medications not listed here that also need to be taken at SHS. All prescription medications need to be checked in with Health Services. Failure to follow the protocol associated with the distribution of medication will result in strong disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of the family to ensure that their child maintains an adequate supply of prescription refills. According to Massachusetts law, we are not permitted to store more than a 30-day supply of any medication at School. It is for this reason that we ask parents/guardians to call our office monthly to check on their child's medication supply and compliance. We ask parents/guardians to also keep medication at home for weekends and vacations. If alternate arrangements need to be made, parents/guardians are asked to contact our office at least one week before the beginning of the vacation. Medications will be destroyed if not picked up at the close of school, or at any time the medication is discontinued, or if the student leaves School.

We require that all psychotropic prescriptions be filled through Lenox Village Integrative Pharmacy. There will be a one time fee of \$20 to set up your child's profile. Students who take psychotropic medication or medications regulated by the federal government as controlled substances must comply with the following protocol: the prescribing practitioner must send the medication prescription electronically or by hard copy directly to Lenox Village Integrative Pharmacy (not Berkshire School) no earlier than August 15 (pharmacy information is available on the Veracross Parent Portal). Examples of psychotropic and controlled medications include, but are not limited to, medications for ADD/ADHD, anxiety, and depression.

It is the expectation that all students on psychotropic medication who are "stable" will be seen in person by their prescribing physician quarterly. Students who are new to medication or are having any associated concerns should be monitored by their physician in person more frequently. Please review, or have the provider review, the instructions and possible side effects of all prescribed medication, including the self-administration of inhalers and emergency medication, if applicable, with the student before arriving at School.

## **ROOM STAY**

If a student is too ill to walk to Student Health Services, a faculty member must phone the office to notify the nurse on duty. Students who are too ill to attend class may be required to stay at Student Health Services. Students who are excused and put on room stay by the school physician or the nurse must remain in their rooms except to go to the bathroom. No visitors are allowed for students on room stay. Room stay goes from the time it is issued until 7:00 AM the next day. Room stay is not canceled if a school holiday is announced.

## **MEDICAL COSTS**

Berkshire's Health Services fee pays for routine visits to the Student Health Services, Counseling Office, and Athletic Health Care Facility. It also pays for some over-the-counter medications dispensed on campus, laboratory work performed at Health Services, and confidential STD/GYN visits. Physical exams for school, college, camp, work, or summer programs are *not* done at Student Health Services. Please contact the Berkshire School Business Office if you have any questions regarding this fee.

All students must show proof of medical insurance coverage, and policies must be billable within the United States. For your convenience, Berkshire School provides information to all domestic students with the opportunity to purchase a 24/7 sickness and accident insurance plan from the ISM Insurance group. International students are sent information from ISM and are encouraged to purchase the ISM international insurance. Only in rare situations should the families use the "credit card" method. If a credit card is used, we will need a signed document from the family stating the credit card number can be used for medical situations. Please contact the Business Office for questions related to student health insurance coverage.

American families living abroad are advised to make certain that family policies cover students while they are at Berkshire. Families of students are responsible for the cost of visits and transportation to off-campus medical specialists and facilities, as well as obtaining pre-authorization/referrals for all appointments.

## **CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Generally under Massachusetts law, minors are allowed to receive certain health care services without the consent of their parent or legal guardian. These services may include: contraception/birth control methods; pregnancy testing; prenatal and obstetrical care; evaluation and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; and evaluation and treatment for alcohol and/or other drug addiction problems. Berkshire School respects the privacy of its students and makes every effort to help students maintain confidentiality when they obtain medical services. In the event that a student requests assistance in seeking treatment for such a medical problem from Berkshire School, we will encourage that student to establish an open and honest dialogue with their parent or legal guardian. Further, transportation for such services may be billed to the family.

## **APPOINTMENTS WITH DOCTORS**

A school physician is on campus Monday through Friday to see students as needed for acute illnesses or injuries. All off-campus medical appointments—whether with doctors, dentists, orthodontists, or at the hospital—must be scheduled through Health Services. Arrangements can be made with Health Services staff members by phone or in person. Transportation to and from such appointments must also be arranged through the Health Services office and will be billed to the family. **Students are required to check in at Health Services when they return from off-campus medical appointments with paperwork from the appointment.** Students returning to School after injury, illness, or doctor's appointments must bring letters from doctors stating the diagnosis, results of laboratory or x-ray studies, treatment, restricted activities, and date of the next appointment.

## **MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

A medical leave of absence from School may be appropriate in case of serious illness, bodily injury, or mental health condition, as determined in accordance with this policy. Decisions about granting or requiring a leave of absence, or reinstating a student who has been on leave, rest with the Leave of Absence Team, which can include the Head of School, Associate Head of School, Dean of Academics, Dean of Students, Director of Counseling, Medical Director, and/or the Director of Nursing. They will be guided by the principal goal of a leave of absence: to give the student the opportunity to regain health and thereby function consistently, productively, and safely at School. In the absence of a treatment plan that, in the School's opinion, meets these needs, the School may decline to grant a leave of absence request, and instead require the student to withdraw.

A student's family may request a leave of absence. The School requires that any request for a leave of absence be accompanied by sufficient supporting documentation to allow the School to evaluate the leave request including, but not limited to, at least the following information: (a) a recommendation from the student's treating medical professionals that the student would benefit from taking a leave of absence; (b) a description of how the student's medical condition limits the student's ability to participate in required academic or extracurricular activities; (c) the plan for treatment of the student's medical condition; and (d) an anticipated date for the student's return.

Additionally, in certain situations, the School may require that the student be placed on a leave of absence. The School may initiate a discussion of a leave of absence in circumstances including, but not limited to:

- when mental health or physical symptoms are, or may be, impeding a student from meeting academic and community expectations or functioning appropriately academically;
- when a physical or mental health condition interferes with a student's attendance at School;
- when a student behaves in ways that may be self-destructive or dangerous to others;
- when a student is not engaged in treatment that the School has made a condition of attendance, after the student has been evaluated by medical and/or mental health professionals, who have deemed such treatment appropriate; or
- when a student exhibits symptoms or behavior that is of concern to the School.

This discussion may include the Leave of Absence Team, student's advisor, the parents/guardians, or the student, as deemed appropriate. The purpose of this initial discussion is to establish the steps that the family is taking to ensure that the student is well enough to participate fully in life at the School and the further steps that the School may require if the situation does not improve.

Once a student is placed on a leave of absence, the family will receive a Leave of Absence Letter outlining the School's expectations and requirements during the leave. While each student's needs are different, the School generally will expect ongoing treatment by a medical professional, regular communication with the family, and full compliance with the expectations documented in the Leave of Absence Letter. The Leave of Absence Letter may also include conditions and requirements for the student's return to School. While a student on leave is excused from attending classes, the student must make up essential missed work either while on leave (if deemed appropriate) or upon return. The form dean, in consultation with the Dean of Academics, will work directly with the student and the student's teachers to determine the work to be completed and the timeline for completion. While the School will strive to minimize academic disruption, the School may require that a student drop a course or courses if a prolonged absence will make it difficult for the student to satisfactorily complete the requirements of the course.

