

Student-Parent Handbook



Our Mission: *Bledsoe County Middle School is committed to providing a safe and challenging learning environment that inspires success. Guided by the core values of accountability, respect, perseverance, and integrity, we empower students to grow, lead, and thrive.*

***Vision: Warrior Pride
2026-2027***

Integrity~Perseverance~Accountability~Respect

Welcome to Bledsoe County Middle School. We, the faculty and staff, hope your years here will be the best of your educational career. This student-parent handbook will provide you with an understanding of the policies and expectations of our school. We ask that students and parents become familiar with this information. If at any time you do not understand the policies of your school, please contact the office for assistance. The office phone number is 423-447-3212. The school website is <https://bcmsbledsoecstn.schoolinsites.com/>.

Candi Kempton, Ed.S.
Principal

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Code of Conduct—Strive to create a safe, healthy learning environment that encourages the development of all students.

Mascot—Bledsoe County Middle School was established in August of 1999 to serve all Bledsoe County students in grades 6-8. Our school colors are blue and gold, and our school mascot is a “Warrior.”

Change of Address or Phone Number—Please inform the school office if you change your address or phone number. This is very important so we can contact you with any information regarding your child.

Visitors—Except on occasions, such as school programs, athletic events, open house and similar public events; all visitors will report to the school office when entering the school and will sign in digitally. You must present a driver's license. Authorization to visit elsewhere in the building or on the school campus will be determined by the principal or designee. Guest passes shall be issued for all persons other than students and employees of the school.

In order to maintain the conditions and atmosphere suitable for learning, no other person shall enter onto the grounds or into the school buildings during the hours of student instruction except students assigned to that school, the staff of the school, parents of students, and other persons with lawful and valid business on the school premises.

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to exclude from the school premises any persons disrupting the educational programs in the classroom or in the school, disturbing the teachers or students on the premises, or on the premises for the purpose of committing an illegal act. Students from other schools may not be visitors in instructional areas of the building during the school day.

SEE BOARD POLICY 1.501

Parent-Teacher Conferences—Conferences between teachers and parents are encouraged. They must be set up by appointment to ensure that teachers are not interrupted while they are teaching students. Call or email the receptionist Mrs. Charee Daniel, at 447-3212 or charedaniel@bledsoecountyschools.org, to set up an appointment or conference.

Clinic—BCMS has an infirmary in the school office. Any student who is sick will be sent to the infirmary. If a student needs to go home, our school personnel will contact a person listed on the Student Emergency Contact Form. Telemed services may be available upon request.

Medication—If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, a signed medication card from a parent with directions must be presented to the school nurse. Students taking prescribed medications are required to identify themselves to the proper authorities in the school. All prescription and non-prescription medication must be received by the nurse in the original pharmacy labeled container and should be brought to the main office by the parent/guardian. All medication will be kept and dispensed by the nurse or designated office staff member. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician and administered by our nurse shall not be a violation of Bledsoe County Middle School drug policies. Intoxication from abuse of prescribed drugs shall be considered in the same manner as intoxication from illegally obtained substances. **All medicine must be registered with the school nurse. Anyone who has any kind of medicine or controlled substance that has not been registered with the school nurse will be subject to the zero tolerance policy.**

School Closing—Knowing early dismissals may occur due to special situations, please inform your child what he/she needs to do about arrangements to get home. With our large student population, it is impossible to call every parent to ask what a child needs to do. **Please make sure your child knows what to do.** In the event of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. The same conditions may also necessitate early dismissal. School closing, delayed starting time, or early dismissal will be announced by local media and the School Messenger System. **Please have a plan ready for your child to follow.**

Telephone and Messages—Messages and deliveries from home should be left in the office. Students will be called out of class only in an emergency. Cell phones are allowed on school grounds but must be turned off and kept in their locker. Any violation of this cell phone policy will result in disciplinary action. Students may use the telephone in the school office with permission if it is absolutely necessary. Students will be required to state their reason for needing to use the phone. **Only emergency messages should be phoned in. SEE BOARD POLICY 6.312**

Withdrawals—If a student is moving out of our school, it is necessary for the parent to withdraw the child from school. To obtain instructions for proper procedures, parents should call the office at least two days before the child is to withdraw. **SEE BOARD POLICY 6.207**

II. SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Student Emergency Form—A legal parent or guardian must complete an Emergency Contact Form for each child. Please list persons and their phone numbers who are allowed to pick your child up in the event of an emergency and you cannot be reached. **The student will not be permitted to check out with anyone whose name is not on the Emergency Contact Form.**

Attendance—Regular attendance is very important for academic success. A student cannot receive full benefit from their classes if attendance is irregular. Students are given a perfect attendance certificate at the end of each year if they have not missed any days. The law allows five unexcused absences per year. A student will have as many days to turn in classwork as the number of days he/she missed. The student is responsible to get this work from their teacher. Excused and unexcused absences will not be a factor in making up work. Students who are suspended will be allowed to make up their class work with a reduction in the grade.

