

Bessemer City High School

**Technology and Industrial Engineering
Choice School
Student Handbook 2021-2022**



Building Excellence in Everything !

**119 Yellow Jacket Lane
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(phone)704-836-9601
(fax)704-629-2775**

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Hello BCHS Students and Families,

Welcome to Bessemer City High School (BCHS). I am a proud graduate of BCHS! It is my honor and privilege to serve as the principal of my alma mater. I value education and lifelong learning.

The information in this handbook is designed to acquaint you with our school. It is your guide to ensuring the continuation of our achievements. Show **YOUR** "Jacket Pride" by participating in athletics, arts, band, chorus and attending games to cheer for our teams!

We are a small school and we have a family atmosphere. We take care of each other and respect each other.

We are proud to be the Technology and Industrial Engineering School of Choice for Gaston County Schools! Together we are "Building Excellence in Everything"!

Once a Yellow Jacket, Always a Yellow Jacket!

Dr. Sheila S. Wyont
Principal

BCHS Administration

Principal

Dr. Sheila S. Wyont

Assistant Principals

Students A - K

Students L -Z

Mrs. Melissa Knick-Doby

Dr. Tom Potter

School Counselors

Students A - K

Students L - Z

Erica Hawes

Angelique Burris

School Resource Officer

Security & Athletic Director

Data Manager

Financial Secretary

Receptionist

Guidance Secretary & Registrar

Business Manager

Testing Coordinator

SRO Thompson

Larry Boone

Kristin Boone

Brandy Chastain

Rhonda Ingram

Kathleen Macdonald

Toni Hamby

Career Development Coordinator

Nurse

Social Worker

Kayleigh Rhodes

Marsha Beattie

Take Pride in The Hive

Mission Statement

BCHS **Mission** is to provide innovative opportunities in a safe environment that prepares students to be successful now and in the future.

Vision Statement

BCHS **Vision** is to Build Excellence in Everything by challenging students to fulfill their potential and achieve success.

BCHS Pride

BCHS is where you will spend most of your day. Every student is a valuable member of our team, and carries responsibility to contribute to our team's success. Just as you should take pride in your personal academic, athletic, musical, artistic, and other successes, you should take pride in your school as well! Let's take care of our *HIVE* away from home!

Our School has been renovated over the past two years from new lights and paint to new signage and this summer a new electronic exterior sign!

Demonstration of the school's pride is evidenced by the way the school physically appears to everyone from outside the school to inside our classrooms. The school aesthetics also impacts the way we feel about the school and ourselves. We expect that trash makes it to trash containers, that walls remain free of damage or graffiti, that restrooms are clean and well supplied, and that our school grounds are kept neat and litter-free. You, as an individual, can make a difference by doing your part in respecting our school facilities. Let's keep our renovated school looking great all year long!

Keys to High School Success

Our goal is for all students to receive a great education. The following points are fundamental keys to experiencing school success.

- **Attendance**- Attend school each day and remain in school for the entire school day.
- **Participation**- Participate in your education! Ask questions when you experience academic challenges. Seek opportunities to enhance your regular classroom experience and complete your work on time.

- **Responsibility-** You're becoming an adult; practice those skills. Take responsibility for yourself, your actions and your future. Be your own advocate.

Daily BELL Schedule

Doors Open & Bell Rings	8:00 am
First Bell/Warning Bell	8:25 am
Tardy Bell	8:30 am
1st Period	8:30 am - 10:10 am
2nd Period	10:15 am - 11:45 am
3rd Period (Lunch delivered to classrooms)	11:50 am - 1:50 pm
4th Period (Hallways will be dismissed by all call on the intercom at the end of the school day.)	1:55 pm - 3:30 pm

Testing in North Carolina

End-of-Course Tests (EOC) - Required in Biology, Math 1, Math 3 and English II

NC Final Exams - State issued assessments

Career and Technical Education EOC Test - For Career/Technical classes

WorkKeys - Job Skills Assessment for Seniors who are CTE Completers

Advanced Placement Tests - Required for students enrolled in AP classes and desire college credit

PSAT - Preliminary test for SAT

Pre-ACT - Preliminary test for ACT (All 10th Graders take this test)

ACT - College admissions test all 11th graders must take

SAT - College admissions test

Academics

GPA Conversion Chart				
Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Standard Level Courses	Honors Level Courses	AP and Community College Level Courses
A	90-100	4.000	4.500	5.000
B	80-89	3.000	3.500	4.000
C	70-79	2.000	2.500	3.000
D	60-69	1.000	1.500	2.000
F	59 and Below	0.000	0.000	0.000

Jacket Pride Academic Program

The Administration worked with the School Improvement Team and Student Leadership Team to develop a reward and recognition program based on student academic achievement. The program will consist of three levels of Cards and Rewards

Gold Card will be given to students with a weighted **3.75 - above GPA**

Green Card will be given to students with a weighted **3.5 -3.74 GPA**

White Card will be given to students with a weighted **3.0 - 3.4 GPA**

Rewards include but are not limited to the following:

Students will be given early dismissal- specifics TBA later.

