



Bowling Green Schools Elementary Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

Conneaut Elementary

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Greetings from the Superintendent

Dear Students,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2026-27 school year. I am excited to be here as your superintendent and look forward to working and getting to know you. You are very important to us and we promise to make this your best school year ever.

Our staff has been working very hard to meet your needs and provide you the opportunity to be successful today and prepare you for your future. The future is bright because of you and we are excited to watch you grow each and every day as a student and person.

Remember that your “attitude determines your altitude”! If you come to school every day, ready to learn, the sky's the limit as to what you can achieve. Our staff will help you every step of the way.

Parents, please know that we appreciate your support and trust in allowing us to work with your children. It is a responsibility that we embrace and take very seriously. It is important that you continue to be involved in your child's education because together we can move mountains and make this a better world.

Bobcat Proud,

Dr. Ted Haselman, Superintendent



Greetings from the Elementary Principals

Dear Parents:

The 2026-2027 School Year is finally here! We navigated our way through another great year, and now we are looking forward to having your child in school. For some students this will be a year of beginnings while others look forward to seeing friends and teachers from previous years.

This handbook contains useful information designed to help throughout the year. Your child will be responsible for complying with these expectations and guidelines. **Please read and sign the Parental Consent Form online.**

We recognize the importance of good communication and look forward to working together as a team for your child and his or her education. This will be an exciting year with a fresh start!

If you have questions at any time, please feel free to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michel Bechstein

Mr. Scott Best

Mrs. Alyssa Karrafa

Bowling Green Elementary Principals

Attendance

Delays and Closings

If schools are delayed or closed, notice will be provided through radio, TV, Twitter and the district's automated calling system. Parents should keep all phone numbers current in the school office, and as a precaution, should check local radio and TV stations to confirm delays and closures.

Reporting Absences

Ohio's "Missing Children Act" requires parents and guardians to notify the school when their child is going to be absent. In order to ensure that we comply with this law, please call the school before 9:30am with an explanation. If the school is not notified by 9:30am, **our automatic call system will contact your home.**

Attendance Policy

Regular school attendance is an important ingredient in a student's academic success. Excessive absences interfere with a student's progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school prepared for higher education and the workforce. To support academic success for all students, the district partners with students and their families to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. In December 2016 Ohio passed House Bill 410 mandating all Ohio schools to enforce the following changes to their attendance policies: Attendance tracking has changed from days of school to hours of school.

Ohio law now considers students who miss 38 hours (6 days) of school in 1 month or 65 hours (10 days) in a school year as Excessive. School districts are required to notify you when your child reaches that threshold. Any future absences will require evidence that explains why the absence from school was necessary (e.g. court document, doctor's note). Final authorization of an absence will be determined only after the required additional information is presented.

If a student is absent for 30 Unexcused hours in a row (5 days), 42 Unexcused hours in a month (7 days) or 72 Unexcused hours (12 days) in a school year a student will be considered Habitually Truant from school. Once a student has met the threshold of Habitual Truant the district will form an Absence Intervention Team. The team must consist of two school representatives (one of whom must be familiar with the child), the child's parent/custodian, and the child. Other possible team members may include a counselor, a school psychologist, and even a member of a public/private agency who is providing assistance to lower absences. The student and parent are required by law to be active participants on an Absence Intervention Team and follow any subsequent plan to improve school attendance. Failure to participate and comply will result in an immediate truancy filing on the student and possible filing against the parent/guardian through juvenile court. Additionally, if the parent/guardian fails to participate, it may result in a mandatory referral to Wood County Job & Family Services.

Please be sure to report your child(ren)'s absences to the school by contacting them directly and/or by sending in a written note the following day.

Pursuant to Board Policy 5200, the Religious Expression Days notification, procedures and information is posted under the parent tab on the district website: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us. Included in the website notification are links to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for their published information and the non-exhaustive list.

Early Dismissal

No student will leave school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian coming to the school personally to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than the custodial parent or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent or guardian.

Dismissal Requests

We understand that your child may need a different dismissal procedure on occasion. If this occurs, please contact the school **before 2:00 PM** to make the change.

Bowling Green Elementary Code of Conduct

Student Behavior

Students are expected to behave in a manner that promotes an effective learning environment and respects the safety and rights of others. Students who fail to follow school rules will be disciplined.

Rules for Elementary Students

1. A student will behave in a manner that allows school personnel to perform their duties and that allows students to learn, including following directions when given. A student will use appropriate language and behavior. A student will not use profanity or obscene gestures or have written obscene or gang-related language, pictures or signs. Students will exhibit appropriate behavior and wear appropriate clothing.
2. A student will be respectful and courteous to others. A student will not say, intend to do, or do anything that could frighten, offend, humiliate, embarrass, or bully another person physically or verbally. A student will not dare another person.
3. A student will respect property belonging to him/her, others, and the school. A student will not damage property belonging to him/her, others or the school. A student will not take (or try to take) anything that belongs to someone else or the school.
4. A student will behave in ways that ensure the safety of herself/himself and others. A student will not fight or act with intent to harm, injure, or threaten another person or herself/himself. A student will not have an instrument or weapon that could harm another person or himself/herself.
5. A student will be honest in personal and academic matters. A student will not cheat or lie. Cheating is giving or receiving work or answers of another person as his/her own. Lying is not telling the whole truth.

