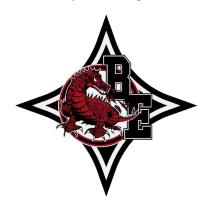
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School

Student Handbook 2024 - 2025



897 North Street Bamberg, South Carolina 29003

Telephone: (803) 245-3058 Fax: (803) 245-6501

This agenda belongs to:

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CITY/TOWN	ZIP GODE	
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STUDENT NO		

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Samberg County School District

2024-2025

Traditional Early Start

First Day/End of Quarter/ Semester School Closures/Fall/Winter Break MLK Day Presidents Day/Winter Break Independence Day Teacher Prep/PD Professional Development Professional Development Labor Day Holiday Early Release End of 1st Quarter Professional Development Fall Break PD/Inclement Weather Professional Development Students Return Intersession Professional Development Inclement Weather End of Second Semester Thanksgiving Holidays Teacher Prep/PD Memorial Day Holiday First Day for Students End of First Semester Early Dismissal End of Third Quarter Early Release Intercession School Days nclement Weather BEHS Graduation Winter Holidays Early Dismissal Early Release Election Day Early Dismissal Early Release Early Release Spring Break Event Dec 23- Jan 3 0ct 7 0ct 9 0ct 10-11 0ct 22 Nov 5 Dec 20 Jan 6 Jan 7 Jan 20 Feb 17-19 Feb 20-21 March 17 Date July 4th July 29-30 July 31 Aug 1-2 August 5 August 27 Sept 2 Sept 2 April 18 Apr 21-25 May 26 May 30 March 25 May 30 May 31 June 2 June 3 *June 4.5 June 19 March 19

Make-up PD Days (if needed)

PD/Inclement Weather PD/Inclement Weather

DOHS Graduation

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FACULTY AND STAFF

2024 - 2025

Administrative Team	
Denise L. Miller	
Leigh Ann OsborneG	
Sarah Strickland	
Michelle Kinsey	School Nurse
Seventh Grade Teachers	
Anne Mock	Pre-Algebra/ Math
Alicia Caldwell	Math
Amy Stembridge	. Advanced English
Sacajawea HowellEng	lish Language Arts
Adelaida Jose Eng	
Alleyah Ransom	
Dorissa Thompson	Social Studies
Eighth Grade Teachers	
Julie Gladd	
Monica Harley Algeb	
Amy StembridgeEnglish I Honors/ Eng	
Bartolome Aguilos Eng	
Criston Jensen	
Elaine Downing	Social Studies
Related Arts	
Kim Compton	Media Specialist
TBA	-
Teresa Alsing	Art
Gene Williams	
Shadarise SweatKey	boarding Assistant
Student Services	
Carroll Brabham	Academic Seminar
Rich Jeffcoat	. Academic Studies
Jan McCormack Speech L	anguage Therapist
Carla JowersOccu	pational Therapist
Laura Dukes	Physical Therapist
Linda Holman	Paraprofessional
Lee UlmerSo	chool Psychologist
Support Staff	
Elaine CrosbyLui	nchroom Manager
Essie Ryant	
Donell Brown	
Terra George	
Jeffery Salley	
Willie Carter	
Tonja Cohen	Paraprofessional
Travis Wilson	
TBASchoo	ol Resource Officer

BAMBERG-EHRHARDT MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

We are ONE TEAM succeeding together!



Our Vision: Success Looks Like . . .

Our students will enter high school:

- ✓ adequately prepared for success in English 1.
- ✓ adequately prepared for success in Algebra 1.
- ✓ adequately prepared for success in Physical Science.
- ✓ with a foundation for US History, Government, & Economics.
- ✓ with a foundation for Career and Technology Education and/ or the FINE Arts.
- ✓ progressing toward the Profile of the SC Graduate.
- ✓ Progressing toward college and career readiness.

What Our Team Believes:

- ✓ Everyone is unique and worthy of respect.
- ✓ Physical and emotional well-being is essential to learning.
- ✓ Everyone should be provided with a safe and secure environment.
- ✓ Individuals are responsible for their own actions.
- ✓ Learning is a life-long process.
- ✓ Effective communication among school, home, and the community is necessary to promote mutual understanding.
- √ Various instructional strategies should be used to accommodate diverse learners and provide a challenging curriculum.
- ✓ Technology integration is an effective teaching and learning tool in all content areas.
- ✓ Students should be provided with extracurricular activities that encourage individual creativity.

Bamberg County School District Nondiscrimination Statement

Bamberg County School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, staff, parents/legal guardians, visitors, and community members, who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Accordingly, the District does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions), color, disability, age, genetic information, national origin, or any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law.

The District will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The District designates these people to handle inquiries or complaints.

Federal Programs Director Mallie Shaw handles inquiries/complaints regarding the:

- Age Discrimination Act of 1975;
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967;
- Equal Pay Act of 1963;
- Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008;
- Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to employment;
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to public access to buildings and grounds; and
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

You can reach Mrs. Shaw by mail at 62 South Holly Avenue, Denmark SC 29042-3830; by telephone at 803-793-3346; or by email at mshaw@bambergschools.org.

