

# 2025 - 2026



## BUCKEYE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDEBOOK

Middle School Phone Number

740 - 363 - 6626

*The VISION of BVLS: Where Tradition Meets Innovation*

*The MISSION of BVLS: Engaging and inspiring individuals in an ever-changing, diverse society.*

[www.buckeyevalley.k12.oh.us](http://www.buckeyevalley.k12.oh.us)

## WELCOME TO BUCKEYE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

The primary purpose of this guidebook is to provide a convenient reference to BVMS specific rules, procedures, regulations, requirements, etc. While it does not speak to all the details of school life, it does address some very important items of interest. A comprehensive overview of district policies and rules can be found in the [BVLS Handbook](#).

We believe in safeguarding the rights of our students. We also expect our students to promote and contribute to the common good of the school and community through personal action and conduct that reflect principles of good character. We are committed to introduce, teach, and exemplify principles related to respect, concern, and appreciation for self and others, notwithstanding circumstance or situation.

Buckeye Valley Middle School is an excellent place to obtain an education that will enhance the chances for success in the future. We encourage young people to plan, work hard, and meet academic and personal goals. We believe good attitudes and honest efforts will lead to many fulfilling experiences and achievements.

Please read this guidebook carefully and refer to it often. It is intended to assist you in your efforts to find answers to questions related to school life at BVMS. If you do not understand any part of it, please ask a member of the faculty, administration, or staff for assistance. Any of us will be pleased to be of service to you.

Our best to you as you prepare for this year and your future. We look forward to a productive, successful, and enjoyable school year.

Faculty, Administration, and Staff  
Buckeye Valley Middle School

### **Who To Contact**

Principal	Dr. Matt Gallatin	<a href="mailto:mattgallatin@mybvls.org">mattgallatin@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
Asst. Principal	Mr. Mike Davis	<a href="mailto:mdavis@mybvls.org">mdavis@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
Curriculum Specialist	Mrs. Jennifer Page	<a href="mailto:jpage@mybvls.org">jpage@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
School Counselor	Mrs. Sarah Daddis	<a href="mailto:sdaddis@mybvls.org">sdaddis@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
School Counselor	Mrs. Laurie Simmons	<a href="mailto:lsimmons@mybvls.org">lsimmons@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
Main Office Secretary	Mrs. Crystal Baron	<a href="mailto:cbaron@mybvls.org">cbaron@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
Attendance Secretary	Mrs. Mary Findley	<a href="mailto:mfindley@mybvls.org">mfindley@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626
Central Office Secretary	Mrs. Mary Barr	<a href="mailto:mbarr@mybvls.org">mbarr@mybvls.org</a>	740.369.8735
Athletics	Mr. Eric Music	<a href="mailto:emusic@mybvls.org">emusic@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.1349
Asst. Athletics (MS)	Ms. Katie Bush	<a href="mailto:kbush@mybvls.org">kbush@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.1349
Student Services	Mrs. LeAnna Ford	<a href="mailto:lford@mybvls.org">lford@mybvls.org</a>	740.369.8735
Technology	Mrs. Cassie Holewinski	<a href="mailto:cholewinski@mybvls.org">cholewinski@mybvls.org</a>	740.369.8735
Transportation	Mrs. Dodi Andrews	<a href="mailto:dandrews@mybvls.org">dandrews@mybvls.org</a>	740.369.8735
School Resource Officer	Dep. Aaron Kamerer	<a href="mailto:akamerer@mybvls.org">akamerer@mybvls.org</a>	740.363.6626

## **Buckeye Valley Colors**

Brown and Gold

### **Mascot**

The Barons



### **Alma Mater**

Joyously to thee we raise, Buckeye Valley High,  
Songs of loyalty and praise, which shall never die.  
Thou our inspiration art, ne'er shall any heart,  
From these sacred halls depart, Buckeye Valley High.

### **Down the Field - Fight Song**

March, march on down the field fighting for B.V.  
Once more the brown and gold  
will break through their line.  
And then a long cheer for B.V.'s teams,  
we're here to win again.  
B.V.'s team will fight to the end for victory.  
*words by Tom Kaelber*

Our fans will cheer to the end for our teams  
and lift up their spirits to lead them to victory.  
With our heads held up high,  
and our eyes filled with pride,  
B.V.'s teams will forever fight for VICTORY!!!  
*words by Erik Lowe*

## ACADEMICS

### ADD/DROP CLASSES

1. Students have the first 10 days of the semester to request to add and/or drop band and/or choir (6th-8th) for the current semester. All other exploratory classes are not optional. The administration reserves the right to look at individual cases. Parents/guardians will be notified of the student's request to add/drop a class from the school counselor.
2. Classes for high school credit will follow the high school handbook under "electives".