To return to School from a leave of absence, the family must provide a thorough, written professional evaluation of the student's current mental health and/or medical condition from the physician, psychiatrist, or other professional who treated the student during the leave of absence. The School may require additional evaluation by a physician or mental health consultant of its choosing. The guiding principle of re-admission from a leave of absence is the School's confidence that the student can return safely and that the student's return will not compromise the student's continued recovery, interfere with the School's ability to serve other students' needs, or place an undue burden on the School. The decision regarding any student's return to the School from a leave of absence remains with the School. As a corollary to this principle, a student whom the School determines can safely participate in the regular school day may nevertheless be restricted from participation in the residential program, overnight field trips, or other co-curricular school activities.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY AND ACADEMIC CREDIT**

During the absence, students and families must make arrangements for the completion of required coursework with the Dean of Academics and form dean. In those rare cases when a student is granted a leave longer than two weeks and thus will miss major assessments, families will need to identify a responsible third party to administer tests and exams. Students may be eligible for academic credit and Berkshire grades when they have completed all the required assignments in each class. When a student requires a leave that exceeds two weeks, the Leave of Absence Team will convene to determine whether it is appropriate for the student to remain enrolled in the School. At that point, the student and family will share in discussions about educational options as the student moves forward.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Members of the School community commit themselves to maintaining appropriate professional tact and discretion with regard to confidential information they receive. However, confidential information may be disclosed to the Head of School, Associate Head of School, appropriate administrators, outside professionals, law enforcement officers, families, or others when there is a compelling reason for doing so, including, without limitation, in cases of health and safety emergencies (when students or others are in imminent danger of harm); when there is concern about an individual's ability to function academically, emotionally, physically, and/or mentally within the School environment; or when legal requirements demand that confidential information be revealed.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **BOOKSTORE, STUDENT BANK, LOST AND FOUND**

The Bookstore and Student Bank are located on the second level of the Stewart Athletic Center during the 2024-25 school year. The



Bookstore is also the on-campus location for “lost and found.” Hours are:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:** 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

**Wednesday:** 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**Saturday:** 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Students wishing to make withdrawals in excess of \$100 must give the bank a three-day notice. Students with cash in excess of \$10 are urged to deposit such funds in their accounts for safekeeping.

### **FOOD DELIVERY**

Food delivery from pre-approved restaurants is permitted between the hours of 7:00-7:30 PM nightly to the Soffer Athletic Center. DoorDash and Instacart deliveries are permitted on the racks near the Post Office in the Stewart Athletic Center. At no time may food or other items be delivered directly to the dorms.

### **LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING SERVICE**

Laundry and dry cleaning service is available through E&R Laundry ([www.eandrcleaners.com](http://www.eandrcleaners.com)). Laundry drop off and pickup is located in designated areas within each dorm, and delivery times are posted in the dorms. Washers and dryers for student use are available in the basement of MacMillan.

### **POST OFFICE**

The Post Office is located on the lower level of the Stewart Athletic Center during the 2024-25 school year. Hours are:

**Monday-Friday:** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Saturday:** 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Packages that are addressed to Berkshire School, and not an individual, will be opened by the School.

All students are assigned lockable mailboxes at the beginning of the year. Students must check their mailboxes weekly. Students may post outgoing mail including packages at the Post Office. Letters mailed by 11:30 AM will go out the same day.

**Sending/Receiving Packages:** Package arrival notifications are sent to recipients via text and/or email. The School reserves the right to inspect any and all packages and/or have them opened by the addressee in front of a staff or faculty member. The following cost-effective methods of shipping are available: USPS mail, FedEx, and UPS Third Party Billing. In order for students to use UPS Third Party Billing, parents/guardians must have an established account with UPS, so that their child can use the account number. Berkshire School's Post Office can send packages during regular hours and bill the account directly with FedEx, UPS, and USPS. This method simplifies shipping for students and eliminates them having to withdraw funds from their student expense account, especially at the end of the school year. Amazon Direct (no pick up), FedEx, and UPS offer pick up and delivery Monday through Friday, no Saturday delivery. USPS offers pick up and delivery Monday through Saturday.

Stamps may be purchased for cash only. Students sending letters outside the United States should consult a member of the Post Office staff about postage.

### **SHAWN'S PLACE**

Shawn's Place, the student snack bar, is located on the second level of the Stewart Athletic Center (2024-25 school year). Hours are:

**Monday-Friday:** 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM

**Saturday:** 8:30 AM to 10:30 PM

**Sunday:** 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE**

It is possible for certain events beyond the reasonable control of the School to occur during the academic year that, in the judgment of the School and/or government authorities, render the School unsafe or unsuitable for its students, staff, and/or faculty and require closure of the School and its boarding facilities for some period of time. Such events include, but are not limited to, acts of God, fire, acts of terrorism, threats of violence, and the outbreak of a health epidemic or other contagious disease at, or in the vicinity of, the School. In any such event, the School will, as promptly as possible after the decision has been made to close the School, use reasonable efforts to notify parents/guardians of such closure using the contact information on record with the School through the Veracross Parent Portal. It is the parent's responsibility to keep the contact information up-to-date and to make necessary arrangements to pick up their child at the earliest possible time. Families who are not within a 48-hour driving (not air travel) distance are required to identify a domestic caretaker in the event of an emergency. If the School is unable to contact the parents/guardians regarding the closure or the parents/guardians fail to pick up their child after notification of such closure, the School will make alternate arrangements for such student's care at the parent's sole expense. In any case of a school closure, the School will notify the parents/guardians of the reopening of the School and of any adjustments or modifications to the School calendar that may be made as a result of such closure. No refunds of amounts paid or credits for amounts due hereunder will be given as a result of or in connection with any such closure.

# BERKSHIRE HYMN

*(words by Horace Irving Johnson, Class of 1913)*

All hail to Berkshire Set among the hills Bright and good and fair, thy Spirit in us thrills; In later lessons And in larger strife, May thy fair standards Be ours through life.	Backward we're turning As the end draws near To the years of gladness And the friendships dear; To work and play, to Conflicts lost and won, With fond regret for School days now done.	Glory to Berkshire, Let her praises ring, Far across the world her Students tribute bring; Still true to Berkshire, Parted though we be, We fight life's battles With strength from thee.
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## SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025

*(Religious holidays noted if they occur while school is in session.)*

*\* Vacations begin after students have met all their obligations or at times noted; vacations end at times noted.*

### AUGUST

<b>29</b>	Thursday	<b>New International Students, Trailblazers, Orientation Leaders, and Varsity Preseason Athletes** arrive</b> <b>(**by invitation only: Field Hockey, Football, Soccer, Volleyball); Registration, 10 AM-12 PM</b>
29-31	Thurs-Sat	Orientation Program: New International Students, Trailblazers, and Orientation Leaders
29-9/1	Thurs-Sun	Preseason Practices: Fall Varsity Athletes (by invitation)
<b>31</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>New Domestic Students and Green Key/Green &amp; Gray Leaders arrive; Registration, 12-2 PM</b>
31-9/1	Sat-Sun	Orientation Program: New Students