Federal Programs Director Mallie Shaw also handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Information specific to the district Title IX process can be found here: https://www.bambergschools.org and search for Title IX under Departments. You can reach Mrs. Shaw by mail at 62 South Holly Avenue, Denmark SC 29042; by telephone at 803-793-3346; or by email at mshaw@bambergschools.org.

Federal Programs Director Mallie Shaw handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and those pertaining to ESSA Title II implementation. You can reach Mrs. Shaw by mail at 62 South Holly Avenue, Denmark SC, 29042-3830; by telephone at 803-793-3346; or by email at mshaw@bambergschools.org.

Director of Student Services Dottie Brown handles inquiries/complaints regarding IDEA for students K–12 and inquiries/complaints for students K–12 regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1973. You can reach Dr. Brown by mail at 62 South Holly Avenue, Denmark SC 29042-3830; by telephone at 803-793-3346; or by email at dbrown@bambergschools.org.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records
 maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for
 reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the
 records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights

under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

TEAM SPORTS

Same as above plus team name, weight and height of player, and awards.

When an authorized release of information is presented, it will be honored.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may use the <u>Federal Relay Service</u>.

Or you may contact us at the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

General Information

STUDENT SERVICES

GUIDANCE

The guidance department exists for the benefit of every student at Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School.

The guidance services, including personal, educational and vocational counseling, are available to all students. Parents are also encouraged/ welcomed to confer with the school counselor at their convenience. The purpose of the Guidance Department is to:

- 1. Help each student receive the most from his/her actual class work.
- 2. Help each student to find his or her place in the extracurricular program.
- 3. Help each student plan for his or her life's work.
- 4. Help each student with his or her personal problems.
- 5. Administer intelligence, aptitude, interest and achievement tests to help students realize their capabilities.
- 6. Individually assist students with course selections based on their career path.

HEALTH ROOM PROCEDURES

A health room is provided for students who become ill at school. Except in an emergency, a pass from a teacher is required for admittance. Students unable to return to class after a maximum of one class period must contact a parent for dismissal from school. **No student will be dismissed without parental approval.**

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

The school nurse or designee provides many services such as first aid, medication administration, and vision and hearing screenings. Students will not be able to receive any type of prescription or non-prescription medication at school unless the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) provides the school nurse with the medication to be administered to the student along with an order from the physician. The parent or legal guardian must obtain the Medication Policies and Procedures Form from the nurse. This form must be completed and signed by the student's physician before any medication can be administered by the nurse or designee at school. Students are not allowed to keep prescription/non-prescription/over-the-counter medication with them at school.

Immunization Certificate: S.C. requires that students have a Certificate of Adequate Immunization. No student will be allowed to begin school without being in full compliance with the law. Only "transfer" students will be allowed to receive a 30-day exemption and begin school.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the state at no cost to the student and are issued at the beginning of each term. Students are responsible for the care and security of books issued to them. Students will be required to pay for lost, stolen, or damaged books.

LOCKERS

A student may be assigned a locker at no charge. The locker must be requested through their Advisor Teacher. Privately owned locks are not allowed. Students are expected to keep lockers clean and secured. **The sharing of lockers is not permitted.** All lockers are subject to inspection by the administrator. Students will be charged \$5.00 for lost locks.

TELEPHONE USE

Students who are ill or have an emergency will go to the Nurse's Office, Main Office, or Guidance Office to phone a parent. Students will not be called to answer the phone during school hours.

TRANSPORTATION

School bus transportation is extended to students living more than 1.5 miles from school. This privilege can be withheld if the student displays an uncooperative attitude or disorderly conduct. The school bus driver is fully in charge of his/her bus while en route, working under the direction of the principal, and transportation supervisor. The School District has adopted a School Bus Discipline Policy that applies to all students and schools in Bamberg County School District.

THE LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center offers BEMS students opportunities to learn skills necessary to function well in the 21st century. You will find a variety of resources such as computers, fiction and nonfiction books, a wide array of periodical subscriptions, and daily newspapers. The media specialist will provide students with guidance in using materials needed to complete classroom assignments. Students may access the library with permission from their classroom teacher. Eating and/ or drinking are prohibited in the Library Media Center.

VISITORS

Students may not bring guests to school and expect them to be admitted to regular classes. School is a place where work is going on, and receiving visitors interrupts the schedule.

Parents of BEMS students are always welcome to visit the school campus. They should report by the office to receive a pass. All visitors must report to the main office to obtain a pass via the Raptor Technologies System and permission to visit school classrooms.

PLEASE NOTE:

It was enacted by the general assembly of the state of South Carolina that any person entering the premises of any school shall be deemed to have consented to a reasonable search of his person and effects.

CLOSED CAMPUS

The BEMS campus is closed to the public. Visitors must report to the office upon arrival on the grounds. Students are not allowed to leave the campus after arriving for school and prior to dismissal without permission from the administration. Students may not come and go freely from the campus during school hours to include the lunch period.

NON-STUDENT ON GROUNDS

The principal is empowered to take appropriate action against non-students who invade the building, grounds or other school property. Such action will include the right to call in the police and swear out warrants. The authority for such is Article 5, 16-551 of the South Carolina Code of Laws: "Disturbing Schools--it shall be unlawful (1) for anyone (a) to interfere with or disturb in any way or in any place the student or teachers of any school in this State (b) to loiter about school premises of (c) to act in an obnoxious manner thereon. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction thereof, shall pay a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, to be imprisoned not less than ten days or more than thirty days."