### GRADING SCALE

All BVMS staff members will use a uniform percent system. Percent's will be converted to letter grades. Percent averages with a decimal value of .5 and above that are to be converted to letter grades will be rounded up to the next whole number. Conversions to a GPA are as follows:

#### **Buckeye Valley Middle School District-wide Grade Scale**

98 - 100 = A+ = 4.00  
92 - 97 = A = 4.00  
90 - 91 = A- = 3.67  
88 - 89 = B+ = 3.33

82 - 87 = B = 3.00  
80 - 81 = B- = 2.67  
78 - 79 = C+ = 2.33  
72 - 77 = C = 2.00

70 - 71 = C- = 1.67  
68 - 69 = D+ = 1.33  
62 - 67 = D = 1.00  
60 - 61 = D- = 0.67  
50 - 59 = F = 0

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** is determined by figuring the quarter grade on the 4.0 scale. Ex:

ELA: A (4.00)  
Math: A- (3.67)  
Social Studies: B- (2.67)

Science: A+ (4.00)  
Health: A+ (4.00)  
Art: A+ (4.00)

$(4 + 3.67 + 2.67 + 4 + 4 + 4)/6 =$   
**3.72 GPA**

- ★ BVMS makes an effort to educate students on GPA and how that system can impact their futures in high school and beyond.

### ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

BVMS celebrates students by recognizing those students that achieve and excel within the classroom. Students that achieve GPAs exceeding 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 will be recognized.

### ICU-INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - Missing Assignment Notification

BVMS staff believes in providing high-quality instruction and assignment to students. ICU is a communication tool used between the school and families to track learning progress and completion of assignments based on the state standards. Levels of support are in place during the school day.

### MAKE-UP WORK WHEN ABSENT

It is the student's responsibility to plan ahead and check with the teacher(s) prior to any pre-planned absences. In the case of missed days, a student may be given one day per excused day of absence to complete assignments, tests, homework, etc. Students with pre-arranged absences (field trips, fair day(s), college visits, vacations, etc.) are to obtain assignments prior to their absence and submit them to teachers upon return. Tests or assignments announced prior to the student's absence are to be taken/turned in upon the student's return unless the teacher waives that expectation. The building principal will have final ruling. With the goal of ensuring that all students learn and benefit from instruction, teachers may enter "placeholder" zeros to encourage students to take advantage of the many academic supports available.

## **STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES**

### **Ambassadors:**

BV Ambassadors are utilized to welcome new students to BVMS. This can be accomplished through building tours, being a lunch buddy, answering questions, inviting to a sporting event, etc.

### **Builders Club:**

You are the “leaders” so you will ultimately get to decide what we do. However, the goal is to help others in our school, community, and nation. For Example: Planning and Hosting a Valentine's party for Senior Citizens, food and clothing drives to help organizations like Salvation Army or Free Store: basically helping others.

### **Drug Free BV:**

Drug Free BV is open to any MS Student. This group is student led and supports students making the choice to live a drug free life. Meetings will be before school once a month from 7:00am-7:30am and occasionally after school in October to prepare for Red Ribbon Week.

### **Green Team:**

Everything recycling! Live, love, recycling. This club is about taking care of our school and learning how to recycle everything from charging cables to plastic bottles to batteries. Some activities we do include: Collecting recycling from classrooms and sorting electronic materials out of bins. Join the Green Team!

### **French Club:**

French Club is open to students presently or previously enrolled in a French course.

### **Literary Magazine:**

Literary Magazine- is a student publication staffed by 8th grade students. The magazine provides an outlet for BVMS students to showcase their writing and art and is published periodically throughout the year.

### **Math Counts:**

Math Club is an opportunity for students who love math and logic to do more math and logical thinking activities. Word problems, puzzles, equations- and more- await!

### **Power of the Pen:**

Power of the Pen is an opportunity for students who love writing and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to compete against BV students and other schools in the area.