Early dismissal to the cafeteria.

Social Hour or special event once a grading period - Details TBA later.

Discount Prom ticket.

Discount Yearbook.

**Rewards will be leveled by Card Status.*

High School Grades

Bessemer City High School will apply grades based on Gaston County High Schools standards which are assessed on a percentage basis as follows:

A=	90-100
B=	80-89
C=	70-79
D=	60-69
F=	Below 60

Nine weeks grade percentages for each class are calculated as follows from your academic work and activities

a. 60% tests.

Each nine weeks the grade shall be made up of a minimum of three (3) major test grades (this may include major projects, essays, research papers, performances) which shall count 60 percent of the grade.

b.20% quizzes.

Each nine weeks the grade shall be made up of a minimum of six (6) quizzes (only covers part of a unit of study or a specific step in a project or performance) which shall count 20 percent of the grade.

c.20% daily/class grade and or homework.

Each nine weeks the grade shall be made up of a minimum of nine (9) daily/class and/or homework grades (may include warm-ups or bell work) which shall count 20 percent of the grade.

All students shall take a final exam in all courses. The exam grade shall count 20% of the final course grade. The final exam is a cumulative exam created by the State, District, or teacher and shall include all standards in the course curriculum.

***The entire Grading Guidelines are listed on the GCS website.**

Promotion and Graduation requirements

- A student is classified a **FRESHMEN** (9th grade) when he/she has been promoted from 8th grade in middle school.
- A student is classified a **SOPHOMORE** (10th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 6 credits.
- A student is classified a **JUNIOR**(11th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 13 credits.
- A student is classified a **SENIOR**(12th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 20 credits.

- **TO GRADUATE:** A student has earned a minimum of 28 credits.

Academic Progress

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period and an interim report is given after 4 ½ weeks (midpoint of the grading period). Parents can also access your grades through the Parent Portal system. Take advantage of those re-teaching and re-testing opportunities!

Class Rank

Class rank and grade point averages are calculated on the basis of grades from any/all classes in which credit has been granted. (Pass/fail courses will not be calculated as there are no grades issued.) Class ranks are established at the end of each semester. Class ranks are recalculated at the end of your senior year for a final determination. Transfer courses meeting BCHS criteria will be ranked as local courses.

Graduation Requirements

Refer to the High School Curriculum Guide publication for specific information on grading, courses, college athletic eligibility, dual enrollment, College Gateway program, courses of study, NC Scholars program, honor graduates, etc. You may wish to complete NC State and local graduation requirements early. For more information, please contact the guidance department.

Graduation

The BCHS graduation ceremony will take place Saturday, June 4, 2022. Graduates are required to pay for their regalia. All fees owed to BCHS must be paid before graduation rehearsal. Graduation dress code will be expected at Awards Day and the Graduation Ceremony. In the spring a comprehensive senior information sheet will be published that will list all dates, times, requirements etc. for all senior activities.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be chosen from the senior class on the basis of cumulative weighted class rank. Valedictorian will be the senior having the highest class rank, and salutatorian will be the senior with the second highest class rank. You must be enrolled the entire senior year at Bessemer City High School to qualify for these honors and have earned a minimum of 32 credits.

Junior Marshals

Junior Marshals will be determined on the basis of cumulative class rank at the end of your junior year, or as otherwise directed by Gaston County Schools. The (approximately) ten juniors with the highest GPAs will be selected to serve as Junior Marshals.

Arriving to School

The building will open at 8:00 am for students. Do not arrive prior to that time. Upon entering, students will move directly to their 1st period classroom. Students may get breakfast on the way to their first period classroom to consume. Please practice social distancing at all times.