COURTESY RULES

- 1. Remove your hat when you come in the building.
- 2. Say excuse me if you interrupt.
- 3. Say excuse me if you bump into someone.
- 4. Watch language in the hallway.
- 5. Use trash receptacles.
- 6. Respect property.
- 7. Respect other people do not be rude to other students or teachers.
- 8. Be quiet in the halls.
- 9. Talk quietly in the cafeteria.
- 10. Say excuse me when you walk between people talking.
- 11. Say "yes, ma'am" or "yes, sir", not "what", "yeah," or "no".

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

All announcements must be approved by the administration. Public address announcements will be made during announcement time and at the end of the day. All students are expected to be quiet during announcements so that all may hear them.

GYMNASIUM RULES

- 1. No food or drink allowed in the gym at any time.
- 2. The gym floor is off limits to anyone wearing hard sole shoes.
- 3. No running or playing on the bleachers is allowed.
- 4. Students will not be allowed in the gym during lunch.

HALLWAYS

Due to the crowded conditions in the hallways and the possibility of accidents occurring, there is to be no running, pushing, or playing in the hallways. Always walk and keep to the right. No food or drink.

STUDENT CORRECTIONS

Teachers have the authority and the responsibility to correct any student that he/she feels need correcting. Students must respect all staff members.

STUDENTS REMAINING AFTER SCHOOL

Any student remaining after the regular school day must be under the direct supervision of a staff member. This means that the student must be in the presence of the responsible staff member.

Students will not be allowed to remain unsupervised at school in order to attend or participate in extracurricular or athletic events.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Parent Conferences

Parents are encouraged to visit teachers. Appointments must be made to coincide with teachers' schedules. Please call the guidance office at 803.245.3058 to schedule conferences. In general, teachers will not be allowed to talk with parents during class time. Parents wishing to visit classes should call for an appointment.

Physical Education

Students are required to dress in proper gym clothing and give valuables to the teacher before class. The school will not be responsible for items stolen during Physical Education.

Flowers

Flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, etc. are not allowed in class. Delivery at school is not encouraged. Students receiving these items will be called to pick them up at the end of the day. Deliveries on Valentine's Day will not be accepted.

Restrooms & Water Fountains

Use water fountains and restrooms before and after school, during lunch recess, or with teacher permission. If a medical problem requires extra bathroom privileges, a doctor's note is required. This must be updated yearly.

Selling

Selling is not permitted without the principal's permission. Selling will be limited to school fund-raising efforts.

Supplies

Students should come to school prepared. Students failing to bring necessary supplies may be penalized. Repeated violations will be referred to the office.

Playground

Use designated entrances and stay in designated playground areas. Private property around the school must not be used as a shortcut.

Lunchroom/Canteen

Stay in designated areas. Eat canteen items during lunch. Eating is not allowed in the classroom.

Hall Conduct

A pass is needed to be in the hall during class time. Loud talking or running is not permitted. Keep to the right when moving down the hall.

Parent-School Communication

In order to communicate effectively with our parents, BEMS will use the following platforms:

- PowerSchool phone messaging system
- School website: https://bems.bambergschools.org
- Parent portal: https://bambergschools.powerschool.com/public
- BEMS Facebook Page: @BEMSRedRaiders

INSURANCE

The district offers a low-cost accident insurance program for students. At the minimum, the insurance will provide accident coverage for students on the way to and from school, while they are at school, and whenever they are engaging in school-sponsored activities.

The district requires that all students participating in the following activities have accident insurance:

- interscholastic athletics on the varsity and junior varsity level and B teams
- intramural football
- high school band
- high school physical education
- career and technology courses
- other offerings and courses as determined by the principal/director

The district will not require those students to have accident insurance if the student provides documentation from the parent/legal guardian stating that the student has adequate insurance coverage and does not wish to participate in the district accident insurance plan.

ACADEMICS

ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY

The board designates the principal of the school to promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence of more than 10 days in a school year.

Unlawful Absences

A student ages 6 to 17 years who has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences is considered truant as defined by State Board of Education regulation.

A student ages 12 to 17 years who fails to comply with the school's intervention plan and accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences is considered a habitual truant.

When a student ages 12 to 17 years who has been through the school intervention process, has reached the level of a habitual truant, has been referred to family court, and has been placed on an order to attend school, and continues to accumulate unlawful absences, that student is considered a chronic truant.

Intervention

In order to encourage and assist students in attending school regularly, the administration will administer the appropriate intervention procedures.

Once a student is determined to be truant, school officials will make every reasonable effort to meet with the parent/legal guardian to identify the reasons for the student's continued absence, including telephone calls, home visits, written messages, and emails.

A written intervention plan will be developed by school administrators in conjunction with the student and the parent/legal guardian. The intervention plan must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a designated person to lead the intervention team (may be someone from another agency)
- reasons for the unlawful absences
- actions the parent/legal guardian and student will take to resolve the causes of the unlawful absences
- documentation of referrals to appropriate service providers and, if available, alternative school and community-based programs
- actions to be taken by intervention team members
- actions to be taken in the event unlawful absences continue
- signature of parent/legal guardian or evidence that attempts were made to include them
- documentation of involvement of team members
- guidelines for making revisions to the plan

School officials may utilize a team intervention approach to include representatives from social services, community mental health, substance abuse and prevention, and other persons deemed appropriate in formulating the intervention plans.