Personal Electronic Devices/Toys

Electronic devices and toys (i.e., gaming devices, MP3 players, ipods, trading cards, etc.) are easily lost or broken and often distract from the school environment. The school cannot be responsible for these items.

Assignment of Consequences

Consequences will be assigned according to the frequency and severity of the infraction. While teachers are encouraged to address minor misbehavior in the classroom, the building principal will be notified of all misbehavior and will deal directly with misbehavior of a more serious nature and/or frequent minor misbehavior. Parents are considered an important part in handling any misbehavior and will be contacted by the teacher or principal as necessary. Each child's case will be handled according to the circumstances surrounding the offense. Assignments of Consequences will be at the discretion of the building principal.

-Emergency Removal of Student

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the superintendent, or his/her designee, the principal or assistant principal may remove the student from the premises. A teacher may remove the student from curricular or extracurricular activities under his/her supervision, but not from the premises. If a teacher makes an emergency removal, reasons will be submitted to the principal in writing as soon after the removal as is reasonable. In an emergency removal, a student can be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is disposed of either by reinstatement, suspension, or expulsion. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student right is removed from a curricular or extracurricular activity for less than 24 hours and is not subject to further suspension or expulsion, due process requirements do not Apply (Bowling Green Board of Education policy 5610.03).

Suspension

1. In-School Reassignment is housed within the district for non-violent infractions. Students completing an In-School Reassignment are not permitted to attend a school sponsored event or activity until the next scheduled regular school day.
2. Out-of-School Suspension is assigned off school grounds without supervision from school personnel or designee. The parent is responsible for the supervision of the student.
3. Expulsion: The exclusion of a student from school by the Board of Education for a given period of time up to eighty (80) days and up to one year for weapons, illegal drugs, or dangerous behavior.

Due Process Rights

Any student whose conduct may warrant suspensions or expulsion will be provided due process.

Student:

- a written notification of the violation
- an opportunity to present his/her side of the story
- an opportunity for a speedy and impartial conference with the principal, assistant principal or principal's designee

Parent:

- a written notification of the violation
- an opportunity for a fair and impartial conference with the principal
- a written notification of the suspension/expulsion
- notification if Police are contacted; parents will be given the opportunity to participate or assign the principal as their designee
- an opportunity to appeal the principal's decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee within ten (10) days

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

In our efforts to establish Bowling Green City Elementary Schools as a safe, welcoming, and positive learning environment, we have implemented a program called Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

◆Be respectful.

◆Be responsible.

◆Be safe.

What is PBIS

- PBIS stands for ***Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support***.
- PBIS is a framework that uses evidence-based practices to create a positive school culture and learning environment for students and staff.
- PBIS recognizes that students can only meet behavioral expectations if they know what the expectations are.
- The philosophy of PBIS is that by rewarding students for positive behavior through positive praise and rewards, students will begin to build intrinsic motivation to behave in a positive way which will help create a positive learning environment in all areas of the school.
- PBIS's key attributes include proactivity, data based decision making and a problem solving orientation.
- Bowling Green City Schools has developed a common language for behavior expectations in each area of the school- classroom, playground, lunchroom, restrooms, hallway, etc

PBIS Multi-Tiers of Support

PBIS is a broad range of systemic and individualized tiers of support for achieving important learning outcomes.

PBIS Tier 1 are the school-wide prevention-based supports put into place for all students. Common Tier 1 practices may include:

- Bobcat Proud Expectations- ****BE RESPECTFUL *BE RESPONSIBLE * BE SAFE***
- Positive reinforcements and acknowledgements
- Classroom management system
- Evidenced based social emotional curriculum
- Data based decision making for system changes

PBIS Tier 2 is designed to provide targeted interventions to support students who are not responding to Tier 1 efforts. Interventions are more intensive since it targets a smaller number of students. Common Tier 2 practices may include:

- Check in Check Out
- Small groups
- Mentoring

PBIS Tier 3 supports are more individualized supports and based on the individual need of the student. Common Tier 3 practices may include:

- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)
- Individual Counseling
- Referral to Community Agency
- Safety Plan

Building Hours

All the buildings have a designated start time. This ensures that your child will be safe and supervised at all times. If your child should need to arrive before the designated start time, please let the office know. Students should wait at the location designated in each building. Students are not permitted to be on the playground before school.

