

2025 - 2026

**Buckeye Valley
Local Schools**
Handbook



Buckeye Valley:
**Where Tradition
Meets Innovation**

Adopted by Board of Education (April 16, 2025)
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Table of Contents *(click to jump to section)*

General Information	4
<u>Admission Requirements</u>	4
<u>Building Volunteers / Trip Chaperones</u>	4
<u>Buses</u>	5
<u>Cafeteria</u>	5
<u>Chromebook Policy</u>	5
<u>Complaint Procedure</u>	5
<u>Control of Casual-Contact and Non Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases</u>	6
<u>Deliveries</u>	6
<u>Discrimination / Compliance Statement</u>	6
<u>Emergency Medical Authorization</u>	6
<u>Emergency or Evacuation Drills</u>	7
<u>Fees</u>	7
<u>Field Trips</u>	7
<u>Grading Philosophy</u>	7
<u>Home Instruction</u>	8
<u>Home School</u>	8
<u>Immunizations</u>	8
<u>Lost and Found Articles</u>	8
<u>Lockers (If Applicable)</u>	8
<u>Medication Administration</u>	8
<u>Meeting With a Principal</u>	9
<u>Parent / Guardian Conferences</u>	9
<u>Petitions, Signs and Printed Materials</u>	9
<u>School Dances / Activities</u>	9
<u>Student Records</u>	9
<u>Cell Phones and Calls</u>	10
<u>Textbooks</u>	11
<u>Tornado Procedures</u>	11
<u>Violent Intruder</u>	11
<u>Weather-Related School Closing</u>	11
<u>Withdrawal From School</u>	11
<u>Visitors</u>	12
<u>Free & Reduced Lunches and Fee Waivers</u>	12

Special Services for Students	12
<u>School Counselors</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Health Services</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Individuals with Disabilities</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Nondiscrimination Policy</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Psychological Services</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Schedule Changes</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Special Education</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Resolving Special Education & Section 504 Disagreements</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Grievance Procedure</u>	<u>14</u>
Attendance	16
<u>Attendance Philosophy</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Definition of Terms</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Procedure when Absent</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Excused Absence from School</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Pre-Arranged Absences</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Unexcused Absences / Tardies</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Truancy</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Attendance Follow-Up Procedure</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Official Attendance Records</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Special Attendance Circumstances</u>	<u>19</u>
Discipline Code	20
<u>Disciplinary Consequences</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>After School Detention</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>In-School Detention</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Emergency Removal</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Expulsion of Students</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Important Notices</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Interrogation by Law Enforcement or Human Service Agencies</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Suspension</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Suspension Alternative Program (SAP)</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Search & Seizure</u>	<u>23</u>
Code of Conduct	23

General Information

Admission Requirements

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

1. Presentation of written transfer from another school showing work completed, grades, and attendance. 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.
2. Permission of the superintendent's office.

Building Volunteers / Trip Chaperones

BVLS encourages parents, family members, and community members to serve as volunteers and/or chaperones within the buildings or on school trips. In order to qualify to become considered as a volunteer/chaperone, one will need to complete the steps listed below:

- One form per parent, need to list all buildings if they have multiple children and want to volunteer at multiple locations
- List what they are doing-classroom volunteer, field trip, etc.
- Need form signed and approved by the building principal and fingerprints need to be back prior to volunteering
- Central office needs signed copy of volunteer form
- Must make an appointment for fingerprinting
- Building secretaries will have volunteer forms and there is also a link on the website already for the form. (under Our Families)
- Volunteer form is every school year and everyone who volunteers should have one on file, prints are good for 5 years
- When teachers plan field trips, please have them provide a list of volunteers to Central Office for cross checking to make sure fingerprinting is completed. This process, especially the fingerprints, needs to be completed at least 30 days in advance

Buses

Riding the bus is a privilege. All school rules apply both on the bus and at bus stops. Students must follow the rules of the bus driver. If it becomes necessary to take disciplinary action, the bus driver will submit a referral to the building administration. A warning letter and/or loss of riding privileges may result. As it is often difficult for parents/guardians to arrange alternate transportation, students are highly encouraged to act appropriately. The safety of all students will take priority over inconveniences caused by riding suspensions. If a student needs to change his/her assigned bus and/or stop temporarily, a note signed by the parent/guardian (including both bus numbers) requesting such a change must be taken to the attendance office before school. BVLS will issue the student a bus pass if approved, which they must show to the drivers involved. The district office must approve any permanent change. Each student/family will acknowledge the Busing Transportation Handbook at the beginning of the school year.

Cafeteria

Students eat in the cafeteria and can choose to bring a lunch, purchase a full lunch, or buy a la carte items. BVLS expects students to follow the rules of the cafeteria listed below. No food is to be consumed outside the cafeteria. There are no funds to loan or charge lunches. BVLS will send home free lunch and reduced lunch forms to all students. Students may not purchase food from an outside vendor during lunch. Parents/guardians visiting for lunch may bring the food of their choice for their child only.

Chromebook Policy

All students will use Chromebooks at BVLS in their classroom instruction. All students in grades K-12 must sign the District Acceptable Use Policy and the BVLS Chromebook Acceptance Form. To facilitate usage, some students will keep the device with them all day. BVLS will issue students a loaner device, for normal wear and tear issues. Students must report to their classroom teacher immediately if the device is lost or stolen. However, please note, students are responsible for damage deemed to be irresponsible, malicious or purposeful and will be charged fees as outlined in BOE policy. Repeat offenders may receive disciplinary action and/or loss of privilege using technology.

Complaint Procedure

Whenever people are in contact with one another, problems can sometimes arise. Should this happen, the following chain of communication is to be followed. If the problem is not resolved at the first level, ask to talk with the person at the second level, and so on through all four levels if necessary.

1. Teacher, advisor, coach, athletic supervisor
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

Control of Casual-Contact and Non Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly transient pest, such as lice. Specific diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, pertussis (whooping cough), mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions communicated by the Local and State Health Department. Any removal will be for the contagious period only as directed by the State and Local Health Department. With a non casual-contact communicable disease, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The Board will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

It is the Board's policy that all students and staff members should maintain normal contact with an affected student or staff member whose continued presence in the school has been permitted by this process. The right of any affected student, as well as those of any affected staff member, shall be protected under Federal and State laws on privacy, confidentiality and due process. Non casual-communicable diseases include sexually transmitted disease, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV (Human-Immunodeficiency), Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

Deliveries

The goal of the staff is to maintain an educational atmosphere free from daily interruptions. Deliveries during the school day can be a distraction and cause disruptions to the educational process. With this in mind, the schools will neither receive nor deliver articles to students such as flowers, candy, balloons, gifts, etc. Students may not bring food from any fast food or restaurant or food service vendor into the building. The coach or advisor of the activity should distribute any sports or club related items after school hours.