### SEPTEMBER

1	Sunday	Third Form Retreat
<b>1</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Returning Students arrive; Registration, 10 AM-12 PM</b>
2	Monday	Orientation Program: ALL Students
3	Tuesday	Fall Trimester begins
7-8	Sat-Sun	Closed Weekend: students remain on campus
14	Saturday	ACT Testing; College Boot Camp: VI Form
28	Saturday	Pro Vita Saturday Programming
30	Monday	No Classes

### OCTOBER

2	Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown (ends 10/4)
9	Wednesday	SAT Testing: V & VI Forms; Diagnostic SAT Testing: IV Form; Programming: III Form
11	Friday	Yom Kippur begins at sundown (ends 10/12)
15	Tuesday	Fall Photo Day
17	Thursday	Fall Concert, 7:30 PM
18-19	Fri-Sat	Family Weekend
19	Saturday	Fall Weekend begins (students leave after last commitment)*
22	Tuesday	Fall Weekend ends by 8 PM*
26	Saturday	ACT Testing: V & VI Forms; Diagnostic ACT Testing: IV Form
26-27	Sat-Sun	Closed Weekend: students remain on campus

### NOVEMBER

1-2	Fri-Sat	Fall Play Performances, 7:30 PM
7	Thursday	Fall Dance Concert, 7:30 PM
9	Saturday	Fall Athletic Season ends
16-17	Sat-Sun	Closed Weekend: students remain on campus
16-21	Sat-Thurs	Fall Trimester Assessment Period
22	Friday	Thanksgiving Recess begins for students*

### DECEMBER

2	Monday	Thanksgiving Recess ends for students by 8 PM*
3	Tuesday	Winter Trimester begins
13	Friday	Vocal Cabaret, 7:30 PM
14	Saturday	Pro Vita Saturday Programming

15 Sunday Berkshire Improv Performance, 6:30 PM  
 20 Friday Winter Recess begins for students\*

**JANUARY**

5 Sunday Winter Recess ends by 8 PM\*  
 6 Monday Classes resume  
 11-12 Sat-Sun Closed Weekend: students remain on campus  
 18-25 Sat-Sat WeWeek  
 20 Monday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Programming  
 26-28 Sun-Tues Lunar New Year Celebration

**FEBRUARY**

1-2 Sat-Sun Closed Weekend: students remain on campus  
 5 Wednesday Jazz Café, 9 PM  
 5-6 Wed-Thurs College Program: V Form and Parents  
 6 Thursday Winter Weekend begins at 11:30 AM (after classes)\*  
 10 Monday Winter Weekend ends by 8 PM\*  
 20-22 Thurs-Sat Winter Musical Performances, 7:30 PM  
 28 Friday Winter Trimester ends; Winter Dance Concert, 7:30 PM  
 28 Friday Ramadan begins at sundown (ends 3/30)

**MARCH**

1 Saturday Winter Athletic Season ends  
 2-6 Sun-Thurs Pro Vita Winter Session  
 7 Friday Spring Recess begins for students\*  
 26 Wednesday Spring Recess ends by 8 PM\*  
 27 Thursday Spring Trimester begins

**APRIL**

1, 3, 7 Tu, Th, Mon "A Day At Berkshire" (revisit days for newly accepted families)  
 5 Saturday ACT Testing: V Form  
 11 Friday Songwriting and Digital Music Showcase, 7 PM  
 12 Saturday Passover begins at sundown (ends 4/20)  
 16 Wednesday "One Day For Berkshire"  
 17 Thursday AP Art Exhibit Reception, 7 PM  
 18 Friday Spring Concert, 7:30 PM  
 18-19 Fri-Sat Family Weekend  
 20 Sunday Easter  
 23 Wednesday SAT Testing: V Form  
 24 Thursday Sabin Entrepreneurial Prize Presentations  
 25 Friday Berkshire Improv Performance, 7:30 PM

**MAY**

2 Friday Capriccio: Classical Music Recital, 7:30 PM  
 3 Saturday Pro Vita Saturday Programming  
 5-16 Mon-Fri AP Examinations  
 9-10 Fri-Sat Spring Play Performances, 7:30 PM  
 15 Thursday Spring Dance Concert, 7:30 PM  
 16 Friday ARISE: Advanced Research and Independent Study Exhibition, 7 PM  
 17 Saturday College Boot Camp: V Form; Film Festival, 7:30 PM  
 17-18 Sat-Sun Closed Weekend (VI Form): students remain on campus  
 18 Sunday Prom  
 20 Tuesday Senior Dinner, 5:30 PM  
 21 Wednesday Spring Athletic Season ends  
 22 Thursday Sixth Form Prize Night Dinner, 5:30 PM; Prize Night Ceremony and Dessert Reception, 7:30 PM  
 23 Friday Commencement, 11 AM; Graduates depart by 3 PM  
 24-25 Sat-Sun Closed Weekend (III-V Forms): students remain on campus  
 24-28 Sat-Wed Underform Spring Trimester Assessment Period: students may depart after their last exam  
 29 Thursday Summer Recess begins\*

## TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS 2024-2025

Berkshire School arranges charter bus transportation with faculty chaperones for school vacations. Fares are charged to the student's account. Chartered buses to and from Bradley International Airport, Framingham (MA), and New York are available at vacation times.

Students in need of ground transportation to or from airports or bus stations should make arrangements through the Student Life Office. Local taxi companies provide travel services for a fee and accept cash or credit cards; students are not permitted to charge taxi fares to the School. Students may not call taxis or car services for local day leave permissions. The School provides weekly van service to nearby Great Barrington.

If a student misses a connection or has a change of plans, transportation must be canceled through the Student Life Office during regular school business hours to avoid the charge for any ground transportation that has been ordered. After school hours, parents/guardians are asked to report changes in plans to the Duty Administrator at 413-429-6132.

### Buses or vans run to and from (see schedule below):

- Bradley International Airport (Hartford, CT), baggage claim area downstairs, Terminal A
- Framingham, MA (Logan Express Bus Station), 11 Burr Street Extension
- JFK Airport (for Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Recesses only), baggage claim area, Terminal 1
- New York City (Pennsylvania Station), West 34<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue by the Hotel New Yorker

Departure date and time	Leaves	Available Buses
November 22, Friday	8:30 AM	Bradley, Framingham, JFK, and NYC
December 20, Friday	8:30 AM	Bradley, Framingham, JFK, and NYC
February 6, Thursday	11:30 AM	Bradley, Framingham, and NYC
March 7, Friday	8:30 AM	Bradley, Framingham, JFK, and NYC
May 29, Thursday	8:30 AM	*Students must notify the Student Life Office if transportation assistance is needed

For 8:30 AM departures from School, do not make plane reservations before 11:30 AM (domestic), 1:00 PM (International) at Bradley International Airport or 2:00 PM (domestic), 3:30 PM (International) at New York and Boston Airports. All buses depart campus from the main driveway near de Windt and Eipper Dormitories.