### **Show Choir (Grades 6-8):**

Show Choir is a singing and dancing group that performs songs at concerts as well as community events. This group works with a choreographer to create shows that will be performed throughout the year. Crew members are also part of the team and help with back-stage needs. There is an audition required to be a singer and dancer as well as an interview for those interested in being part of backstage crew. You DO NOT need to currently be in Choir or Band to participate, but it is highly encouraged!

### **Ski Club (Grades 5-8):**

Ski Club introduces students to the sport of downhill skiing. A membership fee covers ski rental, lessons and lift ticket expenses for six evenings of skiing beginning in January. Even if you are a veteran skier and/or have your own equipment, you can still join for a lesser cost. Bussing is available for an additional fee.

**Spanish Club:**

Spanish Club is open to students presently or previously enrolled in a Spanish course.

**Student Council:**

Student Council promotes leadership and understanding between the student body and the administration and faculty. Membership in the organization is voluntary. Officers are elected by the group.

**Student Volunteer Corp:**

SVC is a group of students at BVMS who have been selected by the faculty as leaders within the building. SVC students assist with many tasks and opportunities around the building. Students can be added/removed during the year.

**Yearbook:**

Yearbook club is a way to be involved and leave a permanent mark on your years at BVMS. Club members will advertise the art contest and yearbook sale, use technology to organize photos taken at BVMS events and activities, edit/proof the yearbook before publishing, all while working with students from grades 5-8.

**ATHLETICS**

**BUCKEYE VALLEY MS FALL SPORTS**

Boys Cross Country  
Girls Cross Country  
7th & 8th Football (boys and girls)  
7th & 8th Volleyball (girls)  
Fall Cheerleading (boys and girls)

**BUCKEYE VALLEY MS WINTER SPORTS**

7th & 8th Boys Basketball  
7th & 8th Girls Basketball  
Wrestling – (boys and girls)  
Winter Cheerleading (boys and girls)

**BUCKEYE VALLEY SPRING SPORTS**

Baseball (club)  
Softball (club)  
Boys Track  
Girls Track  
Lacrosse (club)

**NOTE:** Teams will be officially formed only if there are enough participants.

**PAY TO PARTICIPATE:** \$100 per sport (paid prior to 1st contest)

The Athletic/Activities Handbook for students, parent(s)/guardian(s), and coaches/advisors is available under separate cover in the office. Additional information can be found in the Board of Education Policy Manual regarding interscholastic athletics and/or public concerns. Please refer to:

IGDJ – Interscholastic Athletics / JB – Equal Educational Opportunities / IGDJ-P – Public Concerns

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

All members of our athletic teams and cheerleading squads must maintain the academic standards set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) in order to be eligible to participate. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades. Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards specified in OHSAA bylaws during the last grading period of the school year. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

**EXCEPTION:** Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season. BVMS offers girl's volleyball, basketball, track, cross-country, girls' tennis, bowling and cheerleading. Boys sports are football, basketball, wrestling, cross country and track. In compliance with OHSAA, sixth grade students are not permitted to practice with or participate on BVMS interscholastic teams. A physical is required before a student may try out for and practice with an athletic team. All student athletes are expected to be in school by 11 a.m. in order to practice or participate in games or activities for that day.

## **SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to Buckeye Valley Middle School is gained in one of the following ways:

1. Completion of fifth grade in the Buckeye Valley School District.
2. Presentation of written transfer from another school indicating work completed, grades, and units of credit earned. A birth certificate, proof of legal guardianship, proof of a Buckeye Valley district address of residence, and immunization records must also be provided upon entrance.
3. Permission of the superintendent's office.

### **CAFETERIA EXPECTATIONS- For the Health and Safety of all students and staff:**

1. Students are to stay in their seats. There is to be no "table hopping". There are no reserved seats.
2. Students are to raise their hands if they need something.
3. Students are to wait for the trash cans to circulate to dispose of trash.
4. Students are to use "inside voice".
5. Students may not use their phones or other electronic devices.
6. Students are to ask for permission to use a pass to leave the cafeteria.
7. Students are to wait to be dismissed by an adult.
8. Students are not to leave their table at the end of lunch until dismissed by an adult. This will be done when the table is quiet, clean, and ready.
9. If students are permitted to utilize "patio time", they must remain in the designated area. This privilege can be removed if students are not following the rules.
10. Seats may be assigned by staff if warranted to maintain a positive environment.

### **EARLY ARRIVAL/LATE PICKUP**

School begins with the late bell at 7:35 AM and ends at 2:20 PM.

