

Bessemer City Middle School

2019-2020 STUDENT HANDBOOK





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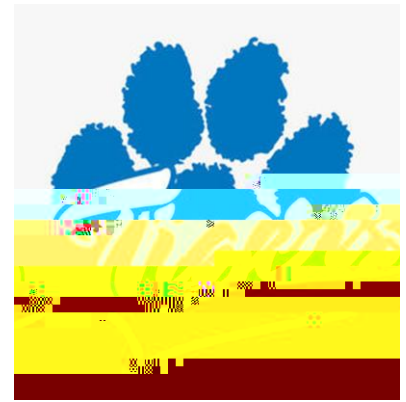
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Welcome to Bessemer City Middle School!

Bessemer City Middle School (BCMS) is a great school! Our success is a direct result of a commitment to education from our entire school community. You are essential in establishing a culture of excellence as we prepare for an amazing year! The information in this handbook is your guide to a successful year at BCMS. **ROAR** in everything you do and make 2018-2019 the best year ever!

BCMS Tigers “ROAR”...

-  Respect ourselves and others
-  Outstanding achievement
-  Always acting safely
-  Reach for success



Dismissal Procedures

Dismissal Time: The school day will officially end at 3:15 p.m. All students are to exit the building when they are called. Bus riders will immediately report to the gym to load their buses and car riders will report directly to the car rider line. Students must be picked up by 3:30 p.m. each day. Students who are routinely picked up late, will be assigned a bus for afternoon pick-up.

Early Check Out: In order to be successful in school, it is extremely important that students minimize time missed from all of their classes. Therefore, early check outs from school should be avoided. If there is an emergency or medical appointment that requires a student to be signed out during the school day, students will only be released to those appearing on their contact list. **Consistent with Gaston County School's policy regarding**

students who have exceeded 12 absences and will consider the possibility of retention based on absences.

Following any absence(s), it is required that a written document or e

Tests= 40%

Independent Work: 30%

Guided Work= 20%

Homework= 10%

Middle School Grade Reports

Interim Reports: Interim reports will be distributed to inform parents of their student's progress approximately midway through each grading period. Interim reports can be used to determine areas of concern or levels of mastery. Parents are required to sign and return this report to the school. If a student receives a failing grade on their interim

Lunch: All students are eligible for lunch free of charge at BCMS. School lunch accounts

Locker Safety: Students are not to share their locker or locker combination with any other student. Lockers are considered school property and are subject to search at any time. If a lock is missing from a locker, it will be banded shut.

Custody Orders: It is the parent's responsibility to provide the school with the most current custody agreement in effect. If the school has not been provided a copy of a court order, signed by a judge, it is assumed that custody is shared between those appearing on the child's birth certificate.

School Safety Practices

Law Enforcement: BCMS has a full time School Resource Officer on campus each day. We have two retired certified law enforcement officers serving as behavior coaches. Periodically, other law enforcement officials, including K-9's visit our school to assist in providing a safe school environment.

Drills: Students are required to participate in routine fire, tornado, evacuation, and lockdown drills. It is extremely important that students adhere to all instructions given by his/her teacher during these drills. Failure to do so puts all students at risk and could result in disciplinary action.

Metal Detection: Metal detection is intended to deter students from bringing unwanted and illegal items to school. Students are randomly selected for routine metal detection each day. Entire classrooms as well as individual metal detector searches are conducted daily.

Morning and Afternoon Traffic: Parents should use extreme caution when driving on to the school campus. Watch for students entering and exiting their vehicles and follow the

Wrestling (late Fall)		
Boys Soccer (late Fall)		
Cheerleading		

Eligibility Requirement for Athletic Participation: Students must meet the requirements listed below to be eligible to participate in athletics. In addition to these state requirements, athletes receiving Out-of-School Suspension will be removed from the team. **Students sent to redirect or assigned ISS or OSS will not be permitted to participate in any afterschool activities, including sports practices.**

Sports Physical- All athletes are required to have a NCHSAA physical form completed by a doctor before they can tryout or participate in any capacity. A physical is good for 395 days. All physicals must be on the NCHSAA form, which can be obtained on the GCS website or from the front office.

Academics- Students must pass 4 out of 5 classes in the previous semester, to be eligible to participate in athletics in any capacity. When students are promoted to the sixth grade, they are automatically eligible for fall sports. However, if they are not passing 4 out of 5 classes within their first semester of middle school, they will not be eligible for winter or spring sports.