Return date and time	Bradley	Framingham	JFK	New York City
October 22, Tuesday	6:30 PM	5:30 PM		1:30 PM
December 2, Monday	6:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:00 PM	1:30 PM
January 5, Sunday	6:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:00 PM	1:30 PM
February 10, Monday	6:30 PM	5:30 PM		1:30 PM
March 26, Wednesday	6:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:00 PM	1:30 PM

For 5:00 PM pick-ups at JFK International Airport, plan to have flight land no later than 2:30 PM. For 6:30 PM pick-ups at Bradley International Airport, plan to have flight land no later than 4:30 PM.

We recommend that parents and students use Bradley International Airport (BDL) in Hartford, CT. It is located approximately one hour from campus and allows for much faster and easier travel for your child. Landing at JFK or other New York City (NYC) airports may be a less expensive airfare, but the cost of reaching campus from there can offset your perceived savings. It can also add an additional three to four hours of travel to the trip. If you do use NYC airports, you may want to look into your child using the shuttle to Grand Central Station to ride the Metro North train line to the Wassaic station.

### Transportation Resources

For transportation needs at times other than vacations, the following livery service contacts are provided for your convenience in arranging travel needs:

Abbotts Limousine Service	Lee, MA	413-243-1645	<a href="http://www.abbottslimo.com">www.abbottslimo.com</a>
Executive Livery	Salisbury, CT	860-435-8000	
Morning Star Car Service	Amenia, NY	845-493-0211	<a href="http://www.morningstarcarservice.com/">http://www.morningstarcarservice.com/</a>

The transportation companies listed above are provided for general informational purposes only. Use of any of these companies is at your own risk. **Berkshire School does not arrange private transportation.**

### Accommodations near Berkshire School

There is a detailed list of hotels, motels, and inns on the school's website under *About Us (Places to Stay)*.

# **POLICIES GOVERNING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR BERKSHIRE SCHOOL STUDENTS: RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY (RUP)**

## **OVERVIEW**

A digital citizen refers to a person who has the knowledge and skills to effectively use digital technologies to communicate with others, participate in society and create and consume digital content. At Berkshire School, all students are expected to be responsible digital citizens.

Access to information technologies is integral to the educational mission and purpose of Berkshire School. We utilize technology in nearly every facet of instruction, activity, service, research, and operation. This policy provides expectations for the use of technology as it affects our community.

Due to the evolutionary nature of technology, it is imperative for community members to realize that our policies regarding the use of technology in our community will also be evolutionary. We ask all community members to employ their best judgment when it comes to the use of Berkshire School technology and keep in mind that our policies related to technology are not meant to supersede our other school policies, but rather to compliment them.

Although Berkshire School provides certain technologies, we recognize that members of our community also have their own technology devices that they bring to campus and school events. Our policies address the appropriate use of both technologies provided by Berkshire School and personally-owned technological devices. Please read the policies below before using our network and computers, because by using our technology and/or network you agree to be bound by the terms, conditions, and regulations below.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Supervision and Personal Responsibility**

This policy applies only to Berkshire School students. Faculty, staff, and guests are governed by separate policies.

Parents/guardians must read and review this document with their child[ren] and accept the terms, conditions, and regulations presented herein before their child[ren] can utilize any Berkshire School technologies.

The use of Berkshire School and personally-owned technology on our campus is a privilege, not a right. This privilege comes with personal responsibilities of which you must be aware and with which you must comply with to maintain the privilege.

### **Privacy**

Students should have no expectation of privacy while using technology on Berkshire School property, on the Berkshire School network, or at Berkshire School events, even if such use incorporates their personal property. For example, a student who violates policy, law, and/or compromises the safety and well-being of the Berkshire School community while using a personally-owned laptop or other device while on the Berkshire campus should not expect privacy in such activities. Berkshire School reserves the right to monitor and track all uses and activity that take place through the use of the Berkshire School Network, School technology, or personally-owned technology on our property or at our events; however, it is under no duty to do so. We also reserve the right to investigate any reports of inappropriate actions related to any technology used at School. All emails and messages sent through the Berkshire School Network or accessed on a Berkshire School computer may be inspected. Any files saved onto a Berkshire School computer may be inspected.

### **Right to Update**

Since technology is continually evolving, Berkshire School reserves the right to change, update, and edit its technology policies at any time in order to continually protect the safety and well-being of our students and community. To this end, Berkshire School may add additional rules, restrictions, and guidelines at any time.

### **Termination of Accounts and Access**

Upon termination of your official status as a student at Berkshire School, you will no longer have access to the school network, files stored on the school network, or your school-provided email account. All Berkshire School-owned software must be uninstalled from personally-owned devices upon termination of your status as a student at Berkshire. This includes, but is not limited to, Microsoft Office and the Adobe Creative Suite. Prior to leaving the School, we recommend saving all personal data stored on school systems to a removable storage device or personal online storage and setting up an alternative email account. If you leave Berkshire in good standing, we will provide a 30-day grace period for email account transition.

## **DEFINITION AND TERMS SECTION**

- **Bandwidth:** Bandwidth is a measure of the amount of data that can be transmitted in a fixed amount of time.
- **The Internet:** The Internet connects millions of computers together globally, forming a network in which any computer can communicate with any other computer as long as they are both connected to the Internet.
- **Network:** Berkshire School's network is defined as our computers and electronic devices such as printers, fax machines, scanners, etc. that are connected to each other for the purpose of communication and data sharing.
- **Technology:** Under this policy, technology is a comprehensive term including, but not limited to, all computers, projectors, televisions,

DVD players, stereo or sound systems, digital media players, gaming consoles, gaming devices, cell phones, personal digital assistants, CDs, DVDs, camcorders, calculators, scanners, printers, cameras, external and/or portable hard drives, modems, Ethernet cables, servers, wireless cards, routers, and the Internet. School technology refers to all technology owned and/or operated by the School.

## **RESPONSIBLE USE SECTION**

### **Purposes and Use Expectations for Technology**

Berkshire School technology resources are primarily intended for academic use. However, students may utilize school technologies for limited recreational uses, keeping in mind that resources are both shared and finite. These resources include, but are not limited to, disk space, bandwidth, computers, printers, and software. In general, recreational technology use is not allowed during the academic day (7:00 AM-3:00 PM), during sports or activities, or during evening study hall hours (8:00-10:00 PM). If your recreational use interferes with another's educational use, you will be asked to refrain from your activity or continue the activity during an alternate time.

## **SCHOOL-PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

### **File Storage**

Every Berkshire student is provided with file storage via Berkshire's Google Apps suite while enrolled.

### **Email**

All students are provided with a Berkshire School email account. Students are expected to check their email regularly and are responsible for all school-related messages sent to their school email account. Upon leaving Berkshire, students will be given instructions to transfer their email to a personal account. This should be done in a timely fashion before accounts are disabled.

### **Network Access**

Berkshire School has both wireless and wired networks that are linked to students' Berkshire School Network accounts for authentication, authorization, and accounting purposes. In order to use the network, you must have a valid Berkshire School Network account.