Referrals and Judicial Intervention

The district will not refer a child ages 6 to 17 years to the family court to be placed on an order to attend school prior to the written intervention plan being completed by the school with the parent/legal guardian. The district will not use a consent order as an intervention plan.

Refusal by the parent/legal guardian to cooperate with school intervention plans can result in a referral of the student to family court and the filing of a report against the parent/legal guardian with the South Carolina Department of Social Services in accordance with law.

The district will inform the parent/legal guardian and/or the student of their right to have legal representation and their right to a trial.

If absences continue to the point a student is classified as a habitual truant, school officials may file a petition for a school attendance order. Once a school attendance order has been issued by the family court and the student continues to accumulate absences to the point of becoming a chronic truant, school officials may refer the case back to family court. The school and district will exhaust all reasonable alternatives prior to petitioning the family court to hold the student and/or parent/legal guardian in contempt of court.

Transfer to another school

If a student transfers to another public school in the state, the district will forward the student's intervention plan to the receiving school.

Approval of Absences in Excess of 10 Days

After 10 lawful or unlawful absences, or a combination thereof, the principal of the school will approve

or disapprove each succeeding absence.

Excuses

Students will be expected to present a written excuse, signed by a parent/legal guardian or certified medical practitioner, in all cases of absence. If a student fails to bring a valid excuse to school for an absence, the student will receive an unlawful absence. A valid excuse must list the date of the absence, the date of the excuse, the reason for absence, and the telephone number and signature of the parent/legal guardian or certified medical practitioner. The school will keep the content of an excuse confidential to the extent appropriate.

Any student who fails to submit a valid excuse, within three days of returning to school, will automatically receive an unexcused and unlawful absence. Principals will have discretion to accept medical excuses beyond three days as they determine appropriate under the circumstances.

False or forged excuses will be referred to the school administration for appropriate disciplinary action and the absence may be considered unlawful.

Make-Up Work

Students whose absences are approved should be allowed to make up any work missed in order to satisfy course requirements. Examples of make-up work that address both time and academic requirements of a course may include after-school and/or weekend make-up programs and extended-year programs.

A student will be allowed to make up work missed during the absence as long as the student or his/her parent/legal guardian makes appropriate arrangements with the teacher(s) within five school days of the student's return to school. The student should complete the make-up work within 10 days after his/her return to school, although the teacher may provide additional time in which to complete the work to the extent additional time is appropriate and reasonable.

All make-up time and work must be completed within 30 days from the last day of the course. The board or its designee may extend the time for a student's completion of the requirements due to extenuating circumstances that include, but are not limited to, the student's medical condition, family emergencies, and other student academic requirements that are considered to be a maximum load. Make-up requirements that extend beyond 30 days due to extenuating circumstances must be completed prior to the beginning of the subsequent new school year.

School principals will exert every realistic effort to provide assurance that this administrative rule is adhered to in a fair and consistent manner. Principals will place special emphasis on coordinating absences affecting students within the same family.

HOMEBOUND EDUCATION

Homebound instruction is provided for students who because of illness, accident, pregnancy, or congenital defect, cannot, even with the aid of transportation, attend school. The principal or designee will be responsible for implementing the Homebound Program for students experiencing a prolonged illness or injury requiring school absence.

Criteria: Participation in the program requires all of the following criteria to be met:

Physician certification that the student is unable to attend school.

- Principal certification that the student is unable to attend school.
- If the physician's diagnosis indicates the student is handicapped, a copy of the placement form is required to certify that the student has been accorded appropriate placement.

Procedure: The following procedure will be observed:

- Obtain a form from the guidance counselor if the student is **expected** to miss more than five days of school.
- Obtain physician's signature on the form and return it to the principal. A certified teacher will be assigned and will provide a minimum of five hours of instruction per week. Scheduling is left up to each individual teacher and student.

ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, AND TARDY

Early Arrival: Supervision of students at BEMS begins each morning at 7:15 a.m.

Early Dismissals: Once a student reports to school, he/she is expected to stay for the entire day. Parents should only request an early dismissal for reasons similar to lawful absences (student illness, illness or death of immediate family member, etc.). When possible, appointments should be scheduled after school or on school holidays. A good education demands that a student be in every class every day possible. For parents requesting the early dismissal of a student the procedure is as follows:

Parents will send written permission stating the time, reason, date, and telephone number.

The student will give the note to his/her Advisor teacher and to the office secretary.

During the Advisor Period (homeroom) the student will notify any teachers whose class period will be missed, hand in assignments, and collect work.

The parent must sign the student out in the office.

Students returning must sign in and obtain a pass.

Anyone who picks up a student from school must be on the parent approval list. ID will be required.

Tardy: Students arriving after 7:50 a.m. **must** come to the office **with a parent** or bring a written excuse. Chronic tardies will be reported to the attendance officer.

Late bus students are required to come by the office to obtain a pass before going to the classroom. Late bus students will receive an excused tardy.