At 7:20 AM, ALL students eating breakfast (bus riders and car riders) may enter the far left cafeteria door. (Door 3) At 7:30 AM, ALL students are allowed in the building with 5th grade entering door 1, 6th grade entering door 14, 7th grade entering door 2, and 8th grade entering door 14.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students must be present ½ day to participate in practices or games, and after school activities. This requirement may be waived by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

### **FEES**

School fees cover the cost of consumable materials that your child uses throughout the course of the school year. Workbooks and art materials are just two examples of the materials that are consumed by students each year. Please pay your school fees by sending a check to the school office. Please do not send cash. School fees are waived for students eligible for free or reduced lunch. If school fees are a financial hardship for your family, please contact the building principal to arrange a payment schedule. School Fees are \$60 for Grades K-8.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Each student shall have all the immunizations required by the Ohio Revised Code 3313.671 or have an authorized waiver on file in the school office. If a student does not have the required immunizations or a waiver on file in the school office, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with the set deadline of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of school. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the school nurse.

All middle school students must have proof of the following immunizations on file in the middle school office by the 14th school day: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, **Tdap (7<sup>th</sup> grade)**, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Hepatitis B, Varicella and meningococcal.

### **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER**

When a student wishes to access the library media center facilities, equipment, or material, they should gain teacher permission and utilize their hall pass. In order for the library media center to be utilized to its fullest extent, only those who have library media center work to do will be admitted. Books and magazines check out for two weeks and can be renewed. Fines and/or fees for overdue, damaged, or lost materials will be assessed. Library media center privileges may be suspended for students with unpaid fines or fees.

### **LOCKER ROOM POLICY**

1. No students are allowed in the locker room during P.E. classes.
2. Lockers and locks are optional. Clothes may be kept in lockers without locks, but personal items are the responsibility of the owner and the school claims no responsibility or liability for lost or stolen personal items not properly secured.
3. There may be two students per locker.

### **OUTSIDE TIME / PLAYGROUND**

Students should be properly clothed for daily outdoor activities. These activities take place when the temperature is 20 degrees F or above, including wind chill. If your child is unable to participate in outdoor activities for any reason, please contact the school.

## **OUTSIDE / PLAYGROUND RULES**

1. Students are to show respect to the adult on duty at all times. Students shall not use obscene, vulgar, profane, or discriminatory language or gestures.
2. Running is not permitted when entering or leaving the building.
3. All items brought from home must be checked and approved by the classroom teacher before they are allowed on the playground. **Electronic games and devices, as well as cell phones, are not permitted outside or on the playground during the school day.**
4. The throwing of stones, snowballs, dirt, etc. is not permitted.
5. There is to be no fighting or rough games that include tackling, pushing, or shoving.
6. Equipment is to be used as designed
7. Students are not to retrieve balls or other items that go outside the playground.
8. Students are not to run through or otherwise disrupt someone else's game.
9. **Jumping from any playground equipment is never permitted.**
10. Students are never to re-enter the building or leave the playground without the permission of the person on duty.

## **PHONE / HEADPHONES / EARBUDS (Communication Devices) USE**

In conjunction with the BVLS Board Approved Handbook, all rules and guidance surrounding cell phones and other communication devices will be strictly enforced.

- During the school day, cell phones, headphones, and/or earbuds are not to be used in hallways, restrooms, locker rooms, the cafeteria and/or classrooms.
- Cell phones must be stored away in backpacks, bags or lockers.
- If students need to speak with a parent, they may request to call home in the front office.
- Students may use cell phones before and after school.
- Cell phones are not to be visible from 7:30a - 2:20p. Not in classes, hallway, lunch, outside, etc.
- Students will not be permitted to take their phones with them when requesting a restroom break.
- If a student is viewed with a phone, school personnel will ask for the phone to be handed over and it can be picked up from the office at the end of the day.
- Refusal to turn over the phone will be written up as insubordination, and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken (in addition to the administration confiscating the phone).
- Multiple infractions of the cell phone policy, will result in disciplinary actions.

## **RESTROOM USE / HALL PASS**

Students should use the restroom between classes, at lunch, before and after school. Students may be permitted to use the restroom during class time on a one-at-a-time basis and with a hall pass. With the goal of instilling responsibility within students, BVMS staff will implement the "Ten Minute Rule". Teachers will not write passes during the first, or last, ten minutes of class. Students have a responsibility to manage their time wisely during the transitions between classes.