Berkshire School provides individual password-protected accounts that allow access to school-provided technology services. Students must log off when they are finished using school computers or other technology services so that their email and files are protected, and their account cannot be used by anyone else. Students are responsible for any activity generated from their personal account.

## **UNACCEPTABLE USES OF TECHNOLOGY SECTION**

### **Recording, Video, and Photography**

Students may not publish photographs or video taken on Berkshire School property and/or at Berkshire School events for public marketing and promotional materials, websites, and/or media (newspapers, magazines, apps, etc.) without advance permission from the School.

### **Social Networking and Website Usage**

Students may access their profiles or accounts on allowed social networking websites through Berkshire School's technology, but not during the academic day, sports or activities, or evening study hall. Posts to such websites must conform to the standards set in this policy, the *Student/Family Handbook*, and other applicable policies and laws.

### **Communication: Instant Messaging, Email, Posting**

Inappropriate communication is prohibited in any public or private messages or material posted online. This includes the use of group messaging platforms of any kind. Inappropriate communication includes, but is not limited to, the following: obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language or images typed, posted, or spoken; information that could cause damage to an individual or the Berkshire School community or create the danger of disruption of the academic environment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks, including that which is based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age; harassment (persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person) or stalking of others; knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information; and communication that promotes illegal conduct or the destruction of property, including the acquisition or creation of weapons or other destructive devices. If you are told by another person to stop sending communications, you must stop. Engaging in any of the actions listed above may result in disciplinary action.

Students may not utilize any technology to harass, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy anyone else. This is unacceptable behavior known as cyber-bullying and will not be tolerated. Any cyber-bullying, on or off-campus, that is determined to substantially disrupt the safety and/or well-being of Berkshire School is subject to disciplinary action.

Do not post or send chain letters or spam. Spamming is sending an unnecessary and unsolicited message to a large group of people and can occur through emails, instant messages, or text messages.

### **Intellectual Property, Copyright, and Personal Integrity**

Do not pretend to be someone else online or use someone else's identity. Do not use, post, or make accessible to others content that may violate the privacy rights of others including, but not limited to, text, photographs, and video. Just because you may have individual access to certain information about a person does not mean that you have the right to disseminate that information publicly. Any such dissemination would violate school policy and may also violate certain state and federal laws.

A copyright exists in any original work of authorship that is fixed in any tangible medium of expression. This includes songs, videos, pictures, images, computer programs, and text. You are not permitted to copy, transfer, post, or otherwise reproduce any such work unless you have obtained permission to do so by the owner of the copyright in the work. There are certain limited exceptions to this rule known as “fair use”; before making any use of a work protected by copyright, you must consult with a faculty member to determine whether “fair use” applies. Failure to obtain permission for such use would constitute copyright infringement, which would violate school policy and the law.

### **Data, Gaming, and Other Devices**

Berkshire School students are allowed to bring their personal media devices, or other similar data-accessing devices onto campus, but are not allowed to utilize these devices during the academic day, sports/activities, or evening study hall unless authorized by a faculty member for academic purposes.

Students may bring personal video game systems onto campus (gaming consoles are not allowed in third-form rooms), but these devices may only be turned on and played outside of school commitments.

Students may not use Berkshire School-owned computers to play computer games unless part of an academic assignment or project.

Any technology device that is used to circumvent technology safeguards or to gain access, either physical or digital, to places and/or resources is strictly prohibited. The school will confiscate any device that is deemed to have the purpose of navigating around school safeguards either physical or digital.

### **Downloads and File Sharing**

Berkshire School students may never download, add, or install new programs, software, or hardware onto school-owned computers without the express permission of the Director of Technology.

No student may configure a school computer or personally-owned computer or use the Berkshire School Network to engage in the illegal sharing or use of copyrighted materials or to engage in any other unlawful activity. The School will cooperate fully with the appropriate authorities should illegal behavior be identified.

Excessive use of the Berkshire School Network for downloading, sharing, or transferring large files is prohibited.

### **Commercial and Political Use**

Users may not resell their network resources to others including, but not limited to, disk storage space and bandwidth. The use of Berkshire School technology resources for personal profit or gain is prohibited.

Students who are engaged in fundraising campaigns for Berkshire School sponsored events and causes must seek permission from their advisor before using technology resources to solicit funds for their event.

### **Respect for the Privacy of Others and Personal Safety**

Berkshire School is a community and as such, community members must respect the privacy of others. Do not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to others. Do not misrepresent or assume the identity of others. Do not publish information that was sent to you privately without the permission of the person who sent you the information or post private information about another person. Do not use another person’s account. Use caution when posting information about yourself online, and do not post personal information including your name, age, school name, address, phone number, or other identifying information.

Berkshire School prides itself on its reputation for excellence; therefore, you may not use the School’s name, logo, mascot, or other likeness or representation on a non-school website without express permission from Berkshire School. This includes pictures of anyone wearing clothes with the school name, emblem, or logo. This also includes listing the school name or school employees on a social networking profile, a dating website profile, or a rating website such as RateMyTeacher.com or RateMyCoach.com.

### **Computer Settings and Computer Labs**

Students are only allowed to alter, change, modify, repair, reconfigure settings, or install software on Berkshire School-owned computers with the express prior permission of the Director of Technology.

Food and drink are prohibited in Berkshire School computer labs or while using any Berkshire School technology.

### **Berkshire School Network Security**

Users may not circumvent any system security measures. The use of websites to tunnel around firewalls and filtering software or anonymize user identities is expressly prohibited. The use of websites, both domestic and international, hardware devices, or software to circumvent any school policy is prohibited. Students may not install any network device such as a router, firewall, wireless access point, etc., on the Berkshire School Network. Students may not extend their physical network access or Berkshire School Network account access to another student through any means or give their Berkshire School Network username and password to anyone except a member of the Technology Department. Purposefully spreading or facilitating the spread of a computer virus or other harmful computer program or altering the settings on a computer in such a way that the virus protection software would be disabled is prohibited. Students are not to access any secured files, resources, or administrative areas or employ the use of code or bots on the school network without express permission or the proper authority. If you have been given an account with special privileges, do not

use that account outside of the terms with which you were given access to that account.

No policy can detail all possible examples of unacceptable behavior related to technology use. Berkshire School technology users are expected to understand that the same rules, guidelines, and policies that apply to non-technology related behavior also apply to technology related behavior. Berkshire School students are expected to use their best judgment when it comes to making decisions related to the use of all technology and the Internet. If there is ever an issue about which you are unsure, ask a member of the Technology Department, Student Life Office, or faculty for assistance.

## **RESPONSE SECTION**

Berkshire School's Technology Department and other administrators shall have broad authority to interpret and apply these policies. Violators of our technology policies may be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the *Student/Family Handbook*; however, the School, at its discretion, may forgo any procedures and take immediate action if it is determined that providing notice is imprudent or would impose unreasonable burdens on the School. Restrictions may be placed on the violator's use of Berkshire School technologies, and privileges related to technology use may be revoked entirely pending any hearing to protect the safety and well-being of our community. Violations of this policy constitute a violation of a Major School Rule and therefore may also be subject to discipline according to the Disciplinary Response Section of the *Student/Family Handbook*. Berkshire School cooperates fully with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigations related to illegal activities conducted on School property or through school technologies. Berkshire School authorities have the right to confiscate personally-owned technological devices that are in violation or used in violation of school policies.