Discrimination / Compliance Statement

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age, religion, military status, ancestry, genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes"), or any other legally protected category, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Emergency Medical Authorization

The Board has established a policy requiring every student to have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent/guardian upon enrollment. The form is electronically submitted by every parent/guardian at the time of enrollment and must be reviewed annually and updated as changes occur.

Emergency or Evacuation Drills

BVLS regularly conducts fire drills throughout the year to ensure safe exit from the building in an emergency.

1. When the fire bell rings, each student shall immediately leave the building in an orderly manner, walking quickly and quietly, and following the identified exit route posted in the classroom.
2. Teachers take attendance once outside the building.

Fees

The Board of Education set fees for each grade each year. Fees cover the cost of workbooks, art supplies, and other supplementary materials (i.e., technology, paper, etc.) BVLS expects all families to pay fees by the end of September. Contact the school office with questions or concerns. School fees must be paid before participation in overnight field trips. Further, unpaid fees may cause restrictions on participation in extracurricular activities.

School fees are waived for students receiving free or reduced meals.

Field Trips

The classroom teacher arranges field trips, and the principal approves them. Permission slips signed by parents/guardians are required prior to the trip. Failure to meet deadlines set by the teacher may cause exclusion from the trip. All school rules are to be followed on field trips. Students may be denied participation in field trips if prior school behavior is such that the smooth operation of the trip or safety of other students might be jeopardized. BVLS may also deny students participation in field trips if any of the following discipline actions have occurred:

- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Suspension Alternative Program
- Detention
- Repeated classroom misbehavior
- Academic performance
- Principal discretion

Grading Philosophy

The grades a student receives should show how well they understand the class/course material. Grades should promote learning, achievement and academic growth and not used as a means of punishment. BVLS will share grades with parents/guardians and students via PowerSchool.

Letter grades will be given in most subjects in Grades 4-12. Students in K-3 are graded using standards-based grading, which is outlined in the Elementary Guidebook. Teachers may also show a student's effort through comments, which may appear on the grade card. There will be four nine-week grading periods. BVLS will issue grade cards online at the end of each grading period. The teacher should address questions a parent/guardian has concerning grades.

Home Instruction

Students unable to attend school for an extended period because of physical and/or emotional illness as certified by a physician or for other reasons approved by the principal, may be eligible for home instruction. BVLS will use a district evaluation form to determine whether a student meets the requirements for home instruction. It is possible that some of the student's regularly assigned classes may have to be dropped. Arrangements for placement on home instruction are made through the counselor's office and approved by the Director of Student Services. Home instruction is offered when students will be out 10 or more consecutive days and is subject to the availability of Board-approved instructors. One hour of home instruction is equivalent to one school day.

Home School

Home School information can be found on our website.

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 14th day of school. The school nurse can answer questions about immunizations or waivers.

Lost and Found Articles

Students should turn in all articles that they find in the main office. Students should make inquiries there for lost items. BVLS periodically donates unclaimed items to charity.

Lockers (If Applicable)

All lockers are the property of Buckeye Valley Schools and are subject to search at any time by the administration.

Medication Administration

- BVLS shall not give medication without consent of the parent.
- BVLS must receive all medication in its original pharmacy container for dispensing to the student.
- The school cannot accept or dispense medications brought in plastic containers, baggies, or improperly labeled bottles.
- A completed "Medication Administration Record" form must be on file in order for any medication to be administered.
- Prescription medications are to have the signature of both the physician and the parent/guardian. Non-prescription medications must have a parent/guardian signature.
- The staff shall only give the student their own medication.
- Liquid medication must be received and dispensed in a liquid medication administration cup or spoon with visible measuring lines that indicate the dosage dispensed.
- No medication, prescription or non-prescription may be carried by the student except for emergency medications, as stated below.
- The clinic must secure and dispense ALL medication with the exception of medications that the physician has determined are required by the student for a life-threatening condition and which must be immediately available to the student, for self administration, if symptoms occur, may be carried by the student if a written order is provided by the

student's physician indicating that the student's condition requires that the medication must be carried by the student at all times.

- For example: asthma rescue inhalers or Epi-Pens, insulin, cough drops (students can carry cough drops after having already turned in proper medication administration form on file with the office; these are not to be shared with other students).

Meeting With a Principal

Students are welcome to come to the office of the principal. Any student wishing to speak with administrators should stop at the counter in the main office and ask the secretary if the administrator they wish to see is available. If the administrator is not available, the secretary will be happy to set up an appointment when the student may return. At no time is any student to go behind the counter and/or into the administrative offices without permission to do so.

Parent / Guardian Conferences

Parents/Guardians should contact teachers whenever a concern arises. The administration schedules conference days. The administration will give notice prior to these days.

Parents/Guardians may request conferences at other times as needed.

Petitions, Signs and Printed Materials

Official student publications (newspaper, yearbook etc.) are a part of the school curriculum and editorial control remains with the school principal. The principal must approve the distribution of petitions, leaflets, and other printed materials in advance. Students should not hang signs, decorations, or displays of any type in the halls or classrooms without prior permission from a school administrator. Students must get prior permission from a school administrator to hang signs, decorations, or displays of any type in the halls or classrooms. Distribution of literature containing profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, libelous statements, statements that might be harmful or dangerous, offensive images or intend to incite fighting or present a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event is prohibited.

School Dances / Activities

BVLS encourages all students to attend school dances, which are sponsored by the Student Council, PTO, and other school organizations. All school rules apply to dances, including the dress code, and students not cooperative may lose the right to attend future dances and other special school activities. Parents/guardians must pick up their students no later than 15 minutes after the dance concludes. Students must be in attendance at least ½ day to attend after school functions. Only BVLS students may attend school dances. Student discipline and academics may affect admittance to the dance / activity.

Student Records

Under the Rights and Privacy Act, student records are accessible to parents/guardians only, upon written request. Forms are available in the office to grant permission for the school to release school records to any person or agency so designated by the parent. Persons wishing to view such records or wishing to have transcripts sent to another institution are required to give at least one day's notice. Records of students over the age of 18 may only be accessed with written permission of said student except in the case of court order or official request from another school to which the student may be transferring.

Cell Phones and Calls

The office telephone is for emergency use. The office will not call students from classes for phone calls. Transportation and visitation arrangements are to be made outside school hours.