Leaving School - Early Dismissal

In order to receive the full benefit of school, you should remain in school until school is dismissed. However, if it is necessary for you to leave during school hours, BCHS provides the following procedures:

1.If you must leave school before 3:30 p.m., **students must bring a written notice** signed by a parent or guardian to the main office upon arrival to school. The note should state the reason for early dismissal, time, and a telephone number for verification.

NOTE: Students will NOT be signed out based on a phone call or email from a parent or guardian or any person on the student's contact list.

2.Upon arrival, your parent or guardian should report to the reception desk at the main entrance where they will be asked to sign you out. At that time they **MUST present an approved government ID.**

3.The main office will call your class at that time for you to meet your parent/guardian at the front desk while creating limited interruptions to the class.

4.Students will **NOT** be dismissed if verification from an authorized parent/guardian cannot be obtained.

5.Parent/guardians may also come to the front desk to sign you out of school in an emergency situation. They will be required to show an official federal or state photo ID to confirm their identity which will be cross checked with your authorised list of contacts.

6.If you drive, sign out in the front office after your note has been verified. Students will present a driver's license.

7.Only parents, guardians, or individuals on the emergency contact form may sign out a student.

8.**For safety reasons once a student leaves campus, he/she may only return with a doctor's note or court documentation.**

9. **Students cannot be checked out after 3:15 pm.**

Consistent with Gaston County School's policy and with student safety our primary concern, your parent/guardian MUST present photo identification to the person at the

front desk before you will be released from school. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Student Safety

Safety for everyone is the top priority at BCHS and Gaston County Schools. School personnel follow a variety of procedures to enhance the safety of our school. These procedures include regular fire, tornado, and lock-down drills, metal detecting, and being actively aware of the environment. All visitors must report to the front office to receive a visitor's badge upon entering campus. Additionally, weapons and illegal or dangerous substances or objects are **NOT** allowed on school grounds at any time. If you have to question whether something is appropriate to have on campus or not, it is best to exercise caution and good judgment... don't bring it to school. All persons and property are subject to random search and seizure allowable by law and Board of Education policy.

Metal Detection and Searches

To maintain order and discipline in the school and protect the safety of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, student lockers, desks, motor vehicles or other school property. Students may be required to submit to a screening for metal as a condition of entering the building. When a student signs in late or returns to school, he or she will be screened for metal and searched.

Locker Assignments

Advisory teachers will assign lockers at the beginning of the school year free of charge. You are responsible for the locker assigned to you. Use the locker for the storage of books and equipment. It is your responsibility to see that your lock is kept secure at all times. The school reserves the right to search lockers on suspicion of a threat to the health and safety of students, drug or weapon possession or other violation of criminal law or Gaston County School policy. If you lose your lock, you will be charged a fee to replace it.

Book Bags

You may **bring** your book bag(s) to and from school. However, during the school day, your book bag(s) must be kept in your locker. A book bag is defined as anything that is used to carry books, PE clothes, and school supplies. If you need to carry items to a PE class during the day you must use a plastic bag, string backpacks are **not** allowed. NO fanny packs.

BCHS LOCK OUT Tardy Policy

Arrive ON TIME:

- Arriving to school and class, **on time**, is a Bessemer City High School expectation.
- If you arrive after 8:30 am, you must check in to receive a pass to class. If driving to school yourself and you have a school parking permit you may park in the gravel parking lot and walk around to the new front entrance. You may not park in the front entrance lot.
- Students will be searched for metal prior to entering class.
- Students will not be admitted to class without a proper pass signed and dated.
- Consequences for excessive tardies will be handled by each alpha administrator.

To ensure the correct application of the tardy policy **ALL** teachers will adhere to the following procedures :

1. **They will lock and close their classroom doors at the sound of the tardy bell for each class. Teachers with a planning period will monitor the halls for the first 10 minutes.**
2. If you arrive at class after the bell you will need a tardy pass indicating you've signed in with the member of staff at the front desk. If you do not have that pass, you will not be permitted to enter that class until you are issued a pass.
3. They will enter all absences and tardies into PowerSchool within the first 15 minutes of class
4. If you miss more than 15 minutes of a class you will be classified as absent.
5. If a teacher has already completed attendance in PowerSchool, and a student arrives with a pass, the teacher will adjust your attendance in PowerSchool.