If you accidentally access inappropriate information or if someone sends you inappropriate information, you should immediately tell a faculty member so as to prove that you did not deliberately access inappropriate information.

If you witness someone else either deliberately or accidentally access inappropriate information or use technology in a way that violates this policy, you must report the incident to a faculty member as soon as possible. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action.

Berkshire School, at its discretion, retains the right to suspend service, accounts, and access to data, including user files and any other stored data, without notice to the user.

## **SCHOOL LIABILITY**

Berkshire School cannot and does not guarantee or warrant that the functions and services provided by and through our technology will be problem free. Berkshire School is not responsible for any damages that users may suffer including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service.

Berkshire School is not responsible for the accuracy or the quality of the information obtained through school technologies. While Berkshire School strives to ensure the safety of its students, it cannot control all electronic information or activity traveling through its network or on School property and is therefore not responsible or liable for a user's exposure to "unacceptable" communications or information nor is Berkshire School responsible for misinformation. Berkshire School is not responsible for financial obligations arising through the use of school technologies. Berkshire School is not responsible or liable for any unlawful acts performed by users of its technology.

## **GENERAL SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

- **Posting Online and Social Networking:** Never post personal information about yourself online. Personal information includes your phone number, address, full name, siblings' names, and parent/guardians' names. When creating an account on a social networking website, make sure to set your privacy settings so only your friends can view your pictures and your profile. Avoid accepting a friend you do not already know. If possible, set up your account so that you are notified and must approve all postings to your wall or page. If possible, set up your account to notify you when someone else has posted and tagged you in a picture. If you have a public profile, be careful about posting anything identifiable such as a sports team number or local area where you spend your free time.
- **Communications:** Think before you send all forms of communication, including emails, IM's, and text messages. Once you send the data it is not retrievable, and those who receive it may make it public or send it along to others, despite your intentions.
- **Strangers:** Do not feel bad about ignoring instant messages or emails from unknown people. Save all contacts from known or unknown people who are repeatedly contacting or harassing you. These saved messages will help authorities track, locate, and prosecute cyber-stalkers and cyber-bullies. If you have been speaking with a stranger online and make plans to meet the stranger in person, notify your parents or guardians first.
- **Passwords:** Do not share your passwords with your friends or peers. When creating a password, do not make it anything obvious such as your pet's name or favorite sports team. Also remember to include both letters and numbers in your password if possible.
- **Downloads and Attachments:** Do not open or run files on your computer from unknown or suspect senders and sources. Many viruses and other undesirable consequences can result from opening these items.
- **Stay Current:** Do protect your own computer and devices by keeping anti-virus and anti-spyware software up to date. Keep your operating system and application software up to date.



## **BERKSHIRE SCHOOL HAZING STATUE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHEET MASSACHUSETTS HAZING STATUTE**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires secondary schools to provide students and families enrolled at the School with a copy of the state law defining and prohibiting hazing. All members of the school community are reminded that these laws include a requirement to report promptly any alleged incidents of hazing. Students are briefed on this matter during dorm and school meetings. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, §§17-19 are provided below.

### **COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAW ON HAZING**

#### **General Law 269:17 Hazing; Organizing or Participating; Hazing Defined**

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing", as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

#### **General Law 269:18 Failure to Report Hazing**

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

#### **General Law 269:19 Copy of Secs. 17-19; Issuance to Students and Student Groups, Teams and Organizations; Report**

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team, or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team, or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations.

Each such group, team, or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team, or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team, or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams, or organizations and to notify each full-time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communication the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

### **BERKSHIRE SCHOOL POLICY ON HAZING**

Berkshire School adheres to and enforces Massachusetts State law that prohibits the practice of hazing. Students who fail to comply with the hazing law may be in violation of the Major School Rule with regards to Hazing, which can result in dismissal for a first offense.

# BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

## BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

Berkshire School expects that all members of our school community will treat each other with civility and respect.

It is the policy of the School to provide and maintain a learning environment that is free of bullying and any other verbal or physical misconduct that disrupts the learning environment or makes it unsafe.

The Berkshire School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (“Plan”), set forth below, is published in response to the Massachusetts law (Act 2010, Chapter 92) against bullying and legislative changes to the law in regard to “*more vulnerable students*,” taking effect on July 24, 2014. The Plan is an integral part of our efforts to promote learning and to prevent behavior that can impede the learning process. Our Plan spells out Berkshire School’s comprehensive approach to addressing bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation.

This Plan is consistent with broader protections at Berkshire School against discrimination, harassment, bullying, and retaliation that appear in the *Student/Family Handbook* and the *Employee Handbook*.

It is important that this Plan be well understood by all members of the Berkshire community. The Head of School is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Plan. The Plan shall be updated at least every two years to reflect any changes in the law or other necessary changes in the policy. Questions and concerns related to this Plan may be referred to the Head of School or Dean of Students.

### POLICY AGAINST BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, AND RETALIATION

The School will not tolerate any form of bullying or cyber-bullying, nor will it tolerate retaliation against any person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

The School recognizes that certain students may be more “*vulnerable*” to becoming a target for bullying and cyber-bullying or harassment based on actual or perceived differentiating characteristics and will support vulnerable students by making the School community aware that a more vulnerable class exists and providing annual training to students and faculty in regard to the more vulnerable students.

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited:

- anywhere on school grounds and at school-sponsored events, activities, functions, and programs;
- on school buses and other vehicles owned, leased, or used by the School, and through use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased, or used by the School;
- at a location, activity, function, or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at School for a targeted student; infringes on the rights of a targeted student at School; or materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the School.
- on the school network (even on a personal device), technology equipment, or on School-sponsored digital channels.

### DEFINITIONS UNDER THE LAW

The following definitions are drawn from the Massachusetts law against bullying.

**Aggressor (“Perpetrator”):** A student who engages in bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation.

**Bullying:** Bullying is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the targeted student or damage to the targeted student’s property;
- places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to themselves or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at School for the targeted student;
- infringes on the rights of the targeted student at School; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the School.

**Cyber-bullying:** Cyber-bullying is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, fax machines, and the internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messages, text messages, and internet postings, whether on a webpage, in a blog, or otherwise.

**Hostile Environment:** A hostile environment is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student’s education.

**Retaliation:** Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

**Target (“Victim”):** A student against whom bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation have been directed.

**Vulnerable:** Certain students may be more vulnerable to becoming a target for bullying and cyber-bullying or harassment based on actual or perceived differentiating characteristics including race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, socio-economic status, homelessness, academic status, gender identity or expression, physical appearance, pregnant or parenting status, sexual orientation, mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.