## **VALUABLE PROPERTY**

Bringing valuable property is discouraged by the district. If items, such as cell phones, are brought to school, students must keep them turned off and in their backpacks as use of these items is prohibited in the classroom unless authorized by staff for educational purposes. **\*\*The school (including buses) will NOT accept responsibility for the loss of personal property. \*\***

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **RECOGNITION & STUDENT OF THE QUARTER**

BVMS staff routinely recognizes students on the basis of academic and behavioral excellence. One example of this is the display near the front entrance where students nominated by their teachers are recognized with a luncheon and photograph. Staff may refer students for positive conduct to be recognized. These celebrations of excellence may take on many forms during the school year, and we believe they help build a culture of high expectations in both behavior and academic achievement.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

Disciplinary consequences that may be employed at Buckeye Valley Local School include, but are not limited to, the following (listed in no particular order of application):

- Warning, reprimand, restitution, and/or parental contact
- Lunch Detention
- After School Detention
- Loss of Bus Privilege
- Referral to School Counselor
- Loss of Credit on Assignment/Test
- Suspension Alternative Program (SAP)
- Alternative Learning Center (ALC)
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- Emergency removal from school
- Referral to law enforcement and/or court authorities
- Expulsion

### **After School Detention**

- After School Detention will begin 5 minutes after school on designated days and will last up to 2 hours.
- Out-of-school suspension may be assigned for missed After School Detentions with the original After School Detention being reassigned; administrators will determine if an absence is excused.

### **In-School Detention**

- Detentions will be served during the administration's identified timeframe. Students are required to bring materials to study while in detention. BVLS expects each student serving a detention to arrive on time and remain until the end of the detention assignment.
- Any student who does not successfully complete an assigned detention may be assigned after school detention or, ultimately, assigned OSS.

### **Emergency Removal**

If a student's presence and behavior poses a danger to persons or property, or is an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, authorized school personnel may remove the student from the school premises for curricular and/or extra-curricular activities. Students are to be sent to the office of the principal. Removal of students shall be limited to no more than one (1) school day for any single incident. Emergency removal procedures are further outlined in Board of Education Policy JGDA.

### **Expulsion of Students**

The superintendent may expel a student in accordance with procedures outlined by Ohio statutes. The building administrator shall afford the student due process before recommending expulsion to the superintendent. When a student is under expulsion from school, they receive no credit for course work during the time of the expulsion. During expulsion periods, students are not to be on school grounds or attend any school events, home or away. Expulsion of Students procedures are further outlined in Board of Education Policy JGE.

## **DRESS CODE**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

### **Clarification**

- Clothes that show stomachs, shoulders, backs, chest or bare midriffs and see-through clothing are unacceptable. This prohibits items such as, but not limited to, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, muscle shirts, off-shoulder shirts, halter tops, crop tops, and tank tops.
- Length of clothing (shorts, skirts, dresses, etc) must be appropriate for an educational setting (i.e. *mid-thigh*)
- Holes in pants / shorts must be appropriate for an educational setting (i.e. below *mid-thigh*)
- Undergarments are not to be visible.
- Clothing shall not contain obscene language, hate speech/symbols, sexually explicit images or suggestive symbols. This includes reference to violence, drugs, alcohol (or any illegal item or activity), tobacco, vaping, and statements having sexual connotations or double meaning references.
- For safety and security purposes, all hats, unnecessary headwear including hoods and sunglasses must be removed upon entering the building. They are not to be worn in the building during school hours (7:00am to 2:30pm). Additionally, footwear deemed unsafe may be prohibited.
- Items that are not considered clothing are not to be worn.
- At no time should a student's attire or appearance interfere with the educational process of the school.

**First Offense:** The student will be sent to the main office and will be issued an appropriate alternative garment of clothing to change into that can be turned back into the office at the end of the school day. Students will not be permitted to call parents/guardians to ask for clothing from home/family, unless extreme circumstances are presented. If the student leaves school due to a dress code issue, this absence will be treated as an unexcused absence.

**Second Offense:** Same as 1st offense. In addition, that student may be assigned detention and/or social probation. Parents/guardians will be contacted.

**Third Offense:** Same as 1st and 2nd offense. In addition, the student may be assigned an after school detention and social probation.

**Further Offenses:** The student may be suspended from school.