Tardy to Class: Students who arrive late to class are considered to be tardy. Successive tardies will result in disciplinary measures according to the teacher's behavior management plan.

Withdrawals: The school should be notified at least two days in advance of a student's impending withdrawal. All textbooks, technology, library books, lunch fees, and other fines must be cleared.

UNIFORM GRADING POLICY FOR SCHOOLS:

90-100	Α
80-89	В
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 or below	.F

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND RECOGNITION

Homework: Homework is assigned most days. The reasons are:

- To provide practice on learned skills and the opportunity to learn good study habits
- To provide opportunity for growth in responsibility
- To provide the parent with an opportunity to see what the student is studying and how well he or she is doing

Learning is important and should continue after school hours. Homework should not be viewed as punishment, but as a way to extend learning. Homework policies vary. Please contact individual teachers for clarification.

Test Papers: Teachers may send test papers home by the student. Parents should sign and return them to the teacher the next day.

Report Cards: Report Cards will be issued every nine weeks and must be returned signed. Progress reports will be issued each grading period (around week 4 ½ of each quarter).

Academic Recognition: At the end of each nine week grading period, grades are reviewed to determine qualification for the **Junior Garnet and Black Honor Roll**. Students who have earned a grade of A in every subject will qualify for the A Honor Roll. Students who earn all A's and B's in every subject will qualify for the A-B Honor Roll. Students who have earned a grade of B in every subject will qualify for the B Honor Roll.

Child Find Requirement: If you feel your child has some type of disability and is in need of special education, related services, or accommodations, please contact the school administration as soon as possible so that the school district can provide appropriate educational opportunities for your child.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Gifted & Talented Program Parent Notification:

Gifted and talented students are those who are identified in grades three through twelve as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve

their potential. The purpose of the gifted and talented program is to provide curriculum, instruction, and assessment that maximize the potential of identified students.

Identification is a multi-step process that consists of screening and referral, assessment of eligibility, and placement. Criteria for identification is organized by the following three dimensions:

- Dimension A Reasoning Abilities/Aptitude: Demonstrate high aptitude (93rd national age percentile or above) in one or more of these areas: verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and/or a composite of the three on a nationally normed test of academic aptitude.
- Dimension B High Achievement: Outstanding performance in reading and/or math as
 evidenced by a qualified score in Exemplary on the Assessment of State Standards or
 scoring at or above the 94th national percentile on a nationally normed test of academic
 achievement in the areas of reading comprehension or math concepts/problem
 solving.
- Intellectual/Academic Performance: Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 must have an acceptable score measured by specific performance tasks developed through Project Star, administered in March. Students served in grades seven through twelve must earn a grade point average of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Students who meet two of the three above dimensions are eligible for placement, as are students who score at or above the 96th national percentile composite on a nationally normed test of academic aptitude.

Any student can be referred for screening assessment. Referrals from teachers, administrators, parents, and students will be accepted. Referrals can be made by contacting the school guidance counselor and requesting Permission to Evaluate Form. No child will be screened without a signed and dated the Permission to Evaluate Form. All students referred for screening, who have returned this form, will be tested with a nationally normed test of academic aptitude. Achievement results from the South Carolina State Assessment will be used in the achievement dimension.

If you have any questions regarding identification procedures and program services, contact your child's school guidance counselor or the district's Gifted and Talented Coordinator. Bamberg County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.



"Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can fly."

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE GUIDE

All BEMS students are expected to be on their best behavior at all times. They are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and our school. All BEMS students have the right to learn in a safe, secure, and orderly environment. All BEMS students are expected to respect the authority of all faculty and staff. Students who choose not to comply with our expectations will be disciplined. The purpose of the BEMS Code of Conduct is to communicate to students and parents the types and ranges of behavior and possible consequences. Every specific variation/ situation of prohibited conduct cannot be listed. The principal and the school district reserve the right to determine the appropriate consequence for misconduct. Students with disabilities will be disciplined in compliance with state and federal laws.

Level I - Behavioral Misconduct

Behavioral misconduct includes any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturb the classroom or school.

Acts of behavioral misconduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lving
- abusive language between or among students
- failure to comply with directives from school/district staff or agents (to include volunteer aides or chaperones)
- use of forged notes or excuses
- cutting class
- school tardiness
- truancy (three consecutive unlawful absences from school or a total of five unlawful absences)
- possession of an electronic communications device as defined by and in conflict with district policy
- other acts of behavioral misconduct as determined and communicated by the administration

Consequences that may be applied in cases of behavioral misconduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges
- demerits
- detention (silent lunch, after school, weekends, or another time that does not interfere with the instructional day)
- other consequences as approved and communicated by the administration

Level II - Disruptive Conduct

Disruptive conduct includes those activities in which students engage that are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. This includes actions taken off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative consequences and court proceedings.