Schedule

	Regular Day <u>Start</u>	Regular Day <u>Dismissal</u>	2-Hour Delay <u>Start</u>	2-Hour Delay <u>Dismissal</u>
Grades K-5	9:00 am	3:25 pm	11:00 am	3:25 pm

Bullying

The intentional written, verbal, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior causes either 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 student is defined as bullying. This is a disruption of school routine. Students who are supporting the bullying (even if they are not the person doing the act but are a part of what is known as the bullying circle) could be subject to disciplinary action. Dating Violence is also under the topic of Bullying. Dating Violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where a person threatens physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner. A Dating Partner is defined as a person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

Food Services/Cafeteria

Food Service Programs

Bowling Green City School District participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Each building has an operating cafeteria that meets all federal guidelines for student wellness and nutrition. Lunch options vary day by day with three options offered daily. Each offering consists of an entree that has whole grains and protein, a fruit (a variety of options of dried, fresh, frozen and canned offered daily), a vegetable and a milk. Cost of meals are set at the beginning of the school year and will be available online. Breakfast is served between 8:40 am-9:00 am and lunch is served between 11:00 am-1:30 pm depending on grade. Students may bring a packed lunch. If they choose to do so, the food must be ready to eat. Kitchen personnel will not warm food in a microwave or refrigerate any items for students.

How to Pay

Bowling Green City Schools Food Service Program uses a computerized lunch program system. This convenient system allows parents/guardians to prepay for lunches on their student's lunch account. The cafeterias accept cash or check payments. Cash payments should be put in an envelope with the student's name, ID number, and amount of cash given. Students can take their funds to the cafeteria during breakfast or may give money to their teachers to send to the cafeteria. The cafeteria will apply all funds on account and no change will be given. Please make checks payable to Bowling Green Board of Education and write your child's name/student ID number on the subject line. Post dated checks are not accepted. We deposit all funds on the day they are received.

Free or reduced price meals are offered to families who qualify under Federal guidelines. Applications for free or reduced price meals need to be made at the beginning of each school year, but may be made later if there is a

change in family situation. Online and/or paper applications will be available on our website prior to the beginning of the school year. Qualifying for free/reduced meals may assist a family with paying for school fees as well.

Meal Charging Procedure

Please refer to our Board Policies on our District's website or speak to our Food Service Director.

Dietary Restrictions/Accommodations

If your child has an allergy to milk, milk products, or other food items, you must send an explanation from your doctor to the Food Service Director and our nursing office before a substitution can be made.

Control of Blood Borne Pathogens

See BOE Policy No. 8453.02

Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases

See BOE Policy No. 8450

Control of Casual Non-Contact Communicable Diseases

See BOE Policy No. 8453.

Custody

A current and complete Journal Entry (including judge's signature) specifying custody arrangements must be provided to the school office. The school is required to release children to either biological parent unless the office has a Journal Entry that specifies otherwise. If your child's residence changes during the school year, please notify the school office of the new address and telephone number immediately.

Dress Code

In general, the Board believes that school dress should be such that it ensures the health, welfare and safety of the members of the student body and enhances a positive image of our students and the schools. Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention or violates the previous statement, is obviously unacceptable. Requirements include:

1. Dress and grooming standards require cleanliness in the interest of health, sanitary conditions and safety requirements.
2. When a student is participating in school activities, their dress and grooming will not disrupt their performance or that of other students or constitute a health threat to themselves or other students.
3. Dress and grooming will not be such as to disrupt the teaching-learning process.

Part of a student's total education is learning to dress appropriate and behave responsibly in a variety of situations. Research has shown a correlation between appearance and behavior, especially in a school setting.

Attendance at school and school-related functions is a specific situation that requires students to use good judgment. Bowling Green City School District students will dress in a manner that is appropriate to the school environment and in a way that does not cause disruption to the academic process. The following guidelines will assist parents, students, faculty and administrators in determining appropriate dress code standards for students attending school or school-sponsored activities.

General Guidelines:

1. Students, under parental supervision, maintain responsibility for their dress and personal appearance.
2. The Board of Education prohibits any dress or grooming that interferes with the cleanliness, health, welfare or safety of students or that disrupts the educational process by being distracting, indecent or inappropriate to the education process.
3. Sponsors and teachers of elective classes (such as vocational and arts classes) or elective activities (such as sports) may require more strict standards regarding dress and appearance for participants in their programs or activities.
4. Principals, with the assistance of faculty, are responsible for uniformly administering the dress code. A principal's decision is final.
5. The Board of Education reviews and modifies this policy annually to remain aligned with new fashion trends or dress accepted by the Bowling Green community.

Specific Guidelines :**Grooming Standards:**

1. Hair must be clean, worn out of the eyes, and groomed at all times. Hair coloring and/or hair styles must not be extreme, distracting or disruptive (blue, pink, etc.)
2. Makeup must not be extreme or distracting and is discouraged.