Perfect Attendance

If you are present for the majority of every period (missing no more than 15 minutes of a class period) your attendance record will reflect perfect attendance. Students will be recognized for perfect attendance at the end of the year. If you are a senior and have perfect attendance, you will be recognized during class night ceremonies.

All absences will be counted as unexcused unless one of the following conditions exists:

1. Personal illness
2. Illness in the family requiring temporary help from the student (Physician's statement required)
3. Death in the family
4. Special, recognized religious holiday regularly observed by persons of the student's faith
5. School sponsored activities
6. Court appearances (Documentation required)
7. Pregnancy

Three parent notes will be accepted for the entire year. They must be turned in to the school office no later than 5 days from the date of absence.

The purpose of excusing days or not excusing days is to determine the necessity of taking action against students who are excessively absent. **Excessive absences and five (5) or more unexcused absences will be considered as a truancy violation and may be referred to the appropriate authorities such as the External Truancy Board.**

SEE BOARD POLICY 6.200

PROGRESSIVE TRUANCY INTERVENTION — New state law concerning truancy is now in effect. The Bledsoe County Middle Schools' Progressive Truancy Intervention Program is as follows:

Truancy Level I Intervention (3 Unexcused Absences)

- Letter or phone call from school officials making families aware of absences including compulsory attendance law and board policy.

Truancy Level II Intervention (5 Unexcused Absences)

- When a student accumulates five unexcused absences, a Progressive Truancy Plan shall begin and include the following:

1. A conference with the student and the student's guardian(s);
2. The student, parent /guardian, and school administrator or designee will sign an attendance contract, based on the conference.

The contract shall include the following:

- a. A specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;
 - b. The period for which the contract is effective; and
 - c. Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court.
3. Regularly scheduled follow-up meetings to discuss the student's progress.
 4. A school employee shall also conduct an individualized assessment detailing the reasons a student has been absent from school. The employee may refer the student to counseling, community-based services, or other services such as Saturday School or Summer School to address the student's attendance issues.

Truancy Level III Intervention (7 Unexcused Absences)

1. External Truancy Board (may include School Representative, mental health and case management agencies, Youth Service Officer, and School Resource Officer) is activated.
2. A conference conducted by the external truancy board with the student and the student's guardian(s).
3. A resulting attendance contract to be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and Attendance Supervisor/Designee.
 - a. A description of the expectation for the student's attendance.
 - b. The period for which the contract is effective.
4. The external truancy board will decide if students need additional intervention or service placed in the home. The external truancy board will decide if a petition/criminal summons needs to be filed.

Additional absences will result in a referral to the District Attendance Supervisor to coordinate with the Bledsoe County Juvenile Court for truancy.

SEE BOARD POLICY 6.200

Make-Up Work—Students are expected to do make-up work for absences in a timely manner. BCMS has a “time for time” policy for make-up work. For example, if the student was absent one day, all make-up work must be completed and turned in within one day of returning to school. If the student was absent for three days, he/she must complete all make- up work within three days of returning, etc. **The student is responsible to see their teacher to get make-up assignments and to complete all make-up work.** Missing work can be found on each teacher's google classroom.

Tardiness and Early Dismissals—Because of school's full schedule, tardiness is discouraged. Arriving at school on time is your responsibility and a job skill. Those students who arrive after 7:40 am must have a parent or guardian sign them in to school at the main office.

If possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. When this is impossible, a student may be checked out by his/her legal parent, legal guardian, or designee as long

as this adult is listed on the child's Student Emergency Form. A total of three early dismissals and/or morning tardies in one semester shall count as one day's absence. **Excessive tardiness and/or check-outs will be considered as a truancy violation and may be referred to the appropriate authorities.**

Truancy—Skipping school, skipping class, or leaving the school grounds without permission is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with as truancy. **Truancy can lead to the student being taken to Juvenile Court. Excessive absences, tardies, and/or check-outs will be considered as a truancy violation and may be referred to the appropriate authorities.**

Before School—(7:10 am – 7:40 am)—All students are to report directly to the cafeteria in the morning. Having finished breakfast, students will go to the gym no earlier than 7:30 a.m. Students should not be in the hallways or at lockers before school. At 7:40 a.m. all students should proceed to their classrooms. Only student athletes are permitted to be in the locker rooms in the morning. Athletes must drop their bags off and leave. Students may not hang out in the locker rooms until morning dismissal.

Arrival—Students riding buses will unload in the front of the school in the designated bus lane. They will then proceed to the cafeteria. **No student should be dropped off prior to 7:10 am, and all students must be unloaded only in the designated area in front of the school where adult supervision is provided.**

Bus Riders—All buses will load in the front of the building in the designated bus lane. Buses will begin loading at 2:40 p.m. and due to potential safety concerns, parents will not be allowed to pick up their child during bus loading. Any student wishing to ride a bus other than his/her designated bus must have written parental permission and the approval of the principal or his designee. Students will turn in the written note to the office upon arrival at school and the note will be verified before the student is allowed to ride a different bus. If the student fails to turn in the note or if the office cannot reach the person who wrote the note, the student will not be allowed to change buses for that day and will be put on their regularly assigned bus.

Car Riders—Car riders will load in the designated car lane in front of the school. Car riders will begin loading after buses have been dismissed.

III. STUDENT BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to display consideration for others and their feelings. Treat others with the respect you would like directed toward yourself, respect the property of others, and practice self-restraint (both verbal and physical). Your conduct reflects on the school. We expect you to reflect a positive image for Bledsoe County Middle School. This includes excellent student behavior at athletic games, trips, and all school-sponsored activities.

Field Trips— Students may be excluded from field trips for an out-of-school suspension or behavior issues. The principal/teacher will have discretion to prohibit a student from attending a trip if student behavior, attendance, and grade expectations are not met. In addition, the student cannot have been suspended out of school or served more than three days of in-school suspension. All Board Policies apply when participating in an off-campus field trip.

Daily Behavior—Violating class rules, horseplay, shoving, pushing, hitting, excessive talking, playing with toys, etc. could result in disciplinary action by the teacher or principal. Students are expected to show respect for and obey all teachers and school personnel at all times.

Horseplay, fighting, bullying, threatening, harassing, stealing, vandalism, vulgarity (written or spoken), possession and/or use of tobacco products, vaping products, drugs, alcohol, pornography, extortion, and willful defiance of the authority of teachers and other school staff members have no place in school and will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such activities will be subject to swift and strong disciplinary action at the principal's/ teacher's discretion. Fidgets and toys must be approved by the teacher with documentation of need.

Plagiarism (Cheating)

Plagiarism- Any one of the following items will be classified as “cheating”. Cheating is a Category I/II level offense and will follow the Bledsoe Co. Middle School disciplinary procedures.

1. To use another person’s work as your own.
2. To copy information from another students’ assignment to include, but not limited to tests, essays, homework, or projects.
3. Presenting AI generated work as your own.
4. Preparing and using an answer or test already given by the teacher.
5. Failing to follow test instructions such as “No Talking” or “Don’t turn around”.

Transportation Rules—

1. Students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver while on the bus, and all reasonable directions given shall be followed by showing consideration and respect for the bus driver and fellow students. All school rules extend to the bus and bus stop.
2. Arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled pick up time. It is important that your student arrives at the bus stop on time. We cannot wait for your student to come out of the house, off the porch, or get out of a vehicle once the bus has arrived. While waiting for the bus, students must stand away from the road. Younger students should be permitted to load first.
3. Do not fight or engage in rough play. No profane language or obscenities while waiting for the school bus, on the bus or after leaving the bus.
4. Students should not deface or cause damage to the bus in any way.
5. Tobacco products and paraphernalia are prohibited on the bus.
6. The Bus Driver has the authority to seat any or all students for any reason.
7. Emergency exits must be free from obstructions at all times. The bus driver may prohibit any

equipment or object considered to be dangerous to the safety and welfare of those on board. Student possessions may not be placed in the aisle, in front of the bus or on the floor. Band instruments, ball equipment and class projects will be permitted only when they can be held on the student's lap, and not obstruct the student's view.