Cell Phones Grades PreK-12

All public schools in Ohio are now required to adopt policies that significantly limit student cell phone use during the instructional day. The law is aimed at reducing distractions and improving academic focus.

To comply with this new requirement, we will not permit students to use their phones during the school day. Students may still bring phones to school, but they must remain off or silenced and out of sight from the first bell to dismissal. We appreciate your support as we implement this state-mandated change and work to create a more focused and engaged learning environment.

Any phone, smartwatch or other electronic devices will be subject to confiscation if used in contradiction to the guidance above. A student using an electronic device who refuses to follow a reasonable request from a staff member pertaining to the phone or device may be subject to disciplinary action. Using a cellular phone or an electronic device to film/record/take pictures of any student or staff member is prohibited. To stop incidents of misuse, damage, loss of stolen tablets, cell phones, earbuds and/or listening devices, BVLS will strictly enforce this policy. BVLS will not be responsible for damaged, lost or stolen tablets, cell phones, earbuds and/or listening devices. Any student who chooses not to follow the Board Approved Policy may be subject to the following sanctions:

First offense = phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day to the student.

Second and future offenses = phone confiscated, parent picks it up, and student is assigned disciplinary consequences.

The possession, taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images, whether by electronic data transfers or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this Code of Conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Students may not access or communicate via social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc.) during the school day. Administration reserves the right to change this guidance.

Textbooks

The Board of Education furnishes each student with textbooks. Students are responsible for the books assigned to them and are to return them in good condition at the end of the school year. BVLS encourages students to cover their books to help protect them and to write their name in the books' inside covers in case they are misplaced. BVLS will charge for damaged and lost books.

Tornado Procedures

A tornado watch means there is a possibility of dangerous weather, because the atmospheric conditions exist for the formation of a tornado. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted. Staff will make an announcement if a tornado warning has been issued, or a tornado is spotted nearby. At the sound of this warning, students should proceed, as directed by supervising adults, to the shelter area designated for their location (see chart posted in each classroom). Students should sit or squat in the shelter area facing the wall. They should cover their heads with one's hands.

If a tornado is spotted and the warning has not been sounded, students should proceed to their designated shelter immediately. If time does not permit this, students should lie face down on the floor with knees drawn up under them and their heads covered by their hands.

Violent Intruder

Buckeye Valley Local School uses a violent intruder program for training and implementation of active shooter incidents. In the event of an active shooter or other aggressive intruder, students will either evacuate the building or barricade themselves in their room, as dictated by their training and circumstances of the event. If barricaded, students will spread out and be prepared to distract or take down the aggressor by any means necessary; including but not limited to throwing items, running, yelling, and hands-on contact.

Weather-Related School Closing

Local radio and television stations will broadcast authorized notification of school closings. Please do not call the school or the radio and television stations. Check the Buckeye Valley Local Schools website, www.mybvls.org. Families may also register to receive electronic notifications (email, text message, etc.) from BVLS administration. When school is canceled, all activities for the Elementary/Middle School are canceled, and the High School activities will be decided upon by 12:00pm on the day of closure.

Withdrawal From School

Families who wish to transfer to another school from Buckeye Valley Local School should contact the School Counseling Office so that the school counselor may issue a withdrawal form and the proper credentials for transfer. A parent or guardian must sign the withdrawal slip. Official withdrawal from Buckeye Valley may only be made when the school to which the student is transferring requests official transcripts. All outstanding fees, fines, and other financial obligations must be paid in full, and textbooks/school equipment returned in satisfactory condition before withdrawing.

Visitors

Buckeye Valley Schools use the Raptor Visitor Management System. Visitors will be required to present a valid, state issued ID upon entering the school. Visitors will be checked against a national sex offender database to ensure registered sex offenders are not entering our buildings. Once approved, BVLS will issue visitors a badge to display while on the premises. This does not pertain to visitors who are merely picking up or dropping off at the school. The visitor management process will only be used during school hours, and does not apply to after-hours events such as performances, ceremonies, academic/athletic competitions, etc.

Free & Reduced Lunches and Fee Waivers

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Buckeye Valley Local School District offers healthy meals each school day. Breakfast costs \$1.75 for Middle and High School and \$1.50 for Elementary and lunch costs \$3.00 for Middle and High School and \$2.75 for Elementary. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

Direct certification with Medicaid uses existing data to certify children for free or reduced-price meals without an additional application. This program will ensure more students receive the benefit of a school meal. If you do not receive free and reduced meals and feel that your student (s) qualify, please complete the application and return it to Stacy Peterson at Buckeye Valley Middle School 683 Coover Rd., Delaware, OH 43015 or email to speterson@mybvls.org.

[Free & Reduced Lunch Application](#)

School fees are waived for students receiving free or reduced meals.

Special Services for Students

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

School Counselors

All BVLS schools have services of a school counselor. The counselor conducts individual and group counseling, coordinates SAT testing, and confers with teachers, parents/guardians, and students.

Health Services

Screening services are provided by the school nurse according to guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health. Student vision and hearing screenings occur yearly at the following grade levels: Pre-School, Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 besides this standard yearly screening, the school nurse accepts referrals from parents, teachers, and other staff members to screen students. The school nurse also screens new students to the District.

Besides providing basic vision and hearing screenings, the school nurse also screens for communicable diseases for the health and safety of our students.

First aid is provided for all students in need according to guidelines established by the Ohio Public Safety Office and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

General Health Guideline: Students are sent home if they have a temperature 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea, and **may not return to school until they are symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.**

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act states no individual will be discriminated against based on a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities. If you know of any individual with a disability who needs accommodations to enable them to attend a function in our district, please contact our Director of Student Services.

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

If your student is experiencing difficulty in a class, we encourage you to contact the school to learn when the teacher is available. Parents/guardians should take advantage of this time to work with the teacher to best serve the needs of the student.

If your student is experiencing difficulties in most or all classes, you are encouraged to contact a school counselor or the principal to arrange a meeting with the Multi-Tiered System of Support Team. BVLS will develop a plan involving the student, parent/guardian, teachers, school counselors, and administrators. If the team suspects a disability, your child may be referred for additional testing through a multi-factored evaluation. If it is determined that your child meets criteria for a disability and requires specialized instruction (as defined by IDEA), an Individualized Education Plan for special education services will be developed and implemented.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Buckeye Valley Local School District complies with the provisions of Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate against applicants, employees, students, parents and members of the public and/or individuals with whom it does business on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, sex, economic status, age, or disability. Inquiries concerning this policy should be directed to the BVLS Assistant Superintendent, at (740) 369-8735.