The administration may reclassify behavioral misconduct (Level I) as disruptive conduct (Level II) if the student engages in the activity three or more times.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- violation of a Level I intervention plan and/or behavioral contract
- fighting
- harassment, intimidation, or bullying
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- threats against others
- trespassing
- abusive language to staff
- repeated refusal to comply with directives from school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperones)
- possession or use of unauthorized substances, as defined by law and/or local school board policy
- illegally occupying or blocking school property in any way with the intent to deprive others of its use
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- hazing
- inappropriate use of technology (e.g. bullying, harassing, or intimidating other students or district staff members; plagiarizing copyrighted materials; or accessing inappropriate websites)
- creating, possessing, or sharing nude, partially nude, or other sexually explicit or suggestive images, videos, or visual representations using non-digital means (e.g. printed materials) or electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting, emailing, or posting on social media platforms; these acts are prohibited whether or not the subject of the images, videos, or visual representations consent to their being created, possessed, or shared
- other acts as determined and communicated by the administration

The administrator or school official may refer Level II misconduct to the school resource officer or other law enforcement authorities only when the conduct rises to the level of criminality and the conduct presents an immediate safety risk to one or more people or it is the third or subsequent act which rises to the level of criminality during the school year.

The administration may apply consequences in cases of disruptive conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- temporary removal from class
- alternative education program

- in-school suspension
- out-of-school suspension
- transfer
- referral to outside agency
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate
- other consequences as approved and communicated by the administration

Level III - Criminal Conduct

Criminal conduct includes those activities in which students engage that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of the students themselves or others in the school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of the school resource officer or other law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the board.

Acts of criminal conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- assault and battery
- use of an intoxicant
- extortion
- threat of the use of a destructive device (bomb, grenade, pipe bomb, or similar device)
- possession, use, or transfer of dangerous weapons
- sexual offenses
- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession, or sale of stolen property
- arson
- furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by law and/or board policy
- furnishing, selling, or possession of controlled substances (drugs, narcotics, or poisons)
- illegal use of technology (e.g. communicating a threat of a destructive device, weapon, or event with the intent of intimidating, threatening, or interfering with school activities)
- knowingly and maliciously distributing, possessing, exchanging, creating, soliciting, or exhibiting images, videos, or visual representations of sexually explicit nudity or sexual activity using non-digital means (e.g. printed photographs or magazines) or via electronic communication, including but not limited to texting, emailing, or posting on social media platforms
- maliciously transmitting sexual images of minors other than self-images of the student or images transmitted with the uncoerced consent of the individual in the images
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a teacher, principal, staff member, or members of their immediate family

When an administrator observes, or is notified of and has verified, a criminal offense the administrator must contact the school resource officer or local law enforcement authorities immediately.

An administrator will notify the student's parent/legal guardian as soon as possible.

An administrator will impose the appropriate disciplinary action. If warranted, the administrator will

immediately remove the student from the school environment.

The administration may apply consequences in cases of criminal conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative schools
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate (should be sought by school authorities)
- other consequences as approved and communicated by the administration

Extenuating or Mitigating Circumstances

The board may confer upon the appropriate administrator the authority to consider extenuating or mitigating circumstances which may exist in a particular case of misconduct or criminal activity. The administrator should consider such circumstances in determining the most appropriate consequence.

School Administrators will follow all applicable laws, regulations, and district policies applicable to the disciplining of students identified as disabled pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

BEMS DRESS CODE

The purpose of the BEMS Dress Code is to create an atmosphere that will allow us to provide the best education possible for your children and our students.

Students are prohibited from wearing:

- clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories that present a reasonable threat or hazard to the safety of others in a school environment, e.g. sharp jewelry, chains, etc.
- clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories that have slogans, comments, or designs
 that are obscene, lewd, or vulgar; are directed towards, or intended to harm,
 harass, threaten, intimidate, or demean individual groups or individuals on the
 basis of race, religion, sex, color, disability, or national origin
- clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories that contain advertisements, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that are sexually suggestive; are gang-, drug-, weapon-, or alcohol-related; are obscene, profane, promote hate, or are disruptive or potentially disruptive to the learning environment
- ill-fitting clothing (i.e. clothing that is too tight or too loose) or clothing that is worn in such a manner as to expose undergarments (i.e. boxer shorts, bras, underwear)
- clothing that inappropriately bares or exposes private parts of a body, including but not limited to, the stomach, areas above mid-thigh, buttocks, back, and breasts (i.e. cut-off t-shirts, half shirts, midriffs, tops with spaghetti straps, tube tops, see through or revealing tops)
- sunglasses or hats
- sleepwear or lounge pants

When face coverings are required due to COVID-19 or other illness, face coverings cannot have slogans, comments, or designs that are obscene, lewd, or vulgar; are directed towards, or intended to harm,

harass, threaten, intimidate, or demean individual groups or individuals on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, disability, or national origin.

Additionally, clothing should be worn as designed. All pants must be worn at the natural waist. A belt must be worn if pants or shorts do not stay at the natural waist.

Shorts, skirts, or skorts are acceptable if they are modest in length. Outer garments that are worn over tights or leggings are to follow the same length expectations as shorts or skirts. Tailored pants or jeans are acceptable if they do not have holes above what is considered to be modest in length. *Modest in length* is defined as the tip of the longest finger with arms by sides.

Acceptable footwear is required to be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are considered unacceptable school attire.

Any attire/paraphernalia/symbol that signifies gang affiliation will not be allowed. Congregation of students wearing like colors may be perceived as gang affiliated behavior, resulting in the request to discontinue the offensive behavior and/or dress.