Clothing Standards:

1. Shorts and skirts must extend to finger-tip length.
2. Students must wear shoes at all times. Slippers/bedroom shoes are not to be worn. All elementary students (K-5) must wear shoes with backs or straps and closed toes.
3. Shirts/blouses must not be low cut, off the shoulder or otherwise revealing. The following garments are not acceptable or permitted: tube tops, halter tops/dresses, strapless tops/dresses, backless tops/dresses, or tops/dresses which reveal the midriff.
4. Clothing may not be "see-through". Shirts must be worn at all times and must be sized appropriately so that they do not interfere with normal school activities.
5. Lower garments are to be worn at waist level; if a belt is to be worn, it must be of proper length; undergarments are not to be exposed.
6. Students may not wear:
 - (Or carry) hats, coats, bandannas, headbands, sweatbands, or sunglasses to class
 - Piercings that are extreme, distracting, or present a safety hazard
 - Tank tops or muscle shirts
 - Clothing that contains or promotes hate, violence, profanity, vulgar, or negative messages
 - Clothing that promotes, advertises, or relates in any way to the use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
 - Clothing that contains sexually explicit or implicit language or pictures
 - Biking pants without a cover-up
 - Spandex clothing including leggings without a cover-up to at least fingertip length
 - Tattered clothing that reveals undergarments
 - Dog collars worn as jewelry
 - Spiked jewelry of any kind
 - Chains
 - Gang or cult-related clothing and/or other items
 - Hoods on sweatshirts worn up during school hours

Drugs / Alcohol

Possession and/or use of illicit drugs or alcohol are illegal. School Board policy is specific concerning illegal drugs or alcohol on school property and at school-sponsored activities off Bowling Green City School property. It forbids pupils, school employees or adults to use, possess, attempt to possess, distribute or sell any drug, alcohol or look-alike drug.

Drugs / Counterfeit

No student shall possess, make, sell, offer to sell, give, package or deliver a counterfeit controlled or synthetic substance. A counterfeit drug is defined as: (1) A drug that bears a label or container that bears a trademark, trade name, used without authorization of the owner of rights of such trademark. (2) Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is represented to be a controlled substance. (3) Any substance other than a controlled substance that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance because of its similarity in shape, size, color, labeling, packaging or price for which it is sold or offered for sale. (4) A synthetic drug that emulates a controlled substance.

Emergency Contact Information

Please keep the school office updated with any changes concerning address, phone numbers or email. This information allows us to contact you immediately in the event of an emergency.

Equal Education Opportunity

The Bowling Green City School District provides an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, or national origin should immediately contact the School District Compliance Officer:

Dawn Dazell

Human Resources Director

419-352-3576

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the Board of Education Policy. Any student making a complaint will be protected from retaliation.

Field Trips

Throughout the school year, students will have a variety of opportunities to go on curricular, extracurricular, and co-curricular field trips. The purpose and destination may differ and will be determined by the sponsoring teacher or coach. The principal approves all field trips and the district may provide transportation. In some situations, the students may walk. Students are to follow the directions of the teacher or chaperone during the trip and misbehaviors will be referred to the Main Office for disciplinary measures. Also in these cases, future field trips may be denied.

Fire and Tornado Drills

Fire and tornado drills are practiced to help prevent injuries and deaths in case of an emergency. When the fire alarm sounds, students should walk from the building to their assigned areas outside the building. Each teacher will review and post the fire drill and tornado procedures within their rooms. Instructions for tornado drills will be handled in the same manner. All teachers will be assigned a designated area in the building to take their classes. Students are to listen carefully to and obey all instructions from any teacher or staff member during a drill. Failure to do so will result in a referral to the office.

Homeless Students

See BOE Policy No. 5111.01

Homework

The following guidelines have been developed to assist principals in working with staff to establish appropriate homework assignments:

- A. All homework assignments should have a specific purpose related to the learning objectives of a program or course.
- B. Homework assignments should be appropriate to the grade level and the abilities of the students involved.
- C. Assignments should involve application of knowledge, reinforcement of communication, research and other skills.
- D. Punishment assignments shall never be given.
- E. The purpose of homework, in terms of the goals of a program, should be clear to the student when assigned, the work corrected when returned, and both the strengths and weaknesses of his/her work communicated in ways which provide for improved performance.
- F. Denial of recess shall not be used as a punishment for incomplete or missing homework.
- G. The time limits for the completion of homework should:
 - 1. be reasonable and consistent with the nature of the assignments given;
 - 2. provide for interim appraisal of progress where assignments involve blocks of time;
 - 3. include a reasonable time for make-up of missed homework assignments and/or improvements based on teacher comments.
- H. Parents should be made aware of the District's homework guidelines as well as the way each of their child's teachers will be using homework as a learning activity.

Homework Policy Due to Absence from School

When a student has missed at least three (3) consecutive days of school, the parent/guardian may contact the classroom teacher to request homework. When a student has missed less than three (3) days of school, the student is instructed to contact their teachers directly.

Immunizations

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. For the safety of all students, the Principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if the student does not have the necessary immunizations or

authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the Chicken Pox immunization requirement. Any questions should be referred to the School Nurse.

Injury and Illness

All injuries must be reported to the Main Office or School Nurse. If the injury is minor, the student will be treated and returned to class. If medical attention is required, the Main Office or School Nurse will follow the District's emergency procedures and attempt to contact the student's parent(s). Any student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the Main Office or School Nurse. An office staff member may determine whether the student will remain in school or go home. No student will be released without proper permission of the parent and/or an office staff member.