Mental Health Services

School mental health services are available to assist staff and families in dealing with student's academic, social and behavioral concerns. Services range from consultation, intervention, individual/ small group counseling, and assessment. The MTSS team facilitates access and processing of these services.

Schedule Changes

BVLS will make schedule changes only when absolutely necessary. It is required the first step in this process be for the parent/guardian to contact and meet with any staff member to discuss questions or concerns they may have. After this meeting, if the parent still feels a schedule change is required, the parent must make the request for a change to the school principal. The principal makes the final decision regarding all schedule changes.

Special Education

Students with disabilities may require an Individualized Education Plan. If a student has a disability that substantially impacts his educational performance and requires specialized instruction, the educational team meets to determine the needs and services that the district must provide. Services may be provided within the regular classroom, resource room, specialized skill unit, cross categorical unit, therapy area, or a separate facility. Specialized instruction may include reading intervention, math intervention, organizational support, behavioral support/programming, speech and language intervention, fine and gross motor intervention, etc.

Resolving Special Education & Section 504 Disagreements

In the event a parent disagrees with and wishes to challenge the actions of the District regarding evaluation, identification and/or placement of their child, the District shall provide due process for resolving the dispute.

Parents objecting to the results of a District evaluation may choose to obtain an Independent Education Evaluation at public expense. The District will consider this Independent Education Evaluation once completed and provided to the district.

The District has adopted the following Grievance Procedure for addressing complaints of disability discrimination (including harassment) under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A copy of the District's grievance procedures may be obtained from the District Section 504 Coordinator:

Director, Student Services 901 Coover Road Delaware, Ohio 43015 -740-363-1349

A person may file a complaint of disability discrimination (including harassment) at any time within 180 calendar days following the occurrence of the offending conduct. A person is not required to use this procedure and may, at any time, file a complaint directly with the U.S Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 325, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, Telephone: (216) 522-4970, Facsimile: (216) 522-2573, Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov.

Grievance Procedure

A "grievance" is a complaint of disability discrimination (including harassment) filed by a student and/or parent, or employee. A complaint may be filed against the District, for actions of District employees, students, or third parties. Any such complaint may be submitted to the Districts Section 504 Coordinator.

Step 1 - A person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against by the District, or a person who disagrees with actions regarding the identification, evaluation, educational services or educational program of a student, is encouraged, but is voluntary and not required, to discuss the matter informally. In the case of a student, the discussion should take place with the appropriate building principal; in the case of an employee, the discussion should take place with his/her immediate supervisor. If the building principal or the immediate supervisor is the subject of the complaint, or the grievant is not a student or employee, the grievant may, instead, contact the District Section 504 Coordinator. The person receiving the complaint shall verbally convey his/her findings to both the person who alleged the violation and the person who is the subject of the complaint within 10 business days.

Step 2 - If the informal Step 1 process does not resolve the matter, or if the grievant does not wish to use the informal procedures set forth in Step 1, a written complaint may be submitted to the District Section 504 Coordinator who will investigate the complaint. [NOTE: If the Section 504 Coordinator is the subject of the complaint, the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent who will appoint another administrator to investigate]. The complaint shall be signed by the grievant and include: 1) the grievant's name and contact information; 2) the facts of the incident or action complained about 3) the date of the incident or action giving rise to the complaint; 4) the type of discrimination alleged to have occurred; and 5) the specific relief sought.

Any party, grievant, or accused party shall have the opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence for consideration by the investigator. An adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of the complaint will be conducted within 10 business days following the submission of the written complaint. The investigation shall include an interview of the parties and witnesses, a review of relevant evidence, and any other steps necessary to ensure a prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint. A written disposition of the complaint shall be issued within 10 business days of completion of the investigation, unless a specific written extension of time is provided to the parties, or the timeline is extended for good cause with written notice to the parties of the delay and the reason for the delay. Good cause may include the complexity of the allegations, the number of witnesses to be interviewed, or other unforeseen circumstances. Copies of the decision will be given to both the grievant and the person who is the subject of the grievance. If discrimination or harassment was found to have occurred, the disposition will include the steps that the District will take to stop the discrimination, prevent a recurrence of any discrimination/harassment, and correct its discriminatory effects on the grievant and others, if appropriate.

Step 3 - If the grievant wishes to appeal the decision in Step 2 above, he/she may submit a signed and written appeal to the Superintendent within 10 business days after receipt of the written disposition. The Superintendent or his designee shall respond to the complaint, in writing, within 10 business days of the date of the appeal. Copies of the response shall be provided to both the grievant and the person who is the subject of the complaint.

The District will not tolerate any form of retaliation (including intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating) by the District and others against any person for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Section 504 or Title II, or because that person has utilized this Grievance Procedure, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation or hearing under these laws.

Attendance

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Attendance Philosophy

Attendance at school is essential for maximum educational benefit. BVLS makes an intentional effort to link the level of attendance to the level of academic success. It is the practice of BVLS to employ attendance policies that require excellent classroom and school attendance.

Regular attendance is a legal requirement at all grade levels. Studies have shown that regular attendance correlates to success in school. Regular attendance means academic learning is not interrupted, less time spent on make-up assignments, student benefits from class participation and interaction with others.

Excessive Absences

State of Ohio defines excessive absences as:

- 38 or more hours of school missed in a month
- 65 or more hours of school missed in a school year
- Hours can be excused or unexcused

Once the hourly limit is met:

- Letter sent home to parents/ guardians
- All additional absences will require a medical/ court excuse
- If a medical/ court excuse is not provided, hours accumulate toward students being habitually truant.

Habitually Truant

State of Ohio defines habitually truant as:

- 30 unexcused consecutive hours
- 42 or more unexcused hours of school missed in a month
- 72 or more unexcused hours of school missed in a school year

Once the hourly limit is exceeded:

- Letter sent home to parents/ guardians
- Absence Intervention Plan will be implemented

Absence Intervention Team & Plan

State of Ohio required Absence Intervention Plan:

- Team creates and implements Absence Intervention Plan to improve/ increase student attendance

If school attendance does not improve/ increase:

- District Truancy officer notifies Delaware County Juvenile Court and truancy changes are filed

Definition of Terms

Tardy to School - The first hour of the school day.