CELL PHONE POLICY

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE CELL PHONES IN THEIR POSSESSION OR ON THEIR PERSON. THIS POLICY INCLUDES THE PROHIBITION OF SMART WATCHES.

Prior to a student entering the building, his or her cell phone must be turned off and then secured in the student's locker. (CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE KEPT IN ANY PLACE OTHER THAN A LOCKER). If a student is found in possession of a cell phone between the 7:15 and 3:00 p.m., the phone may be confiscated and the student will be disciplined according to the school policy listed in the student handbook.

BEMS believes electronic communication devices may be useful tools for students in the educational environment and can play a vital communication role during emergency situations. However, use of electronic communication devices in school situations must be regulated to ensure that the use of such devices does not disrupt or interfere with the educational process or school operations.

For purposes of this policy, *electronic communication devices* are defined as any telecommunications device (including, but not limited to, wearable technology, such as smart watches that have the capability to interact with wireless technology; cell phones; laptops; tablets; mp3 players; and other current and future similarly utilized devices) that emits an audible signal; vibrates; displays a message; records; live streams; or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.

The district is not responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school or district property or in a student's possession while he/she is attending district or school-sponsored activities or events.

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Misuse of any electronic communication device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment or does not respect the rights of others is expressly forbidden.

Electronic devices may not be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where the presence of such devices poses an unreasonable risk to the safety, welfare, or privacy of others as determined by the building principal. If the building principal believes a student's possession or use of an electronic

communication device may involve a violation of the law, the principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement.

Students may not use electronic devices to:

- Engage in, promote, or facilitate any conduct that otherwise violates board policy, school rules, and/or the Code of Conduct
- Disrupt the educational environment or school-sponsored extracurricular activities or events
- Impair or interfere with the district or school operations
- Photograph or record the activities of other students, staff members, volunteers, visitors, or any other individual on district property without the express permission of a district staff member

A teacher may grant permission for the use of electronic communication devices to assist with instruction in his/her classroom. The principal or his/her designee may also grant a student permission to use such a device at his/her discretion.

Use of an electronic communication device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's individualized education program (IEP); is utilized in conjunction with membership in a voluntary firefighting or emergency medical service organization; or is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

In exchange for the privilege of bringing electronic communication devices into the educational environment, each student and his/her parent/legal guardian agrees to voluntarily forfeit the electronic communication device (option: for the reminder of the day; until it is picked up by a parent/legal guardian, etc.) if the student is found to be in violation of this policy. The student is also subject to discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The board seeks to maintain a climate in the schools which is conducive to learning and protective of the safety and welfare of staff and students. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school staff to search the person and/or the personal property of a student and to seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and staff.

Students and their belongings are subject to reasonable searches and seizures when administrators have a belief considered to be reasonable under these circumstances:

- A student committed a crime or a violation of a school rule.
- Such a search may reveal contraband or evidence of a violation of a school rule or a criminal law.

Any search conducted must be reasonable in scope given the age and sex of the student and the nature of the alleged infraction.

Only the principal or his/her designee may conduct such searches within the Constitutional parameters

outlined above unless exigent circumstances exist which require another staff member to take immediate action for safety reasons.

School Lockers and Desks

All lockers are the property of the district. School staff may conduct searches of lockers in accordance with publicized administrative rules.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

No student, regardless of age, will possess, use, sell, purchase, barter, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled or unauthorized substances in the following circumstances:

- on school property (including buildings, grounds, vehicles)
- at any school-sponsored activity, function, or event whether on or off school grounds (including any location where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place)
- en route to or from or during any field trip, or during any trip or activity sponsored by the board or under the supervision of the board or its authorized agents

No student will aid, abet, assist, or conceal the possession, consumption, purchase, or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or controlled or unauthorized substances by any other student or students in any of the circumstances listed above.

No student will market or distribute any substance which is represented to be or is substantially similar in color, shape, size, or markings to a controlled or unauthorized substance or to an alcoholic beverage in any of the circumstances listed above.

All principals will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and will report to them all information that would be considered pertinent or beneficial in their efforts to stop the sale, possession, and use of alcoholic beverages and controlled or unauthorized substances.

Principals will suspend students who violate this policy and may recommend them for expulsion.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

Weapons

It is the policy of the board to ensure the safety and welfare of its students and staff. The presence of firearms, knives with a blade length of over two inches, dirks, razors, metal knuckles, slingshots, bludgeons, or any other deadly instrument used for the infliction of bodily harm or death on school district property poses a severe threat of serious harm or injury to students and staff.

While on school grounds, in school buildings, on buses, or at school-related functions, students will not possess any item capable of inflicting injury or harm (hereinafter referred to as a weapon) to persons or property when that item is not used in relation to a normal school activity at a scheduled time for the student.

Level of offense

It is a felony offense, punishable by a fine of \$1,000, or imprisonment for five years, or both, to carry a weapon as referenced above on school property.

It is a misdemeanor offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500, or imprisonment for up to 90 days, to carry a concealed dirk, slingshot, metal knuckles, razor, or other deadly weapon.

Weapons (Firearms)

The board will expel any student who brings a firearm to school. The term firearm is defined extensively in federal law, but generally means a weapon (gun) or destructive device (explosive, incendiary).

The period of expulsion will be no less than one year.