Internal Transfers and Open Enrollment Requests

Please contact the Administrative Offices at 419-352-3576 by April of each year if an internal transfer to a different elementary or enrollment from another district is desired for the following school year.

Interrogation of Students

The school is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property. Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning. If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact parent prior to questioning, and they (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If law enforcement or children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

Leaving School Grounds

Leaving the school building or grounds is forbidden unless permission has been obtained from the office. Students who fail to check out through the office will be subject to disciplinary action.

Medication & Accidents

First Aid and Injuries

School personnel are not authorized to provide **medical services** other than minimal first aid. The **parent/guardian** will be **contacted** whenever there is a question of treatment or if a child becomes seriously ill or injured. It is essential to be able to contact a parent or emergency contact by phone during school hours. Inform your emergency contacts that they have been identified for this role. The information you provide on emergency medical forms and other forms is very important. Please keep contact information updated. Emergency phone numbers must be different from your home phone number. Please notify the school of any changes to your phone or address information so that you can easily be located in an emergency. In the event of a serious situation requiring immediate medical attention in which a parent cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the hospital designated on the emergency medical form or to the nearest hospital for treatment. Parents who object to medical aid must make this known to the school office and to the child's teacher. It is **essential** that any health problems or allergies a child may have be shared with the teacher, **the school office, and the cafeteria supervisor if a food allergy exists.**

Medication

All prescription or over-the-counter (aspirin, cough drops) medication that a student needs to take while at school must be brought to school by the parent and will be kept in the school office. A *Medication Form* must be completed by the parent and a physician (for prescription medication only) and submitted with the medication. Forms are available in the school office. All medications must be in their original containers. Medications not picked up at the end of the school year will be discarded. If your child needs to carry an inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector, contact the school office for special instructions.

Accident Insurance

If you are interested in information regarding accident insurance, please visit our webpage at: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us. You may access the form via the “Links” box in any of the individual School Information pages. The link is titled “Student Insurance.”

Recess

All children will be provided the opportunity to participate in outdoor recess unless excused by a doctor or if a teacher is conducting needed interventions.

Weather conditions ultimately determine if children go outside. Please dress your child properly for all weather conditions as your child will be outside whenever possible. When the air or wind chill temperature falls below 20 degrees, the school will typically plan for inside recess.

Recess Rules

Appropriate behavior must be observed during recess. Recess monitors supervise students during recess and will refer students to the office for serious misbehaviors. School personnel have the authority to limit activities/games as needed to ensure the safety of all students. The following are prohibited on the playground:

- Rough play (fighting or play-fighting, pushing, punching, kicking, hitting, biting, throwing anything at another individual)
- Bad language, profanity, or teasing
- Playing off-school property or in an undesignated area
- Sitting on the top bars of equipment
- Throwing stones, mud, snow or ice, etc.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment whether verbal, physical or written will not be tolerated. Students may be subject to disciplinary action which may include Saturday School, suspension or expulsion as recommended by the principal. Sexual harassment is defined as “an unwanted attention of a sexual nature from someone in school or at school activities that create discomfort and/or interference with school activities. It can take the form of verbal abuse, such as insults, suggestive comments or demands; leering and subtle forms of pressure for sexual activity; physical aggressiveness such as touching, pinching, and patting, lewd pictures, sexual jokes, attempted rape, or rape.”

Smoking / Smokeless Tobacco Policies

As of March 15, 2001 Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.87 declares the use or possession of cigarettes and/or tobacco products illegal for anyone under the age of 18 years of age. Section 3313.751 of the Ohio Revised Code prohibits pupils of any age from smoking and/or using and/or possessing tobacco in any area under the control of a school district or at any activity supervised by any school operated by a school district. Lighters/matches and candles are not permitted on school property. Students will be suspended 5 days for the

first offense, 5-10 days for the second offense, and expulsion may be recommended on the third offense. Students may be assigned to attend Tobacco Cessation Classes provided by the Wood County Hospital and referred to law enforcement authorities. This policy includes e-cigarettes and vaporizers.

Student Fees and Fines

Students will be provided with necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State Law, BGCS charges specific fees for some materials used in the Course of Instruction. Those families that are eligible for free lunches are excused from paying fees and those who qualify for reduced lunches are required to pay half of the standard fee. Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks, and for damage to school buildings and property. Fees may be waived for financial hardship. Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades, transcripts, and credit. **Technology fees are \$20 for grades 1-5.** *All fees are subject to change based on subsequent board approval.*

Student Fund-Raising

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and community members providing they meet the rules of fundraising. Students may not sell any type of item or service without consent from the Superintendent. Students should not solicit items or donations door to door or in public places without parent supervision.