Excused Absence - Time away from the classroom or school approved by a principal (or as defined in excused absence section)

Unexcused Absence - Time away from the classroom or school not approved by a principal (or any absence not supported with proper documentation)

Procedure when Absent

The attendance secretary will be available each morning until the tardy bell to receive any documentation from an absence. After the tardy bell sounds, students should report to the office to sign in as "late to school" and then to receive a tardy slip. When a student is absent from school, a parent/guardian should call the attendance line for their designated school as early as possible to leave a voice message stating students first and last name, parent/guardian name, the reason for absence, and contact phone number. Any voice messages not containing this information will be noted as an unexcused absence until a written note or additional phone call with the information has been received. Parents/guardians not notifying the school will receive a call, email, and/or text message from the school office inquiring about the student's absence. Also, the County Truancy Officer may be called to investigate students whose reason for absence has not been confirmed.

On the day following an absence, the student is to report to the attendance office upon arriving at school. If a phone call was not made on the day (s) of the absences, they are to submit a note to the office from an authorized person showing the date (s) of absence, the date of return, the specific reason for the absence, and the authorized signature. Notes may be submitted by email, fax or hand delivered by the parent/guardian or student and must be submitted to the attendance office within two school days in order for students to make up work for credit. Failure to provide a fully detailed phone message or note within the allotted two days will cause an unexcused absence. Late calls and notes will not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to contact teachers to make up for missed work when absent.

BVLS gives a student returning to school from an absence one (1) day of makeup time for each day of excused absence. Assignments missed because of pre-arranged absences (field trips, college visits, fair day (s), vacations, etc.) are due per teachers' instructions. We may give failing grades for work missed during an unexcused absence.

Excused Absence from School

In order to be an excused absence, a phone call or note must be made from a parent/guardian or other authorized person, with an "acceptable reason for being absent" as defined by the attendance policy. After the 93rd hour of student absences, because of the reasons listed below, the student will receive an unexcused absence until/unless a professional (doctor, counselor, court, etc.) note is provided. A phone call or note must be provided to the attendance office within 2 school days of the absence in order for students to make up work for credit.

1. Personal illness
2. Prolonged medical issue (with doctor's note on file)
3. Quarantine of the home
4. Death of a relative or attendance at a funeral
5. Summons or subpoena to court
6. Observance of a religious holiday
7. Approved pre-arranged absences (includes fair)
8. Medical or healthcare professional appointment
9. Emergency or set of circumstances which, in the principal's judgment, constitute a good and sufficient cause for absence from school

Pre-Arranged Absences

Students must get a pre-arranged absence form from the office and obtain principal's acknowledgement at least one week before any day the student might be absent. Pre-arranged absences must follow attendance guidelines. If a pre-arranged absence exceeds one of the state hourly limits, a letter will be sent home and medical excuses will be required for additional absences. Pre-arranged absences include showing at the fair and family vacations.

- **Example:** Student misses five days for a pre-arranged, parent excused absence.
 - In this example the student has now missed 32 hours of school this month. If they miss 6 more hours this month, they will be "excessively absent."
 - Once a student becomes excessively absent, all additional absences will require a medical excuse.

Unexcused Absences / Tardies

The following absences are unexcused:

1. Absences without a note or phone call from an authorized person
2. Failure to comply with the pre-planned absence requirements
3. Personal errands such as haircuts, job interviews, banking, car repairs, senior pictures, baby sitting, driving permit test, etc.
4. Examples of unexcused absences or tardies applicable to student drivers include but are not limited to; oversleeping, car problems, being stopped by a train, or inclement weather.
5. Out of school suspensions

Upon accumulation of thirty (30) hours of unexcused attendance, County School Attendance Officer/City School Liaison will contact and meet with Juvenile and/or Parent/guardian.

Upon accumulation of seventy-two (72) hours of unexcused attendance, County School Liaison and City School Liaison contact Mediator to schedule mediation, Juvenile and Parent/guardian to attend.

If a Juvenile accumulates thirty (30) consecutive hours of unexcused absence or forty-two (42) hours of unexcused time in a one-month period, the school may proceed directly to a mediation situation to divert Juvenile from formalizing the charge.

Truancy

Truancy from school or class includes, but not limited to absence from the building during lunch period and study hall. Excessive truancy may result in contact with juvenile court authorities.

Attendance Follow-Up Procedure

The following policy has been established to prevent excessive absences and encourage students to develop good attendance habits. Our main purpose is to make every effort to encourage students' and parent/guardian's responsibility in proper student attendance.

1. BVLS will permit and encourage students to complete all school work missed unless the absence is unexcused.
2. A letter will be sent home and an "absence intervention team" meeting will be held at the following benchmarks:
 - a. 30 hours (5 days) consecutive
 - b. 42 hours (6 days) in a month
 - c. 72 hours (10 days) in a year

Attendees will include the school attendance secretary, Delaware County Juvenile Court School Attendance Officer, building administrator, parent/guardian and the student.

Official Attendance Records

The official record for "school" attendance will be maintained in the school attendance office; however, because classroom attendance is the primary source of information used when determining the impact of student attendance on course credit, students are to regard classroom attendance records maintained by teachers, as such. If you have any concerns or questions regarding attendance procedures or information, please contact the attendance secretary or assistant principal in charge of attendance.

Special Attendance Circumstances

Limiting Activities

- A physician's statement must accompany special requests to limit activity (such as not taking part in Physical Education).

Attendance of Days of Special Events

- Students must be present for a minimum of 3 hours to take part in any activity sponsored by the school on that day unless excused by the principal. Examples of such events include, but are not limited to: athletic practices and events, school plays, musical events, pep rallies, dances, etc.

Leaving School Early

- A student who needs to leave school during the day must have an early dismissal pass. This can be obtained in the attendance office prior to the beginning of school. The student is to submit a note signed by an authorized person stating the date, the time for the student to be dismissed, the approximate time of return, and the reason for the dismissal. In addition, the note should include a telephone number where a parent/guardian can be reached for verification and/or additional information. Excused early dismissals may not be issued for personal reasons, such as doing homework, senior pictures, driver tests, etc. BVLS may issue the student an early dismissal pass, which they will show to the teacher. Students should wait in the office if being picked up by parents/guardians; otherwise, students should leave the grounds directly after signing out in the school office. At no time may a student leave school building or school property during the school day without authorization.

Illness While at School

- If a student becomes ill while at school, they should report to the office. Parents/guardians may be called if office personnel believe it necessary or if office personnel believe that the student should be sent home. In cases of minor illness, staff may give a student permission to lie down in the clinic for a brief period. No student is to be in the clinic without permission. No student, regardless of age, may leave school because of illness without permission. Periods spent in the clinic may count toward the limit for classes missed. The school may deny students abusing clinic privilege its use.