Attendance- Students can have no more than 13 absences in a semester to be eligible to play sports.

Residency- A student must participate in sports only at the school to which Gaston County Schools has assigned him or her.

Age- A student is ineligible if they will be 15 years of age on or before August 31.

Behavior- If a player is assigned In-School-Suspension (ISS) they are ineligible to participate in try-outs, practices, or games from the moment ISS is assigned until the morning after the consequence is served. If a student is assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during a sports season, they will be removed from the team. Discipline records will be reviewed prior to team selection, coaches can choose to exclude a player from the team based on poor behavior.

Dual Participation (Football Only)- A player of a school football team is prohibited to play on an additional team during the schools season. This is for safety reasons.

Clubs

Clubs and organizations at BCMS are designed to enrich the lives of its members as well as the community as a whole. BCMS will sponsor a Club Connection night for students and parents to find out more about ways to become involved.

Positive Behavior Rewards

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

Consequences- The goal of administration and staff is to keep students in class. If students are dressed inappropriately, an attempt will be made to correct the issue, which may include removing an offending item or requiring the student to call home for a change of clothes. If the issue cannot be corrected, the student will remain in In-School-Suspension for the remainder of the day. Refusal to comply with administration's attempts to correct a dress code concern will result in ISS or OSS.

Cell Phones and other Wireless Communication Devices: Students are permitted to possess wireless communication devices at school. However, the devices are not to be activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day. This policy includes cell phones, in addition to electronic devices with Internet capability such as Smart Watches, gaming devices, and two-way radios. School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless devices that are on, used, displayed or visible. Confiscated devices will be returned only to the student's parents. A wireless device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has a reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Student Code of Conduct or a school rule. Students who habitually violate this policy will be required to turn in their device to the front office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day.

Fighting: Students shall not fight or attempt to cause bodily harm to another student. If a student is attempting to involve another student in a fight, the other student should walk away and report to the nearest adult. Students who instigate fights or participate in group assaults will be subject to the same consequences as those who are actually involved in fighting.

Instigating- When an incident of fighting or major verbal altercation occurs, administration will fully investigate the situation. Although a student may not appear to be the aggressor in an exchange, consequences may still follow if it is determined that the student has engaged in the conflict leading up to the altercation. This involves texting, sending messages via social media, sending messages through other students, or talking about the conflict with others in a manner that perpetuates the conflict.

Consequences- Students involved in a physical altercation with another student will receive Out-of-School Suspension. In accordance with the district policy, this

such as a firearm (this includes toy guns and pellet guns), knife, razor, or any object that can be considered a weapon is not permitted. Possession of fireworks, laser lights, cigarette lighters or matches on school grounds is not allowed. These items will be confiscated and a disciplinary consequence will be assigned based on the guidelines listed in the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, students are not permitted to carry blankets, large bags of chips/snacks, cell phones, toys, or other distracting items with them throughout the school day. Students will be required to put these items in their lockers and told not to bring them back. If it continues to be an issue, students will be disciplined for non-compliance.

Bus Misbehavior: Student safety is a primary concern in all bus procedures. Riding the bus is a privilege not a right. All district and school rules are in effect on the school bus. Additionally, students must follow the conduct and safety rules provided by Gaston County Schools. These are provided for students at enrollment in their beginning of the year paperwork and can be found in the Gaston County Schools Student Information Guide or on the district website. Students will lose bus privileges if their conduct endangers others or distracts the driver. Students who misbehave on the school bus are subject to both bus and school wide consequences.

Use of School Technology: Students and parents will sign a Gaston County Schools Responsible Use Policy before use of school technology is allowed. If this policy is violated, students may lose internet access at school and face additional disciplinary consequences.

Classroom Misbehavior/Redirect: Warning and other interventions will be used in order to address minor class disruptions. If a student does not appropriately correct their behavior, the student may be removed from class and sent to redirect for the remainder of the period. Parents will be notified when students are sent to redirect. **Students sent to redirect will not be permitted to participate in any afterschool activities.** When a student has acquired 6 redirects, they will be referred to a school-

Suspension, a schedule change, an amended day, and/or a referral for alternative placement. **If a student is assigned In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension they are not permitted to participate in any afterschool activities until the day following their last day of suspension.**