8. No food or drink will be consumed on the bus during regular scheduled routes. Every child should have a backpack for loose papers. Lunches may be carried in their backpack.
9. Students are only permitted to get on or off the bus at their assigned stop. To get off the bus at any other location on the assigned route the student is required to have a **Student Release Form** signed by the principal. Guest riders with a **Student Release Form** are only permitted to ride on a space available basis.

10. Students must remain seated at all times. They are not permitted to use the emergency windows, emergency doors or touch the safety equipment without driver's permission.
11. Students must depart from the bus in an orderly manner. Students should move away from the bus promptly to a location at least 10 feet from the roadway. If crossing the roadway, the student should be at least 10 feet in front of the bus and be able to see the driver's face. They should not cross the road until the driver waves to them that it is safe.
12. Students are not allowed to have in hand or mouth any objects, food or candy, etc. while on the bus.
13. No glass containers or objects, balloons, or animals are permitted on the bus.
14. Students are not permitted to open or close windows without the permission of the driver. Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus.
15. Throwing objects in or out of the bus is prohibited.
16. The principal of the student shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that the student's behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if the student disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation.
17. Students must not have perfumes and other sprays on the bus.

Personal Relationships—Students will refrain from public displays of affection (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) during school hours or at school-sponsored activities.

Cafeteria and Dining Information—The school cafeteria provides nutritious meals. Our school participates in the National School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program. These programs provide free lunch and breakfast for all students. Every student is encouraged to participate in these programs so they can continue in our school.

All students shall eat lunch and breakfast in the dining area of the school cafeteria. If a student brings food from home, he/she must eat in the cafeteria. Noise, loud talking, disturbances, throwing food, and unseemly behavior are not permitted in the cafeteria. Cutting line, shoving, horseplay, and continuously being out of one's seat or changing seats are not allowed. Trays, utensils, food, and drinks may not be taken from the cafeteria. Students should pick up after themselves, discard trash, and return trays to the designated area. Any student who is causing a disturbance will be subject to disciplinary action. Students will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

There will be NO CHARGE for breakfast or lunch for any student. The cafeteria does sell additional food and snacks. However, students will have to pay for additional food items. NO extra food purchased may be charged.

Internet and Computer Use Policy—Before using the computer network, you must read the Bledsoe County Schools Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and consent to the Bledsoe County Middle School Acceptable Use Contract. It is very important for you to use the Internet safely and responsibly. If you do not abide by the Acceptable Use Policy, your use of computers at school may be restricted or terminated. Students are responsible for damage of devices.

SEE BOARD POLICY 4.406

Food and Drink Policy—Students will be allowed to have water in the classrooms as long as it does not disrupt the educational process. No open or unsealed containers are to be brought into the

building (i.e. disposable cups, canned drinks, loaded teas, etc). Sealed water bottles/ cups are okay. Teacher discretion may be used to prohibit such items in their classroom. Food/drink should not be brought from the cafeteria. Special days such as a party or school incentive may be the exception. Vending machine and/or concession stand items will be sold and eaten at the principal's/teacher's discretion. Students may not use the vending machines until after lunch.

Library Policies—Eating and drinking are not permitted in the library reading room or adjacent rooms. Computers and other forms of technology are provided for research, study, and instructional purposes. Users are responsible for all library materials used, whether borrowed for use outside the library or not, and will be held liable for any loss, mutilation, or other damage. The full cost of either repair or replacement shall be paid by the student.

Users are responsible for ensuring that computers, technology equipment and library facilities are used in an appropriate manner. Upon leaving the library, all books and the contents of book bags and cases must be presented for inspection on request by the staff member on duty.

All materials borrowed from the library must be returned to the library by the due date recorded in the library circulation system. Users requested to return an item must return the item immediately. Regular circulating library materials are checked out for a two-week period. Students may check out one book at a time. Students will not be permitted to check out another book if they have an overdue book.

Instructional Materials—Textbooks, library books, computers, and other school materials assigned or charged out to a student are the responsibility of that student and must be returned in good condition or replaced if lost or damaged. Students will not receive grade cards at the end of grading periods and at the end of the school year if they owe fines or replacement fees for textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials. Hardcover textbooks must have a bookcover.

Outstanding Fines and Financial Obligations—Students and/or their parents are responsible for settling all financial obligations with the school in a timely manner. Students will not receive grade cards at the end of the school year if they have any unpaid fines or financial obligations.