**Legal Definitions and School Policy:** It is important to bear in mind that stricter standards of behavior may apply under Berkshire School’s policies in order that we may prevent inappropriate verbal and physical conduct before a student has been subject to bullying as it is defined under the law. For example, although the law defines bullying as “repeated use” of certain expressions, acts, and/or gestures, the School reserves the right to apply disciplinary measures and other corrective action in a case of a single expression, act or gesture, if the School determines that it is of sufficient severity to warrant disciplinary measures or other remedial action or that the repetition of that expression, act, or gesture might reasonably result in bullying as defined under the law.

## **PREVENTION OF BULLYING AND CYBER-BULLYING**

Every student in the Berkshire community has a right to be treated with civility and respect. Our curriculum emphasizes respect for differences, and teachers are clear in their expectations for student behavior. In addition, the Head of School, Dean of Students and other school administrators use school meetings and similar community gatherings to make sure students are well informed about what is expected of them and to reinforce positive conduct. When necessary, parents/guardians are notified and asked to reinforce standards for membership in the Berkshire community.

All Berkshire students and parents/guardians are expected, on an annual basis, to read the *Student/Family Handbook* and “Berkshire Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.” Both are posted and available to be downloaded on the Berkshire School website. The *Student/Family Handbook* includes explicit policies around the acceptable use of technology at Berkshire.

All Berkshire faculty and staff shall, on an annual basis, read the School’s “Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan” to become familiar with or review its content. In addition, all Berkshire faculty and staff shall receive annual training on its content.

The administration and faculty recognize that it is essential that expectations for student conduct extend to corridors, locker rooms, meals, school activities, carpools, buses and the like. The School strives to ensure that ample adult supervision is provided on School premises, including in the corridors and locker rooms, meals, school activities, and on School-provided transportation throughout the school day as well as at School-sponsored events.

## **REPORTS OF BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, OR RETALIATION**

**Reporting by Student:** Any student who is the target of bullying or cyber-bullying or has witnessed an incident of bullying or cyber-bullying or otherwise has relevant information about bullying or cyber-bullying prohibited by this policy is strongly encouraged to promptly report the matter orally or in writing to the Head of School, Dean of Students, or to any other faculty or staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Also, any student who is subject to retaliation in violation of this policy or who knows of another student who has been subject to retaliation is urged to report it as soon as possible.

**Reporting by Parent/Guardian:** A parent or guardian of a student who is the target of bullying or cyber-bullying or of a student who has witnessed or otherwise has relevant information about bullying or cyber-bullying is strongly urged to promptly notify the Head of School or Dean of Students. Furthermore, any parent or guardian who has witnessed bullying or cyber-bullying or has relevant information concerning such an incident is strongly urged to come forward to the Head of School or Dean of Students. A parent or guardian should also report any incident of retaliation in violation of this policy to the Head of School or Dean of Students.

**Reporting by Faculty or Staff:** Any member of the faculty or staff of the School who witnesses or otherwise becomes aware of bullying or cyber-bullying in violation of this policy or who becomes aware of retaliation against a student who reported information concerning a violation of this policy is required to report it immediately to the Head of School or Dean of Students. There are to be no exceptions. A member of the faculty or staff may not make promises of confidentiality to a student or parent/guardian who informs them of an allegation of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation.

**Anonymous Reports:** Faculty and staff may not make reports under this policy anonymously. The School also urges students and their parents/guardians not to make reports anonymously. Although there are circumstances in which an anonymous report can be better than none at all, it is far more difficult to determine the facts of what occurred if complaints are made anonymously. Please note that no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to bear in mind that the School takes its policy against retaliation seriously.

**Confidentiality:** While the School cannot promise strict confidentiality, because information must be shared in order to conduct an effective investigation, the School releases information concerning complaints of bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation only on a legitimate need-to-know basis.

**False Reports:** Any student who, after an effective investigation, is found to have knowingly made a false accusation of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education Problem Resolution System:** The education department has a system for seeking assistance or filing a claim. Information can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa>.

## **RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, OR RETALIATION**

**A. Preliminary Considerations:** When a complaint of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation is brought to the attention of the Head of School or Dean of Students, an assessment is made as to whether any initial steps need to be taken to protect the well-being of students and to prevent disruption of their learning environment while the investigation is being conducted. As appropriate, strategies such as increased supervision may be implemented to prevent further bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation during an investigation.

**B. Obligation to Notify Parents or Guardians:** It is the policy of the School to notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student who is an alleged target of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student who may have been accused of engaging in such behavior promptly after a complaint has been made.

**C. Investigation:** The following is an outline of the procedure that is pursued once a complaint has been brought to the attention of the Head of School:

An impartial investigation of the complaint is conducted by the Head of School or by someone designated by the Head of School. That investigation may include (but will not necessarily be limited to) interviews with the person who made the complaint, with the student who was the target of the alleged bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation, with the person or persons against whom the complaint was made, and with any students, faculty, staff, or other persons who witnessed or who may otherwise have relevant information about the alleged incident.

Depending on the circumstances, the Head of School or designee conducting the investigation also may choose to consult with other teachers and/or the School Counselor when conducting the investigation.

**Notice to Law Enforcement Agency (603 MCR 49.06):** In accordance with 603 MCR 49.06, the Head of School shall do the following: (1) Upon receipt and review of a report of bullying or retaliation, the Head of School shall make a preliminary determination whether to notify the local law enforcement agency of the reported incident. The Head of School shall notify the law enforcement agency if they have a reasonable basis to believe that the incident may result in criminal charges against the alleged perpetrator. The Head of School shall, consistent with school policy and procedure, consult with other individuals they deem appropriate in making such determination.

(a) If the Head of School decides to notify the local law enforcement agency, they shall document the reasons for the decision and immediately contact the local law enforcement agency to discuss the incident and the law enforcement agency's involvement. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Head of School from taking appropriate disciplinary or other action pursuant to school policy and state law.

(b) If the Head of School decides not to notify the local law enforcement agency, or the local law enforcement agency determines that its involvement is not necessary under the circumstances, the Head of School shall respond to the incident of bullying or retaliation as provided in the bullying prevention and intervention plan. If the Head of School subsequently determines facts that cause them to believe that the perpetrator's conduct may be criminal, the Head of School shall notify the local law enforcement agency.

(2) The Head of School shall notify the local law enforcement agency of a report of bullying or retaliation consistent with 603 CMR 49.06(1) if bullying or retaliation occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21.

**D. Resolution, Notification, and Follow-up:** Following interviews and any other investigation undertaken, as the School deems appropriate, the Head of School or designee will determine whether and to what extent the allegation of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation has been substantiated. If it is determined that the policy set forth in this Plan has been violated, the Head of School will determine what disciplinary action and/or other remedial action is appropriate and how it will be implemented.

The goal of an investigation, and any disciplinary or other remedial process that is imposed following that investigation, is to correct the situation to the extent it is reasonably possible and to take such steps as can be taken to prevent there being a repetition of the incident and to prevent the student or students targeted and others who participated in the investigation from being subject to retaliation.

In appropriate circumstances, such as when a crime may have been committed or a child may have been subject to abuse or neglect of the type that is reportable under Section 51A of the Massachusetts laws, law enforcement or another appropriate government agency may be notified.