Student Records

Notification rights under FERPA-State and Federal law gives parents (and students over 18 years of age) certain rights pertaining to school records. They are:

- The right to look at your records
- The right to request changes in your records if you believe they are inaccurate, misleading, or they violate your privacy rights
- The right to let other people view your records; however, the law allows some people to view your records without consent (a school employee may view your records if they need information in the records to accomplish their job)
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if you believe that the school violated your rights with respect to school records

Directory Information

Some of the information in your school record is not confidential and may be released without your consent. This information is known as "Directory Information". Directory information includes the following: name, student images or likenesses in pictures, videotape, film, or other medium, dates of attendance, graduation date, major field of study, extracurricular participation, height and weight of team members, awards received, and academic work intended for publication or display. If parents do not want information released, you must inform the Principal no later than September 15 of each year or within 30 days of receiving this annual notice.

Student Responsibilities

School rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow all staff members' directions and school rules. Students must arrive at school on time, to learn and participate. Adult students must follow all school rules. If residing at home, students should involve their parents in their educational program. Parents have the option of receiving information from the school by e-mail and by information through the school. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teacher(s) and voice their concerns when appropriate.

Students With Disabilities

See BOE Policy No. 2460

Surveillance Cameras

Surveillance cameras are placed throughout the building, school grounds and on buses for safety purposes. Actions recorded on these cameras may result in disciplinary action.

Technology

Bowling Green City School District Responsible Use Policy for Technology and Network Use

Technology is provided to school students and staff for the purpose of supporting teaching and learning and the operations of the school district. Technology devices and services are part of many facets of school, work, and everyday life, and staff and students are expected to use technology responsibly while also recognizing potential risks of use. It is the Bowling Green City School District's intention to include digital citizenship expectations into the existing PBIS framework to create a positive and healthy community of technology users. This document establishes a standard of expected behavior for staff and student users as productive digital citizens.

PBIS Core Beliefs and Digital Citizenship

BE RESPONSIBLE

*I. Guiding Questions: Does your behavior represent good work ethic and productivity?
Does your product improve knowledge and understanding?*

A. Identify appropriate uses of technology

- School Work. Use school devices, the school network, and school services for school work only. Technology use is monitored and no privacy should be assumed. The district owns all data on the network and provided services.
- Personal activity. Use personally owned devices on personal time and on personal services and network for personal (entertainment, social media, etc.), political, religious, or commercial activities.
- Access appropriate material. While Internet access at school and on student devices is filtered, it is possible that users might access inappropriate material deliberately or by accident. If you see or hear something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, exit the screen and report it to a teacher. Users may not create, access, or share inappropriate material and may not use proxy servers and other means to circumvent the filter.

B. Create responsibly

- Be sure projects and presentations shared within the district community and with others online contain well-documented, well-researched, accurate, and reliable information.
- Proudly cite the work you gathered from other authors to build your knowledge base.
- Learn the difference between using information from others' work and stealing others' work. Never plagiarize.
- When publishing your own work online, include safe information (first name and grade for students) and the date so that others that find it can cite your work properly.

C. Communicate and collaborate effectively

- Use technology to solve problems and create products with others.
- Use technology to create a polished, effective product.

- Keep in mind your audience (online or in-school communities) and purpose (to inform, to persuade, etc.).
- Communicate professionally using proper grammar, spelling, content and tone with students and staff.

D. Teach each other

- Remember that the work you learn, create, and share with others is more than "just a project" or lesson, you are contributing to the body of knowledge from which others can learn.

BE RESPECTFUL

II. Guiding Question: Does your behavior disrupt technology use for yourself or others in the BGCS community?

A. Care for technology resources

- Keep your device in its case to protect it from harm. Carry and use it carefully to prevent damage.
- Charge your device overnight so that it is ready for school.
- Students should take broken school devices to the office to get a loaner while your device is being repaired. Report other technical problems to a teacher or to the helpdesk.
- Avoid behavior that disrupts school technology and network services. Disconnecting, changing settings, hacking, breaking, mishandling, or other alterations will be viewed as vandalism.
- Report bad behavior on technology to a teacher or administrator.

B. Conserve resources

- Bandwidth. Our Internet and network bandwidth is shared among 3000+ users. Video, audio, and games consume large amounts of bandwidth, which impacts the network and Internet speed for other users. Use only what is needed for school work.
- Server space. Users have plenty of drive space to store their school work. Store files that are needed for your school assignments and lessons, and clean out files when they are no longer needed. Users may not store anything that is not directly related to their school work on school drives or school-provided services.
- Consumables. Please do not waste paper, ink, projector lamps, etc. Create, submit, and present electronically when possible. Personal use of school resources is not permitted. Turn off projectors when they will not be used for 30+ minutes to prolong the life of the lamp.
- Energy. Turn off equipment /or power strips when you are done using them.

BE SAFE

III. Guiding Questions: Does your conduct impact the safety, security or reputation of yourself and others? Is your behavior honest and legal?