Vandalism and Property Damage—Parents or guardians will be held responsible for any damage the student might do to the furniture, books, technology equipment and other property of the school system. This includes financial responsibility. If a student willfully destroys school property, suspension and subsequent expulsion may be necessary. If a student should happen to damage something by accident, it should be reported to a teacher or the school office immediately. Students are expected to take care of all school property, building, and grounds. Students should help protect the school by discouraging or reporting vandalism or property damage by others.

Posters/Stickers—No posters/stickers or notices are to be posted/stuck anywhere in the building without approval of the administration. Any item posted on a painted surface (walls) must be attached without using tape.

Illegal or Non-Allowed Items—Students may not have drugs, vaping products, CBD/THC products, energy drinks, tobacco products, alcohol, matches, lighters, razor blades, knives, guns, sticks, pepper spray, perfumes/hairspray, or any item judged capable of inflicting harm to others. These items will be taken from the student and will not be returned. Rubber bands, laser lights, toys, permanent

markers, and trading cards of any type (baseball, football, wrestling, trading, pokemon, etc.) are not permitted at school. These will be taken from the student and turned into the school office. Disciplinary measures could result. **SEE BOARD POLICY 6.309**

Personal Electronic Devices Policy 6.312

School Board Policy—

Students may possess wireless communication devices so long as devices are turned off and stored for the entirety of the school day. Such devices include any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communications between two (2) or more parties, such as wearable technology, cell phones, lap tops, tablets, and gaming devices.

A student may, however, be permitted to utilize a wireless communication device under the following circumstances:

Can these be taken out?

1. In case of an emergency
2. When authorized by a teacher
3. To manage the students health, as documented in the students individual health plan;
4. When the possession or use is required by the student’s individual education program, 504 plan, or individual learning plan; or
5. When the device is being used by a student with a disability for the operation of assistive technology to increase, maintain, or improve, the student’s functional capabilities.

Penalties

Unauthorized use or improper storage of a device will result in confiscation until such time as it may be released to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s). A student in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

BMS Disciplinary Action:

- 1st Offense- 1 day of ISS
- 2nd Offense- 3 days of ISS
- 3rd Offense- 5 days of ISS
- 4th Offense and above- out of school suspension

Title IX & Sexual Harrasment—In order to maintain a safe, civil, and supportive learning environment, all forms of sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex are prohibited. District Contact - Federal Programs Director - 423-447-2914. **SEE BOARD POLICY 6.3041**

Prohibited Acts —In order to maintain a safe, civil, and supportive environment in school for students to learn and achieve high academic standards, acts of bullying, cyber-bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, hazing, or any other victimization of students, based on any actual or perceived traits or characteristics, are prohibited.

BLEDSOE COUNTY SCHOOL'S ANTI-BULLYING HOTLINE (423) 402-1837 **SEE BOARD POLICY 6.30**

IV. DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS

Students should dress appropriately at all times. Dress should never distract from school activities or prove a hazard to the student's safety or the safety of others. In the judgment of the administration, a student not appropriately attired or whose grooming constitutes a distraction or disturbance to the school environment may be sent home and not be readmitted until he/she is properly attired and groomed. All coats, jackets, hats, backpacks, purses, and other bags must be stored in the students' locker during the school day. Any apparel that school personnel deem as an instructional disruption must be kept in the locker or changed.

The following attire is considered appropriate for school:

- Shirts that fall below the beltline when arms are raised. Short and long sleeved shirts
- Blue jeans/pants
- Shorts that fall to mid-thigh
- Tennis shoes, sandals, boots with a heel no more than 1 ½ inches high
- Dress/skirts that come to 1 inch above the knee
- Leggings
- Earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets (A stud in the nose is okay)
- Hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts

The following attire is prohibited (unless it's a special announced day)

- Hats or other head coverings (ie. bandanas, scarves, hoods)
- Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, spaghetti straps, or any shirts or dresses that are inappropriately revealing.
- Pants/shorts with holes above mid-thigh must not show skin
- Clothing which allows undergarments to be visible when standing or sitting
- Any clothing that has obscene or profane language, depiction of alcoholic beverages or unlawful substances, rebel flag(s), and/or gang related, and innuendo
- Clothing which exposes the midriff (Tops must extend below the beltline)
- Tattoos, either permanent or temporary, including writing on yourself
- Body piercings
- Hair may not disrupt the instructional process or impair vision. Hair must be kept in natural shades (non vivid colors)
- Skirts, dresses, capri pants, and shorts that are not at appropriate length (See above)
- Pajamas or sleepwear or blankets
- No tails, ears, collars, or any other item the principal or designee deems inappropriate or distracting to the school day.