Upon completion of the investigation, the Head of School or the Dean of Students will meet individually with the student or students who were the target of the alleged incident and the student or students against whom the complaint was made and their parents or guardians to report the results of the investigation and, where disciplinary or other corrective action is determined to be appropriate, to inform the parties of the steps that will be taken to correct the situation. The amount of information provided in these meetings may be limited by confidentiality laws protecting student records.

Follow-up contacts will be made with any student found to have been targeted in violation of this policy and their parents or guardians to inquire as to whether there have been any further incidents.

## ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Incidents of bullying or cyber-bullying shall be referred to the School's Counseling Office so that appropriate counseling may be available for victims (targets), perpetrators (aggressors), and family members of those students.

## CONCLUSION

This Plan is intended (1) to prevent bullying and cyber-bullying among our students, (2) to encourage students and their parents or guardians to have confidence in the School's procedures and to come forward promptly whenever a student is subject to conduct that is prohibited by this or any other School policy; and (3) to implement appropriate discipline and other corrective measures when they are found to be warranted.

Appendix D

# BERKSHIRE SCHOOL NON-ELECTRIC PERSONAL WHEELED VEHICLES POLICY

**Definition:** Electric and non-electric personal wheeled vehicles include, but are not limited to, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), electric skateboards, rollerblades, one-wheels, and any other similar devices.

- 1. Purpose:** This policy aims to establish guidelines for the safe and responsible use of non-electric personal-wheeled vehicles within the premises of Berkshire School. This policy aims to ensure the well-being of all individuals, promote a positive school environment, and minimize any potential risks associated with usage.
- 2. Scope:** This policy applies to all Berkshire students on school property or in school-related activities.

**Use:** Non-electric personal wheeled vehicle use is deemed acceptable on the campus of Berkshire School; however, it comes with inherent risks for the individual, such as potential accidents or injuries.

**Prohibition:** The use of electronic-powered personal wheeled vehicles is strictly prohibited on the campus of Berkshire School including, but not limited to, school buildings, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and athletic fields.

**Helmet Use Requirement:** Massachusetts state law requires the use of a helmet on bikes and skateboards. In addition, Berkshire students engaging in wheeled activities, such as rollerblading, or similar activities allowed within the school premises, should wear a properly fitted and secured helmet. Helmets worn on school premises must comply with recognized safety standards, such as those established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), or other applicable regulatory bodies.

**Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of the individual and their parents or legal guardians, if the individual is a minor, to ensure compliance with the mandatory helmet use requirement.

**Construction Safety Considerations:** [Increased Awareness] Given the ongoing construction efforts on the campus of Berkshire School, heightened awareness and caution are necessary to ensure the safety of all individuals on campus. Berkshire students must exercise additional vigilance and adhere to any specific safety instructions the School provides.

**Restricted Areas:** All buildings on campus are wheels-free. In addition, certain areas within the school premises may be restricted due to ongoing construction. These areas will be marked with signage and barriers. It is imperative that all individuals, especially students, respect these restricted areas and avoid unauthorized entry.

**Enforcement and Consequences:** All Berkshire students are expected to comply with this policy. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, warnings, suspension of privileges, or other measures deemed necessary by the school administration.

**Review and Revision:** This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and may be revised as deemed necessary by the school administration.

By adhering to this policy, the school aims to create a safe and secure environment that prioritizes the well-being of all individuals on its premises.

# 2024-2025 ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

## WEEK 1

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
8:00 Office		8:00 Office				8:00 Office		8:00 Office			
8:25 Hours		8:25 Hours		8:15 Faculty		8:25 Hours		8:25 Hours			
8:30 E		8:30 F		8:55 Meeting		8:30 B		8:30 C			
9:15		9:15		9:00 A		9:15		9:15		9:00 D	
9:20 School		9:20 Form/HH		9:45		9:20 School		9:20 Advisory		9:45	
		9:45 Meeting				9:45 Assembly		9:45			
10:10 Meeting		9:50 B		9:55 E		9:50 E		9:50 D		9:55 B	
10:20 G				10:40						10:40	
11:05				11:05		10:50 F		11:05		11:05	
11:15 C1	Lunch	11:15 D1	Lunch	11:35 Advisory		11:15 G1	Lunch	11:15 B1	Lunch	11:35	
12:00		12:00		11:55 D2	12:30 Lunch			12:00		11:55 G2	12:00
Lunch	11:55 C2	Lunch	12:40			Lunch	12:40	Lunch	12:40		
12:50 A		12:50 C		1:00		12:50 F		12:50 G		1:00	
2:05		2:05		Afternoon Program		2:05		2:05		Afternoon Program	
2:15 D		2:15 G				2:15 A		2:15 E			
3:00		3:00				3:00		3:00			
3:30 Afternoon Program		3:30 Afternoon Program		5:30		3:30 Afternoon Program		3:30 Afternoon Program		5:30	

6:45	6:45	6:45	6:45	6:45
7:40	7:40	7:40	7:40	7:40

**Effective Weeks:**  
 9/2, 9/16, 9/30, 10/14,  
 10/28, 11/11, 12/2,  
 12/16, 1/6, 1/20, 2/3,  
 2/17, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21,  
 5/5, 5/19

8:00	Study Hall	8:00	Study Hall	8:00	Study Hall	8:00	Study Hall	8:00	Study Hall
10:00		10:00		10:00		10:00		10:00	

## 2024-2025 ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

### WEEK 2

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
8:00 Office		8:00 Office				8:00 Office		8:00 Office		Programming	
8:25 Hours		8:25 Hours		8:15 Faculty		8:25 Hours		8:25 Hours			
8:30 F		8:30 G		8:55 Meeting		8:30 D		8:30 A			
9:15		9:15		9:00 E		9:15		9:15			
9:20 School		9:20 Dept./Club Meeting		9:45		9:20 School Assembly		9:20 Advisory			
10:10 Meeting		9:50 C		9:55 C		9:50 F		9:50 G			
10:20 A				10:40							
11:05		11:05		10:50 G		11:05		11:05			
11:15 E1 Lunch		11:15 F1 Lunch		11:35 Advisory		11:15 A1 Lunch		11:15 B1 Lunch			
12:00		12:00		11:35		12:00		12:00			
Lunch		Lunch		12:30 Lunch		Lunch		Lunch			
11:55 E2 12:40		11:55 F2 12:40				11:55 A2 12:40		11:55 B2 12:40			
12:50 B		12:50 A		1:00		12:50 E		12:50 D			
2:05		2:05		Afternoon Program		2:05		2:05			
2:15 D		2:15 B				2:15 C		2:15 F			
3:00		3:00				3:00		3:00			
3:30 Afternoon Program		3:30 Afternoon Program		5:30		3:30 Afternoon Program		3:30 Afternoon Program			
5:30		5:30				5:30		5:30			

**Effective Weeks:**  
 9/9, 9/23, 10/7,  
 10/21, 11/4, 12/9,  
 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24,  
 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12

8:00 Study Hall		8:00 Study Hall		8:00 Study Hall		8:00 Study Hall	
10:00		10:00		10:00		10:00	