A. Safety

- Create a positive and safe environment. Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Keep private or personal information offline. Avoid sharing personal information about yourself or others in messaging, social media or other online apps.
- Be careful how you present yourself online and in private messages. Digital content is permanent. What you post can be viewed and shared by anyone forever. This can be dangerous and also impact future relationships and college and job opportunities.
- Protect personal and professional reputations of other people. Help others make good decisions about what they do and say online. Do not harm or make others look bad.

- Report bad behavior. If you see or hear something that makes you uncomfortable or is hurtful to you or to someone else, report it to a teacher or trusted adult. Never participate in bullying, harassment, intimidation, or tricking others.
- Respect the privacy of others. People expect privacy in restrooms, locker rooms, and spaces being used to change clothing. Do not record in those spaces.
- Students will participate in Internet safety and digital citizenship instruction in grades K-12.

B. Security

- Protect your accounts. Create strong passwords or use passcodes. Never share your passwords or your accounts. Always sign out of an account when done using a device. Adults should use Multi-Factored Authentication [MFA] or Single Sign-On [SSO] whenever possible to prevent others from accessing accounts.
- Only use your own accounts. Help others who forget to logout of their accounts by immediately logging out for them. Never snoop or change anything in someone else's account.
- Be on the lookout for suspicious emails and web links and pop-ups that might be viruses and other malware that could infect your accounts and possibly spread to others' accounts and the school network. Report concerns to a teacher or to the IT department.
- Privacy of email or any electronic communication is not guaranteed and may become public information.
- Users are responsible for maintaining security of student information and other personally identifiable data and for upholding FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), the student confidentiality law (Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.321), the Ohio Privacy Act (Chapter 1347 of the Ohio Revised Code), and any other applicable privacy policies and regulations regardless of how information is accessed, transmitted, or stored.
- Staff will participate in cybersecurity training throughout the year.

C. Law and Ethics

- Users are responsible for following District rules and guidelines and state and federal law in their use of technology. This RUP is in compliance with state and federal telecommunications rules and regulations.
- Users will respect the ownership rights of work, ideas, or products and comply with plagiarism, copyright, and/or piracy laws. No illegal copying is permitted. Citing sources of information is expected.
- Users may not use any type of technology for academic dishonesty.

Other Expectations

District Provided Resources for Students

The district offers chromebooks or other assistive technology to all students in grades 1-12. Students in grades 1-5 will use the district-provided device, and students in grades 6-12 may elect to use a personal chromebook or laptop for school work. Students are expected to bring their devices to school every day and must follow the Responsible Use Policy when using technology at school and using district resources and accounts at all times. The district provides every student a Google Workplace account and many other application accounts to support their classwork. The school network provides a filtered Internet connection for staff and students in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Privileges and Rights

Staff have the authority to determine when and where technology devices may be used, and students are expected to immediately comply with directions regarding any technology. Use of school technology resources is a privilege. Users may be denied access at any time, for any reason, and possible disciplinary measures may occur if privileges are abused. School staff may collect, examine and hold any device at any time for the purpose of enforcing school policy, investigating discipline issues, or for any other school-related purpose. Students and staff should not have an expectation of privacy on the personal electronic devices brought onto school property.

Security and Damages

Students and staff take full responsibility for the security, repair or maintenance of their personally owned digital devices at all times. It is recommended that all devices be labeled or otherwise identified before being brought to school. The Bowling Green City School District, and its staff or employees, is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office in the same manner as other personal artifacts that are impacted in similar situations.

Technical Support

The Bowling Green City School District or its staff will not provide technical assistance on personally-owned devices. Instructions for accessing the appropriate school network and device settings for BGCS Google Workplace and other online accounts will be provided. Issues with online accounts should be reported to a teacher or to the student helpdesk.

Consequences of Improper Use

The district determines what constitutes improper use of technology, online resources, and network services and is not limited by examples in this Policy. Use of personal equipment to violate this Policy is prohibited and is subject to search and seizure for up to thirty (30) days. Consequences for individuals violating the Responsible Use Policy vary depending on the nature and seriousness of the violation. Consequences might include disciplinary action, loss of technology access, reimbursement of expenses and/or damages, and/or involvement of law enforcement agencies.

No Warranties Created

By accepting access to the Network, you understand and agree that the Bowling Green City School District, any involved Information Technology Centers, and any third-party vendors make no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with provision of access to or the use of the Network. They shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorneys' fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any student or employee arising out of that User's use of and/or inability to use the Network. They shall not be responsible for any loss or deletion of data. They are not responsible for the accuracy of information obtained through electronic information resources.

Telephones & Personal Computers/Tablets

Only school business calls should be made on the office phones. Teacher permission must be obtained to use phones. Cell phones are not to be used during school hours and will be confiscated with disciplinary action. Cell phones should be turned off and kept in bookbags. The school cannot be responsible for these items. The school provides technology for students to use at school, therefore personal tablets, laptops or other computing devices should not be brought to school.

Textbooks

All basic texts are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Workbooks and other supplies are paid

for by the student. Textbooks are to be kept clean and handled carefully. The student will be assessed for misuse, abuse or lost books.