Discipline Code

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Buckeye Valley Local Schools seeks to balance students' rights with the interests of a safe, orderly, and effective educational workplace in a school environment suitable for the learning, healthy growth, and development of all students. BVLS practices progressive discipline in that frequent and/or repeated misconduct is addressed with increasingly severe disciplinary responses/consequences. This material complies with aspects of the Ohio Revised Code, and is hereinafter referred to as the Student Discipline Code. The Student Discipline Code provides helpful information and addresses specific matters such as unacceptable conduct and procedures for removals, suspensions and expulsions of students. The Student Discipline Code is available to all students and posted in a central location.

A student accused of violating a school rule or committing an act of misbehavior shall be so informed and shall have an opportunity to express his/her viewpoint before a decision is made about possible disciplinary action. For student safety and welfare, video surveillance cameras are placed throughout the building, school grounds, and on buses. Actions recorded on these cameras may be used as evidence in disciplinary action possible referral to local law enforcement agencies. Any attempt to damage or interfere with the function of these devices will result in disciplinary action by the school and possible referral to local law enforcement agencies.

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)
- In-school alternative placement
- 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.

Important Notices

- Discipline of Students with Disabilities Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.), and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Notification of Criminal Activity School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.
- Surveillance For student safety and welfare, video surveillance cameras are placed throughout the district in buildings, on school grounds, and on buses. Actions recorded on these cameras may be used as evidence in disciplinary action and these records will remain in possession of the school/district.

Interrogation by Law Enforcement or Human Service Agencies

The welfare of all children under the control of school administrators and faculty is a prime concern. It is the duty and responsibility of the school administration and faculty to take adequate but reasonable steps to insure the welfare and rights of each individual student while the student is under their control. It is necessary that school officials cooperate to the fullest extent with all local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies as they proceed with their responsibilities.

Suspension

Suspension can be for a maximum of ten (10) consecutive school days per incident. Students under out-of-school suspension are not permitted on school property or at school-related activities, home or away, for the duration of the suspension. When a student is suspended, the school permits them to make up work for full credit. This includes assignments, tests, projects, speeches, etc. The student is responsible for contacting his/her teachers to receive the assignments and to gather the appropriate materials. The number of days that a student is suspended is the number of days that a student has to have all missed work completed and turned in. For example; if a student is suspended for 3 school days, they have 3 school days from when they return to turn in missed work. Suspensions end at midnight on the last day of suspension. Calamity days do not count as a day of school. Suspension procedures are further outlined in Board of Education Policy JGD.

Suspension Alternative Program (SAP)

Through the Delaware County Juvenile Court, the Suspension Alternative Program (SAP) is open to middle and high school students who have been assigned an out-of-school suspension. Students under SAP are not permitted on school property or at school-related activities, home or away, for the duration of the suspension, unless prior approval is given by the building principal. SAP is designed as a positive alternative for youth who face out-of-school suspension. Too often, these students view removal from school as a reward rather than a punishment. Removal affords them an opportunity to avoid schoolwork and responsible behavior, while allowing them to be out of school, often unsupervised and without limits. Meanwhile, the same students fall further behind academically and socially. This negative pattern becomes a reinforcing and self-fulfilling prophecy for failure. This program is designed to break the negative cycle by providing a rigorous, supervised and structured daily work/study program for out-of-school youth.

Search & Seizure

The Principal or his/her designee reserves the right to search the lockers, desks, person and belongings of a student on school grounds or at any school activity when it is reasonably necessary for the maintenance of order, discipline and safety and in the supervision and education of students. If possible, the student's consent prior to the search will be obtained. At the beginning of the school year, students will be advised that their lockers, desks, persons and belongings are subject to search for contraband, harmful or dangerous substances.

BVLS will make searches only upon reasonable suspicion. In determining whether there is reasonable suspicion, the following factors may be considered: the age, history and school record of the student; the prevalence and seriousness of the problem; the need to avoid delay; and the probative value and reliability of the information on which suspicion is based. A more intrusive search, as of a student's person, should be based on a higher standard as to these factors than for a less intrusive search of a locker or other area, or of personal belongings.

Code of Conduct

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Some significant rules and regulations, not intended to be all-encompassing, that govern behavior of students in the Buckeye Valley Local Schools are outlined below. These rules apply to school grounds, buses, and off school grounds at any school-related event. Violations may involve referral to law enforcement authorities. Code of conduct follows Ohio Revised Code. Failure to report code of conduct violations may subject the student to disciplinary action. Because the offenses listed in this section of the handbook are not intended to be all-inclusive, the administration reserves the right to rule on any conduct situation that is not specifically covered in this handbook. Students shall adhere to other reasonable rules and regulations specified by school personnel either verbally or in writing. Seniors who are involved in any such infraction may be prohibited from participating in graduation and any ceremony or other events held at the end of the school year.

Rule 1. Disrespect

Every member of the Buckeye Valley community deserves respect. A student shall not be disrespectful to others in any manner, including, but not limited to; racial slurs, discriminatory remarks, and intimidating actions. Actions may include verbal or nonverbal disrespect, psychological or material abuse. A slur is defined as offensive language that targets specific groups, is any statement that degrades or demeans any person's race, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, or any legally protected characteristic.

Rule 2. Disruption and/or Inducing Panic of the Classroom, School Day, School Bus and/or Extra-Curricular Activities

Buckeye Valley Local Schools are committed to a safe learning environment free of disruption. BVLS will not tolerate any action that endangers the safety or well-being of individuals. A student shall not by use of violence, force, coercion, threat, noise, passive resistance, false alarm (including fire and bomb threats), or other disorderly conduct cause or attempt to cause material disruption or obstruction to the normal school operations. A student shall not cause disruption, and/or induce panic to the classroom, school day, school bus or extra-curricular activities in this school or any other school or school district.

Rule 3: Threats, Harassment, Slander

A student shall not threaten or harass with verbal abuse or with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. A student shall not urge another student or person to threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. Threats shall not, through verbal, written, technological or any other means, make statements that state that physical or emotional harm may come to another person or to an institution. Students shall not retaliate against other students, school employees, persons that are guests of the school or persons conducting business for the school.

Rule 4: Intimidation / Hazing

A student shall not threaten or intimidate with verbal abuse or with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. Intimidation shall include, but is not limited to, threats used to extort money or any other item of value from another student or person.

No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. Hazing is defined as committing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to commit any act of initiation to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. A student shall not haze (harass by exacting unnecessary or disagreeable work, ridicule or play abusive or humiliating tricks through initiation) another student, a school employee or persons who are guests of the school or persons conducting business for the school or otherwise violate the anti-hazing policy.