The above listing is a minimum standard. The principal may modify only to the extent that is a higher standard. The principal also reserves the right to add restrictions to the dress code as the need arises.

The office may notify the student's parent or guardian and have the student remedy the problem by changing clothes or removing/covering/reversing objectionable clothing, jewelry, or head covering. The student may be sent home to change clothes or have clothes brought to him/her. When the problem is corrected, the student will return to class after the principal has determined the disciplinary option to be administered. The goal is for our students to be modest and feel a part of the school community.

V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES

Smoking, Tobacco, Vaping and Drug Policy—Students shall not use any tobacco product, including vaping, smoking, dipping, or chewing, while on school property, while participating in a school-sponsored event, or while on school busses to and from school or to and from school-sponsored events. A legal citation shall be filed with the Juvenile Court or the General Sessions Court of Bledsoe County, and the student shall be referred to these Courts for disposition of the citation. Disciplinary action will also be administered at the school level **SEE BOARD POLICY 1.803 & 1.8031**

Drug Policy—No student shall possess, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic, amphetamine, barbiturate, hallucinogen, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. This includes:

- On school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;
- On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group;
- Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.

Any student who violates this policy will be subject to state law, which requires zero tolerance. Zero tolerance is expulsion from school for one calendar year. According to Bledsoe County Board of Education policy, the director of schools shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. A legal citation shall be filed with the Juvenile Court or the General Sessions Court of Bledsoe County, and the student shall be referred to these Courts for disposition of the citation. **SEE BOARD POLICY 6.309**

Additionally, the Bledsoe County School District has entered into an agreement with Interquest Detection Canines, Inc. to provide trained detection canines to conduct random unannounced inspections of all campus locations in the county. The canines are trained to detect the presence of illicit drugs, prescription pills, alcohol, and firearms. Campus buildings, parking lots, and grounds will be randomly inspected for prohibited items. If detected and found, the county will initiate the appropriate disciplinary action. The canines are non-aggressive and they are trained to discriminate against specific “scents” of contraband items. BCMS is taking every reasonable precaution to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

Drug Testing Policy

In accordance with Tennessee Law TCA 49-6-4213 and School Board Policy 6.3071, our school has established a comprehensive drug testing policy. This policy is designed to maintain a safe, drug-free educational environment and to support the health and well-being of our students. It outlines the procedures and guidelines for drug testing among students, ensuring compliance with state regulations.

Purpose

The purpose of this drug testing policy is to:

1. Deter drug use among students
2. Identify students who may need assistance with substance abuse issues.
3. Ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.
4. Comply with state laws and regulations.

Testing Circumstances

Drug testing may be conducted under the following circumstances:

- **Suspicion-Based Testing:** If there are reasonable indications to the principal that a student may have used or be under the influence of drugs.
- **Extracurricular and Athletic Program Testing:** Students who participate in voluntary extracurricular activities or athletic programs may be randomly selected for drug testing to ensure fairness and objectivity.

Procedures

- **Notification:** A parent of the student or a person legally responsible for the student shall be notified before any drug test is administered to the student.
- **Sample Collection:** Testing will be conducted by certified personnel. Samples may include urine or saliva, depending on the testing method.
- **Confidentiality:** All testing will be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and dignity of the student. Test results will be kept confidential and shared only with individuals who have a legitimate need to know.
- **Results:** Students and their parents or guardians will be notified of the test results. A positive result will require a meeting with school administration to discuss next steps.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to promote a drug-free campus, potentially save lives and support the well-being and success of our students.

VI. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICES

Awards—Awards Days are held at the end of the school year to give special recognition to students. Additional incentives will be given throughout the school year.

Grading System and Report Cards—Grade cards will be sent out four times a year at approximately forty-five day intervals. Parent conferences with your child’s teachers are welcome. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s work, please call the guidance counselor for an appointment. The grading scale is as follows:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	59 and below

****Percent of Course Grade:** Student scores on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP Achievement) grades three through eight (3-8) shall comprise fifteen (15%) percent of the student’s final grade in the spring semester in the subject areas of mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and social studies.