BCHS will follow the tardy policy below in regard to consequences:

- **Levels of tardiness will be considered in our BCHS Pass to Play policy (see Athletics).**
- Our policy for addressing tardiness will be as follows:

Tardy Consequences

1st and 2nd Tardy - Warning

3rd - 6th Tardy - Administrative conference with the student and Administrator contacts parent

7th - 9th Tardy - 1 day ISS

10th Tardy - 2 days ISS

11th and All subsequent Tardies - 1 day OSS

Gaston County Schools Attendance Policy

Class attendance is essential for high student achievement. Attendance and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the learning process. With this in mind, you are expected to be in attendance each school day. In order to be recorded present for daily attendance, you must be present at least half of the school day (3 hours) or at a place other than the school with the approval of the appropriate school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity. For the purpose of individual class attendance, a student must be present for a minimum of 75 minutes of a 90 minute period in the block schedule. If you are late to school or leave early without an excuse note (with a valid excuse according to NC State guidelines), your absence will be unexcused for the class time missed.

After the tenth (10) absence (excused or unexcused) per semester from a class, students who are passing the class must file for an appeal in order to be eligible to earn credit for the class.

The appeal will be made to the designated official at each high school (appointed by the principal). The appeal may be requested by the student or parent, classroom teacher, advisory teacher, counselor or other staff member.

In the event the student appeal is granted, the student will receive the final grade earned in the course. Should the appeal be rejected, the student will receive a failing final grade and receive no credit for the course.

Documentation & Reasons for Excused Absences

Following any absence(s), you are required to present written documentation from a parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence. All absences will be coded unexcused in the computer until a written note is received. Written documentation **must** be presented within two (2) school days after you return to school; otherwise, the absence(s) will remain unexcused. After the tenth absence, you may be required to furnish doctor notes to excuse future absences. Absences will be coded according to North Carolina State Regulations.

1. Illness or Injury
2. Death In The Immediate Family
3. Medical or Dental Appointments
4. Court or Administrative Proceedings
5. Religious Observances
6. Educational Opportunity
7. Quarantine-
8. Special Emergencies- as determined by the principal.
9. Short-term Suspension.
10. Absence due to pregnancy and related conditions or parenting
11. Job Shadows and other work based learning opportunities
12. A student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4176, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted additional excused absences

Make-up Work

1. Make-up work is **YOUR** responsibility!
2. Upon your return from an absence, you have **three (3)** school days to arrange for make-up work with each of your teachers.
3. Work missed must be completed as directed by each teacher within 7 days.

Student Behavior

Bessemer City High School complies with the Gaston County Schools' Student Code of Conduct. We enforce all rules set by school board policy as well as the consequences that are attached to those rules. You were given a copy of these rules at the beginning of school/when you registered as a student and they are also located on the GCS website: www.gaston.k12.nc.us for reference.

BCHS Classroom Behavior Plan

*Each student will receive a copy of Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct. At the beginning of the school year, teachers will go over county and school rules. **All students are required to sign the code of student conduct roster.***

Teachers will handle minor misconduct in the classroom. However, if a student's behavior does not improve with the teacher's efforts, he/she will be referred to the administration for appropriate disciplinary actions. Students referred to the administration for misbehavior will be subject to the following disciplinary actions: behavior plan, loss of privileges, parent conference, after school detention, counselor referral, in school suspension, out of school suspension, or other appropriate action.

BCHS Discipline Plan

*Offenses requiring **immediate office referral**:*

- Serious Property Damage
- Possession / Use of Weapons
- Smoking - tobacco or electronic cigarettes
- Drugs - possession or under the influence of (as determined by an administrator or school nurse)
- Physical Assault
- Threatening a teacher or student
- Cursing a teacher
- Stealing
- Any action which endangers the health or safety of self, students, or school personnel

*Classroom behaviors to be **handled by teachers until the behavior becomes a continual problem**:*

- Out of seat
- Noncompliance/failure to follow instructions
- Talking
- Inattentiveness
- Public display of affection
- Making noises
- Talking back/Disrespect

*Situations requiring immediate **counselor referral**: Threats to hurt oneself*

Contraband - Items NOT permitted in school

- Skateboards
- Heelys (shoes with wheels)
- HoverBoards
- Book bags with wheels
- Bandanas
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Tobacco, including electronic cigarettes and cigarette lighters.
- See GCS Student Code of Conduct for additional information.

Bathroom Policy

At BCHS our goal is to maintain a strict focus on classroom instruction. In order to ensure our students are successful they need to be in class. Each teacher will determine their bathroom policy. A student's need for exceptional or unusual bathroom break frequency for medical reasons **MUST** be confirmed by documentation provided by a medical professional or office.