The superintendent will make recommendations for expulsion consistent with this policy except that the superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, may modify this expulsion requirement.

The district may provide educational services in an alternative setting to students expelled under this policy.

The district will refer each expelled student to the local county office of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

ANTI-BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT POLICY

The board prohibits acts of intimidation, bullying, or harassment of a student by other students, staff, or third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment whether in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus, or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

For purposes of this policy, intimidation, bullying, or harassment is defined as a gesture, electronic communication, or a written, verbal, or physical act reasonably perceived to have the effect of either of the following:

- harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage
- insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to intimidation, bullying, or harassment is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. All staff members are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or staff may be made anonymously.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or staff member who has filed a complaint or report of intimidation, bullying, or harassment. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of intimidation, bullying, or harassment.

The board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful

manner. Students and staff have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules, and regulations of the school and district. Any student or staff member who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions as outlined in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion in the case of a student or termination in the case of a staff member. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The district will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

Students, parents/legal guardians, and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary actions for conduct initiated and/or created off-campus involving the inappropriate use of the Internet or web-based resources if such conduct poses a threat or substantially interferes with or disrupts the work and discipline of the schools, including discipline for student intimidation, bullying, or harassment.

TECHNOLOGY GUIDELINES

COMPUTER USE / INTERNET ACCESS

All students have access to networked programs and the Internet. When using school computers, all students are expected to abide by the district's Acceptable Use Policy. General school and district rules for behavior and communication apply. The Director of Technology along with school administration may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should have no expectations of privacy in their electronic files stored on Bamberg County School District servers.

Students are expected to use the district Internet system for educational purposes. The district has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the materials that students access or post through the system. Students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the district's Acceptable Use Policy, the student discipline code and the law in their use of the district Internet system and district-owned equipment.

All students will receive a copy of the Bamberg County School District Policy for Computer Use/Internet Access. The form is to be signed by both parent(s) and students and returned to the school. Failure to return the form does not release students from the rules and regulations of the Computer Use/Internet Access Policy.

Each student is assigned an individual user account. The security of this account is the responsibility of the student. It should be safeguarded at all times.

The board recognizes that social media and other methods of digital communication are essential forms of interaction in modern society. The board believes that responsible use of these platforms is essential to student success, both in college and in their future careers.

For purposes of this policy, digital communications are defined as communications made via any online platform for purposes of collaboration, interaction, and/or active participation, whether accessed via the Internet or via cellular phone, and include, but are not limited to, email, social media, apps, blogs, chat rooms, instant messages, and gaming platforms.

While the district does not monitor digital communications/student social media accounts, it has the

right to act on information provided by students, parents/legal guardians, and community members. Therefore, the district may investigate students' digital communications/social media accounts, including off-hours use, in the event of creditable allegations of conduct that violates student discipline policies, violates any law or regulation, or otherwise causes a material and substantial disruption to the school environment or constitutes a serious safety risk.

Examples of inappropriate digital communications that may result in disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, those that:

- contain verbal or physical conduct that threatens another with harm
- seek to coerce or compel someone to do something in violation of the law or district policy
- constitute cyberbullying, or otherwise exclude or promote the exclusion of individuals from peer groups for purposes of humiliation or isolation
- contain discriminatory statements or hostile acts based on a race, religion, sex, color, disability, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law

The district will report violations of state or federal law to the appropriate authorities.

VIDEO MONITORING – BUILDINGS, BUSES, AND GROUNDS

Video and/or audio surveillance is being utilized to monitor and record students, staff, and other person and district facilities, school buses, and around district buildings. Neither video cameras nor audio-visual cameras will be used in restrooms, locker facilities, or other areas where students, staff, and other person have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Meeting the Parent's Right to Know Requirement:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School will provide you with the following as soon as possible:

- If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction;
- If the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived;
- The type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any Graduate degree or certificate;
- If a child is receiving services from an instructional paraprofessional, the right to request his/her qualifications;
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Miller,

Denisa 2. Miller

Principal

Please contact the school office at 803.245.3058 if you would like to request this information.

BAMBERG-EHRHARDT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE POLICY

- 1. Any student-athlete that is recommended for expulsion must appear before the principal, athletic director, and head coach of the sport he or she is involved in. This body will determine if further disciplinary action is required.
- 2. A student-athlete who quits one sport may not participate in another sport during that season without the approval of both coaches of the teams involved, the athletic director, and the principal.
- 3. A student-athlete who is suspended (OSS) three times or for a total of six days within a season will not be permitted to participate in any sport for the remainder of that sports season.
- 4. Each season begins on the official High School League starting date for practice.
- 5. Any student-athlete arrested on a felony charge will not be allowed to participate in any sport for the remainder of the school year. Once the case is heard in court and the student is found not guilty, he or she may be reinstated by the athletic director and principal.
- 6. Coaches may make additional rules that govern practice, games, and participation in their sport. Student athletes are obligated to comply with the coach's expectations. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from the team.
- 7. A student-athlete who is dismissed from the team for violation of the athletic policy, rules, or coach's team rules will not be allowed to participate on any other team during that sport's season.
- 8. Student-athletes who are suspended from school may not participate in, or attend any team activities during the suspension.

athlete policy	above.	
Date	Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and will comply with the BEMS student