Transportation

Bus Riders

In order to ensure the safety of students riding the buses, it is important that all passengers behave appropriately at all times. Students must follow the rules provided by the bus driver. All buses are equipped with video cameras.

Bus Student Responsibility

1. The bus driver is in charge of the bus and all students assigned to the route. Students must follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Students are expected to observe classroom conduct at all times while on the bus.
3. Students must leave and board the bus at the designated stop.
4. Students are not to cross the street to enter or exit the bus until the driver motions them across. Students must go directly to the driver-designated place of safety and remain there until the bus has departed from the bus stop.
5. Students must maintain absolute quiet at railroad crossings and other times as specified by the driver.
6. Students are not permitted to bring on the bus items larger than those which can be held on the lap. State and Federal laws prohibit the transport of weapons, dangerous ordnance, animals, glass in any form, balloons, and flammable materials/liquids.
7. Bus passes will not be given for students to ride to alternative destinations.

Bus Parent Responsibility

1. Parents are responsible for the safety and discipline of students going to and from the bus stop.
2. Parents are urged to have their children at the bus stop five minutes ahead of pick up time. If the bus is delayed, parents should call the Transportation Department at 419-354-8509. Please take road conditions into consideration.
3. Parents will be financially responsible for any damage done to a bus by their children.
4. School district personnel do not enter into disputes involving parents and students prior to pickup or after returning to the bus stop.
5. Parents should contact the Transportation Director at 419-354-8509 with questions or concerns. The bus driver must adhere to a time schedule and will not be able to discuss issues during their route.

Bus Discipline Procedures

The bus driver has the responsibility of safely transporting our students to and from school, as well as maintaining order and control of the bus. Distractions add to the stress level of the driver performing this very important task. They must be aware of all that is occurring outside of the bus with pedestrians, other motorists and road conditions, as well as what may be occurring behind them on the bus. The bus driver has permission and is instructed, when necessary, to stop the bus on route or return to school to immediately address a discipline problem. The bus driver may assign seating in the front of the bus for students with disciplinary problems.

A written Bus Conduct Report is completed by the driver and sent to the Director of Transportation, who will then forward it onto the building principal for disciplinary action. These reports are based on infractions committed by the student. There are major and minor infractions. Major infractions include, but are not limited to: endangering students and/or driver, throwing objects on or out of the bus, fighting on the bus, weapons on the bus, smoking, vaping, vandalism, insubordination, profanity directed at the driver. Minor

infractions include, but are not limited to: not riding in assigned seats, eating/drinking or littering on the bus, profanity, failure to remain seated, harassing other students.

Major infractions result in immediate removal from the bus. Length of suspension will be determined by a collaboration between the Director of Transportation and the building principal. This suspension may be for as long as the remainder of the school year, depending upon the severity of the offense.

Minor infractions will be dealt with by the building principal. After 3 minor infractions, a bus suspension of 3 days will be imposed.

In case of multiple minor infractions, the student's first suspension will be 3 days. The second suspension will be 5 days. The third suspension will be 10 days.

Questions or concerns can be directed to the Director of Transportation.

Bus Suspension Appeal

A parent/guardian of a student wishing to appeal a bus suspension may do so by contacting the building principal within 24 hours of receipt of notification of suspension.

Walkers

The school provides crossing guards to assist students in safely crossing streets as they walk to and from school. We ask for your help in the following ways:

1. Remind your child to cross the street where there is a safety patrol or crossing guard.
2. Discuss with your child that safety patrols are on duty for safety reasons and to provide help. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the safety patrol.
3. Emphasize with your child the importance of traveling directly to and from school, using sidewalks, and respecting private property.

Visiting The School

Please report to the school office when entering to receive authorization before going anywhere in the building. Unauthorized persons will not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings and loitering on grounds.

Visitor Guidelines (including parents)

- Visitors must report to the office, provide a State ID or a Driver's license, and receive a visitors badge.
- Visitors must indicate their purpose for visiting, whom they wish to visit, and length of visit.
- Visitors wishing to observe classrooms must seek prior approval with the principal.
- The administration reserves the right to deny visitation to anyone.
- Upon leaving the building, the visitors badge must be returned to the office.

Deliveries to Students

Gifts such as flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, etc. are discouraged. We encourage you to save these types of deliveries for home since it is sometimes difficult for students to transport them home after school.

Volunteers

We have many activities which may require helping hands. Please consider volunteering in a classroom, library, office, and/or for a field trip. The P.T.O. invites you to participate in its many functions, fundraising efforts, and

community partnerships. Your time is greatly appreciated. By becoming a volunteer, you not only assist in your child's education, but you also become a positive role model for all Bowling Green children.

Withdrawal / Transfer From School

No student under the age of eighteen (18) is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents and in compliance with state law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school will be reported to the Wood County Juvenile Court and Division of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their Driver's License if s/he is under eighteen (18) years of age. Parents must notify the Guidance Office about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including records of suspension and/or expulsion, will be transferred within 14 days of the request.