Hall Passes

All students will be required to use a Yellow Jacket Hall Pass under the discretion of the teacher if they need to leave the classroom for **ANY** reason. No student shall be in the hallway without a Yellow Jacket pass with the proper authorization from his or her teacher. Hall passes will be provided by the faculty and will be used by every teacher at BCHS. Students located in the 100 wing will require a GREEN hall pass, 200 wing (includes both gyms and auditorium) will use a YELLOW hall pass and 300 wing will use a WHITE hall pass. Students will only use the restroom on that hallway they are located in according to their hall pass. Students who need to see an Administrator, Counselor, School Nurse or Social Worker or front office personnel will be given a RED hall pass. All passes will be paper passes.

Public Displays of Affection (Mutual or Otherwise)

Public displays of affection are not appropriate in a school setting. (This means BCHS has a **No Touch** policy.) Students who persist in violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Bus Behavior

Bus Riders **MUST** wear MASKS at all times on the bus. Bus riders will have assigned seats and failure to sit in assigned seat will result in disciplinary consequences. Inappropriate behavior on buses will not be tolerated and may result in the revocation of riding privileges.

Remember- stay seated unless you are getting on or off the bus, do not be loud or cause the driver unwarranted distraction or use profanity. Only ride your designated bus, get on/off at **YOUR** designated stop, and follow the drivers' directions at all times.

School Phones

You are allowed to use school phones for contacting parents, guardians or family members in emergencies with staff permission. You will not be called out of class to receive a phone call. *If you are permitted to place a call and you are unable to reach the person you are calling, ensure you leave a message stating why you are calling and at what time.*

Computer and Internet Use

All students using the internet at school agree to abide by the responsible use policy. Inappropriate web surfing or computer use will be subject to disciplinary action. Additionally, students are reminded that their GCS email accounts are public accounts and any language or content that is considered inappropriate will be flagged and automatically sent to an administrator who will be able to see your email conversation in its entirety and determine consequences based on the content.

Dress Code

BCHS students are expected to dress appropriately at all times.

The Gaston County School Student Code of Conduct Dress Code applies to all students.

BCHS Students are expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment.

- No fanny packs/hip packs
- No style of clothing or the manner in which it is worn may expose undergarments (this includes bra straps under a top)
- No sagging pants (pants are to be worn at the waist)
- No pajamas or sleep apparel
- No strapless, spaghetti strap, or single-shoulder garments
- No hats or headgear –includes bandannas, hair picks, combs and sunglasses
- No bedroom slippers or blankets
- No clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol, drug symbols, or gang symbols
- No cleavage, midriffs, bellies, navels, stomachs or backs should be exposed
- Shorts and skirts must be below fingertip length/reach
- Holes in jeans must be below fingertip or covered by leggings under them.
- **No leggings or jeggings without appropriate outerwear (sweater, long shirt, dress) that is below fingertip length/reach**

If you are in violation of the BCHS dress code, you will be required to change into appropriate attire. If necessary, you will sit in ISS until a parent or guardian will be contacted to bring you a change of clothes. Repeated dress code violations will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Cell Phones and Wireless Communication

In accordance with Gaston County Board of Education Policy (GCS policy code 4318/Cell Phones and Wireless Communication Devices): Cell Phones, Smart Watches or any other Wireless Communication Devices are not to be turned on, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day. At BCHS, the instructional day is 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Cell phones cannot be used at lunch in the cafeteria, or auditorium and gymnasium as well as class time, field trips, etc. Such devices should be off and securely put away at all times. Wireless Communication devices include but are not limited to cellular phones, other texting devices, two way radios, etc.

Students should not have ear buds/headphones or AirPods in their ears while walking the hallway or common areas as this presents a Safety Concern should students need to hear directions in an emergency.

School employees should confiscate wireless communication devices/cell phones/ear buds, headphones or AirPods that are turned on, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day. This guideline is in place to protect students' personal property and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

First and second offense: If a student is violating the electronic device policy during the defined instructional day, the phone is taken to the receptionist to be picked up by the student at the end of the day.

Third offense and subsequent: The device is taken, a parent must pick up the device at the end of the school day.

Suspension will occur if a student refuses to give up a cell phone. This is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct Rule #1: Compliance with Directions of Principals, Teachers and other School Personnel and with school rules.