Rule 5. Bullying

Bullying is an intentional written, verbal or physical act that a student has exhibited to another particular student more than once. The behavior causes both mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing and/or bullying does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer at electronic communications devices and violence within a dating relationship, are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibited at all times. No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, may plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are alert to conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing and/or bullying. If hazing and/or bullying or planned hazing and/or bullying is discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition in this policy and are required to end all hazing and/or bullying activities immediately. All hazing and bullying incidents are reported immediately to the Superintendent and discipline is administered.

The Superintendent/designee must provide the Board President with a semiannual written report of all verified incidents of hazing and/or bullying and post the report on the District's website. The administration provides training on the District's hazing and bullying policy to District employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Additional training is provided to elementary employees in violence and substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

District employees, students and volunteers have qualified civil immunity for damage arising from reporting an incident of hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers, and other employees and students who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with State and Federal law.

No one is permitted to retaliate against an employee or student because they file a grievance or assist or participate in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding a charge of hazing and/or bullying of an individual.

Rule 6. Profanity and/or Obscene Language

Students are expected to model behavior accepted as being a good school citizen and reflective of a working environment. Students shall not use obscene, vulgar, profane or discriminatory language, make inappropriate gestures / actions or possess vulgar materials. A slur is defined as offensive language that targets specific groups, is any statement that degrades or demeans any person's race, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, or any legally protected characteristic.

Rule 7. Attendance, Truancy, Tardiness, and/or Presence in Unauthorized Areas

Being on time to school and class is the first step to helping ensure academic success and establish good work habits needed for the future. Students shall arrive at school for each of their assigned classes at the properly scheduled time and shall not violate the attendance regulations, attendance policy, class truancy, class tardiness, or tardiness to school. No student shall fail to comply with state attendance laws, including, but not limited to, truancy or tardiness from a specific class or school. No student shall leave school property or an assigned educational location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee prior to specified dismissal times, without official permission.

Truancy is declared when a student is absent from school or any portion thereof without school authorization and parent/guardian consent. Excuses from school must meet the State and Local Board of Education conditions, as outlined herein. In cases of prolonged absence, a doctor's certificate may be required. Repeated incidents of truancy and tardiness may lead to referral to the County Attendance Officer and/or Juvenile Court. A student shall not be in any area of school property at any time that is off-limits to students. Refer to the ODE Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook.

Rule 8: Out of Authorized Area

Students shall not be willfully present in a school building, locker room, restricted area of the school building or any part of the school grounds at an unauthorized time or without specific permission from a staff member. Students shall not attempt to enter a locker, classroom, closed and/or restricted area without proper authorization.

Rule 9. Dishonesty, Forgery and/or Falsification

Dishonesty includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying of any section of any assignment or assessment, plagiarism, improper or illegal downloading of information from the internet, any misrepresentation of work not completed by the student, or providing false information to school personnel may result in disciplinary action.

Repeated violations of compromising the academic integrity of any assignment or assessment individually and/or collectively may result in a failing grade for the quarter, and/or removal from the class with a failing grade for the year. Falsification includes attempts to change, modify, or misrepresent records, including, but not limited to, hall passes, absence excuses, documents or materials used in daily school operations; sharing false information (i.e., lying); or not properly identifying oneself to school personnel.

A student shall not make a false statement, a false accusation, or provide false information that in any way defames or damages the reputation of another student or staff member. A student shall not make a false report or issue false accusations that result in the reporting of an incident of child abuse to children's services or law enforcement agencies.

Rule 10. Theft, Damage to Property, and/or Fire

A student shall not willfully or maliciously damage or attempt to damage any school property. This will include buildings, equipment, lockers, signs posted in a building, and vehicles. Parents, guardians, or custodians will be held financially responsible for any property damage by their child under Ohio Revised Code 3109.09 and 2307.70.

A student shall not damage or attempt to damage the private property of another. Parents, guardians, or custodians will be held financially responsible for any property damage by their child under Ohio Revised Code 3109.09 and 2307.70.

Students shall respect the personal ownership rights of others. Principals may exercise their prerogative of reporting thefts, attempted thefts, or possession of stolen property without attempting to return the same to local police.

A student shall not be in possession of matches, lighters, etc. while on school grounds.

Rule 11. Assault/Fighting/Unauthorized Bodily Contact/Harming

Students shall not act or threaten to act in such a way as to cause physical injury to other students, any school employee or other persons. Specific violations include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting/Violence
- Serious bodily injury
- Threats or intentions of fighting, violence, or serious bodily injury
- Unauthorized touching, pushing, shoving, slapping, snapping and/or hands on or threats to put hands on.

Rule 12. Insubordination

No student shall fail to comply with any lawful instructions or requests of teachers, student-teachers, principals or other authorized personnel during any period when he or she is properly under the authority of such school personnel. No student shall fail to provide information, or supply false information, when it is requested.

Rule 13. Dangerous Weapons, Firearms, and/or Instruments

The Ohio Revised Code makes it a felony for any person to knowingly convey, attempt to convey, or possess any deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance onto or on any property owned or controlled by, or to any activity held under the auspices of a school. A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any weapon, look-alike weapon, or instrument capable of harming another person. Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by student, staff members, or visitors to the building principal. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action. Weapons in schools procedures are further outlined in Board of Education Policy JFCJ.

Firearms (including starter pistols), objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives (any object with a blade and a handle) are considered dangerous weapons. Other instruments/devices may also be defined as dangerous weapons, depending on their use or intended use. Should a student have knowledge of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity and not report it to a school employee, the student may be held to the same disciplinary measures as that of the perpetrator. (Refer to Ohio Revised Code §2923.122.) Specific violations include, but are not limited to:

- a) Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of a firearm
- b) Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.
- c) Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.
- d) Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of any explosive, incendiary or poison gas
- e) Use, possession, sale, distribution or knowledge of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm or explosive, incendiary or poison gas (including knives and any other object with a blade and a handle)
- f) A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purposes, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.
- g) A knife is defined as any cutting instrument comprising a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.
- h) Any object that is used to threaten harm or harass another may be considered a weapon. This may include things not normally considered weapons, such as padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, and jewelry.
- i) Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives.