****Student Absences:** If a student does not have a Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP Achievement) exam score, regardless of why the student misses the assessment, there is no subsequent administration in which the student can make-up the assessment. For an excused absence, the school shall not incorporate a 0 score into the student’s final second semester grade. For an unexcused absence, the school may incorporate a 0 score into the student’s final second semester grade.

Physical Education—All students must participate in physical education unless excused in writing by a licensed physician.

Sports—Basketball, football, softball, baseball, volleyball, archery, cross country, and cheerleading are the sports programs offered at Bledsoe County Middle School. Tryouts are held for these teams and interested students should contact the appropriate coach. Tryouts for cheerleaders are held in the spring for the following school year. Cheerleaders serve for one year. Sports are a privilege. All athletes are students first and must be passing all of their academic classes to be eligible to participate in games. Student-athletes must represent the school in a respectable manner at all times. Athletes are also subject to removal from sports teams per the principal or coach for behavior or academic issues. Students must be at school for at least ½ of the school day on game day to participate in games. Students receiving ISS will not be allowed to participate in a same day contest.

Sale of School Related Items—Items such as pencils, paper, pens, folders, apparel and BCMS branded items will be available for sale at school each day.

Sale of Non-School Related Items—Students are not allowed to sell items for outside organizations.

Lost and Found Items—Found items are placed in the lost and found. Students who have lost items are to check lost and found. Any items left over at the end of quarter will be removed.

Lockers and Locks—Students will be assigned lockers and combination locks by their homeroom teacher. Replacement locks from the school will cost \$12.00. Students must use the locker assigned to them exclusively. Backpacks and personal belongings should remain in lockers during class times. Locks must be placed on their lockers and locked throughout the school day. **Lockers and other storage areas are school property and are subject to search.**

Student Clubs and Organizations—The following student clubs are available for student participation: National Junior Beta Club, Garden Club, Student Leadership Team, and FCA. These groups have official guidelines and policies for selection and membership. All students are encouraged to participate in some type of organization to improve our school and community. **SEE BOARD POLICY 4.802.**

VII. SERVICES

Skyward—Skyward is the Bledsoe County School System’s Student Information System. This program gives our teachers, students, caregivers and administrators better tools to communicate. Through Skyward, caregivers will be able to see their student’s grades, attendance, student class schedules, calendar of assignments and an online school directory. Through Skyward, you will be able to choose the level and frequency of notifications (“Skylert”) and communicate with our student’s teachers.

NOTE: Grades 4-12 students have been provided with their own login and password. Some of the options available to them (portfolio) are not available to parents. Similarly, there are some functions (editing contact information) that are not available to students. We recommend you do not share your login information or password with your children.

NEED A LOGIN? If you do not have a login and password to access Skyward, go to www.bledsoecountyschools.org to complete the form requesting access. You can also use this form to add another caregiver for your family.

Special Education and 504 Policies—The policy of the Bledsoe County Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to all students within its jurisdiction. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are handicapped within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be handicapped under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Due process rights of handicapped students and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced. Questions should be referred to the Special Education Supervisor (P.O. Box 369, Pikeville, Tennessee 37367; 447-2914).

Discrimination and Grievance Procedure—The Bledsoe County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, handicap, age or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities, programs, activities or employment opportunities and benefits. Questions should be referred to the Bledsoe County Board of Education (P.O. Box 369, Pikeville, Tennessee 37367; 447-2914).

Curriculum and Testing Information—Parents may receive information about their child’s curriculum and test information from the individual school or district office.

Title I School Status—Bledsoe County Middle School is currently participating in the Title I School-Wide Program.

Right to Request Teacher Qualifications—Bledsoe County Middle School receives federal funds for Title I programs. You have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s classroom teacher(s). If you would like to request this information, please contact the school.

VIII. Notice

Bledsoe County Schools encourages all members of our school community and visitors to our campus to practice safe social distancing, exercise proper personal hygiene, and wear appropriate personal protective equipment when required. However, please be advised that anyone choosing to voluntarily enter school property does so at their own risk and acknowledges that Bledsoe County Schools cannot guarantee a virus free campus or warrant the protection of any visitors to campus from illness. Please be advised that the procedures and policies in this handbook may be changed by the building principal to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, and community.

Questions—If you have any questions about the policies in this handbook or any item not covered in the previous information, please feel free to call the school office at 447-3212.

THE ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ANY RULE, REGULATION, OR PROCEDURE. STUDENTS MAY BE NOTIFIED OF CHANGES BY WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.