Rule 14. Tobacco and/or Nicotine Products

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, buy, sell, provide, or conceal tobacco, tobacco-related products, items suggested to be tobacco or tobacco-related, lighters/matches, e-cigarettes, e-cigarette cartridges, nicotine products, or other tobacco paraphernalia. Possession includes, but is not limited to, the above-named substances being in or on clothing, books, purses, wallets, lockers, automobiles, desks, etc. A student shall not possess any tobacco-related paraphernalia. Possession shall include items found in a student's vehicle while on school property. Tobacco paraphernalia shall include, but not be limited to, tobacco rolling papers, pipes and other types of holders for smoking use, roach clips, etc.

- The building administrator may reduce the suspension for a first offense violation if the student and family agree to drug and alcohol assessment provided at a State approved alcohol/drug agency conducted by a Certified Alcoholism/Drug Abuse Counselor.
- The principal may recommend expulsion of the student from school to the Superintendent.
- Tobacco and Alcohol/Drug Abuse: Board of Education Policy JFCG, and JFCH/JFCI.

Rule 15. Alcohol and/or Other Drugs

Buckeye Valley Local Schools is committed to promoting a healthy and safe environment for each student. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, buy, sell, provide, conceal, contribute to the purchase of, or show evidence of having consumed any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, barbiturate, marijuana, tranquilizer, alcoholic beverage, amphetamine, harmful intoxicant, mood-altering chemical, or any other controlled substance or counterfeit controlled substance. Counterfeit or look-alike drugs are defined as any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance by manner of its packaging, labeling, distribution, or manner of sale or receipt. Possession includes, but is not limited to, the above-named substances being in or on clothing, books, purses, wallets, lockers, automobiles, desks, etc. A student shall not possess any drug-related paraphernalia. Possession shall include items found in a student's vehicle while on school property. Students shall not possess any drug paraphernalia, such as tobacco rolling papers, pipes and other types of holders for drug use, roach clips, etc.

- The building administrator may reduce the suspension for a first offense violation if the student and family agree to drug and alcohol assessment provided at a State approved alcohol/drug agency conducted by a Certified Alcoholism/Drug Abuse Counselor.
- The principal may recommend expulsion of the student from school to the Superintendent.
- Tobacco and Alcohol/Drug Abuse: Board of Education Policy JFCG, and JFCH/JFCI.

Rule 16: Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to exhibit honesty in all schoolwork. Students shall not give or receive unauthorized information regarding class work or class activities, misrepresent the results of researched or laboratory assignments, or give or receive unauthorized assistance on assignments. Use of electronic translators without permission violates this rule. Repeated violations may result in failure of academic subjects.

Rule 17. Dress Code

It is the policy of the Buckeye Valley Board of Education to recognize the rights and privileges of each student in the matters of dress and appearance to the extent that the exercise of that right does not interfere with the orderly process of education. Student dress should not cause a safety concern. Final determination for acceptable dress rests with the school administration.

- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping, or paraphernalia, and obscene language are prohibited.
- Images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized group is prohibited. Symbols or slogans of hate with historical/social roots of discrimination are prohibited.

No student should be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of gender, gender identity, gender expression, household income, race, body size, body maturity, or natural hair styles.

Where a bona fide religious belief or health need of a student conflicts with the school dress expectation, reasonable accommodation shall be provided.

Refer to the individual building's guidebook for specific expectations/examples on dress code, as well as consequences for offenses.

Rule 18. Interpersonal Relationships- Public Display of Affection (PDA) and/or Inappropriate Sexual Conduct

Students are reminded to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in relating to other students. Showing open affection for one another is not appropriate in school or at school functions. Buckeye Valley students will be expected to show maturity and respect for one another by not kissing in public or displaying open affection in other ways. A student shall not engage in any sexual conduct, harassment, or sexual contact while on school grounds, school buses, or at any school related activity. Inappropriate sexual conduct shall include public displays of affection including, but not limited to, amorous kissing and caressing.

Rule 19. Misuse/Unauthorized Use of the Internet and/or Other Equipment

Computers/technology are provided for student use for teacher assigned work in courses or programs at all Buckeye Valley Local Schools. A student shall not make unauthorized and otherwise inappropriate use of equipment or property belonging to the school or another person. A student shall not be authorized to utilize online and internet services at school without first signing and obtaining the signature of parent/guardian on the "Acceptable Use Policies for Internet Access" form.

Rule 20. Cell Phone Use/Electronic Devices and/or Sexting

All public schools in Ohio are now required to adopt policies that significantly limit student cell phone use during the instructional day. The law is aimed at reducing distractions and improving academic focus.

To comply with this new requirement, we will not permit students to use their phones during the school day. Students may still bring phones to school, but they must remain off or silenced and out of sight from the first bell to dismissal. We appreciate your support as we implement this state-mandated change and work to create a more focused and engaged learning environment.

Any phone, smartwatch or other electronic devices will be subject to confiscation if used in contradiction to the guidance above. A student using an electronic device who refuses to follow a reasonable request from a staff member pertaining to the phone or device may be subject to disciplinary action. Using a cellular phone or an electronic device to film/record/take pictures of any student or staff member is prohibited. To stop incidents of misuse, damage, loss of stolen tablets, cell phones, earbuds and/or listening devices, BVLS will strictly enforce this policy. BVLS will not be responsible for damaged, lost or stolen tablets, cell phones, earbuds and/or listening devices. Any student who chooses not to follow the Board Approved Policy may be subject to the following sanctions:

First offense = phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day to the student.

Second and future offenses = phone confiscated, parent picks it up, and student is assigned disciplinary consequences.

The possession, taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images, whether by electronic data transfers or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this Code of Conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Students may not access or communicate via social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc.) during the school day. Administration reserves the right to change this guidance.

Rule 21. School Bus Rules and Regulations

All students are expected to abide by the rules of conduct established for the use of all bus transportation.

Rule 22. Aiding and Abetting Others in School Offenses

A student shall not speak or act in any way to assist or abet another in the intent to commit, the opportunity to commit, or the commission of a violation of school rules. This would include a student warning others of approaching school authorities.

Rule 23. Gambling

No form of gambling will be permitted on school property, school buses or carriers, or at school functions off school property.

Rule 24. Conduct Unbecoming

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner at all times, indicative of being an integral part of a learning workplace. The student rules of conduct shall apply to conduct not specifically set forth herein, which substantially and materially disrupts or interferes with the good order, discipline, operation, academic or educational process taking place in the school.

Rule 25. Repeated / Flagrant Offenses

Students who commit repeated violations of the BVLS Code of Conduct may be subject to the more serious disciplinary consequences available, including out-of-school suspension.

Rule 26: Other Violations

Other conduct violations not covered in the above rules.