Medications

Gaston County Schools medication policy states all medications both prescribed and over-the-counter must have a medication authorization or prescription signed by both a physician and parent. All medications must also be labeled by a pharmacist. No medication can be given or kept at school unless the requirements are met. **Parent notes by themselves are not acceptable.** This applies to both long term medications and short term medications. Parents may come to school to administer medications to their students. All controlled medications, including ADHD medications, must be counted by a staff member in the presence of a parent and both must sign off on the medication authorization. This will be done each time the medications are delivered to the school and given to our school nurse. *Medications should be given at home when possible only sending medications to school that must be given during the school day.* Please see our School Nurse with any questions/concerns about the GCS medication policy.

Lost and Found

All items, including any object of value, found on campus should be turned into the main office. Keeping an article that does not belong to you is considered stealing. Being responsible for your personal items is part of being a responsible high school student.

Posters/Banners

No posters or decorations will be displayed on the walls or windows. Only items approved by the principal, Dr. Wyont, may be posted on bulletin boards in the hallways.

Bulletin boards will be assigned. **DO NOT** cover the windows in your classroom doors.

Physical Education

Physical education is required unless excused by written request of the family physician or other appropriate medical professional. It is a student's responsibility to arrange any make-up classes with the physical education instructor.

Vehicles and Parking

The parking of personal vehicles on the school grounds / parking lot is regarded as a privilege. If you drive to school, you **MUST** request a parking permit and register your vehicle with the school. The permit and that is to be displayed at all times. Permits will only be issued to students with a valid driver's license.

Parking privileges are subject to revocation for excessive tardies, absences, suspensions, and discipline violations. You must provide the school with a completed parking registration form and \$20.00 for the annual fee.

Enter the campus using the 12th Street driveway, and park as directed by the Student Parking Coordinator. **A 10-mph speed limit is in effect at all times and in all areas of the campus.**

School Counselors

The purpose of the counseling department is to help you in your social, educational, vocational, and personal development. Conferences with students receive first consideration of the counselor's time and are scheduled when necessary. In order to protect your instructional time, make your appointments before/after school or during lunch.

The counselors can help you by:

- Recommending material that you may use to improve your study habits
- Planning your schedule and school program
- Making realistic curriculum selections and suitable plans for the future
- Offering aid in problems of adjustment
- Listening to and talking out problems

Withdrawal Procedures

You are responsible for reporting to the guidance office when withdrawing from BCHS. Parent/guardian permission must be given before the withdrawal process will begin and all monies owed must be paid. All books (classroom and library), uniforms, etc. must be returned before the withdrawal is finalized. All suspensions must be completed before enrolling in another Gaston County School.

Clubs and Organizations

Clubs and organizations at BCHS are designed to enrich the lives of its members as well as the community as a whole. This is a listing of most, but not all, of our clubs.

Clubs will meet in the mornings 8:00 AM - 8:25 AM once a month in the advisor's classroom.

Assigned days of the month are noted below:

Club

1st Tuesday Art Club

1st Wednesday Beta Club

1st Thursday FCA

2nd Tuesday Junior Heart Board

2nd Wednesday National Technical Honor Society

2nd Thursday National Honor Society

3rd Tuesday Drama Club

3rd Wednesday Spanish Club

Prom Club ** Meet as needed

Pep Club ** Meet as needed

3rd Thursday Student Council

4th Tuesday Student Leadership Team

Sponsor

Mrs. Underwood

Mrs. L. Rice

Coach Hardin

Mrs. Brotherton

Mrs. Huffstetler

Mrs. Parrish

Mr. Homesley

Mr. Recinos

Mrs. Parrish / Ms. Beaty

Ms Chastain

Ms. Beaty

Dr. Wyont

** These clubs may/do participate in competitions and/or performances outside of normal school hours and/or off of the school campus. Clubs may meet more than once a month but meetings should be scheduled on Mondays or Fridays to avoid conflicts.*

Athletics

Bessemer City High School has a rich athletic tradition. Our student-athletes participate in a range of athletic offerings. BCHS is proud of its athletic programs and encourages you to support your school through participation in competitive high school athletics.

2021-2022 Teams and Coaches

Baseball	Larry Boone
Boys Basketball	Danny McDowell - Varsity
Girls Basketball	Billy James - Varsity
Cheerleading	Toni Hamby
Football	Larry Boone
Softball	Lindsay Shumaker
Boys Track	Chris Lance
Girls Track	Scott Hardin
Cross Country	Chris Lance
Volleyball	John Daughtery
Boys Golf	Brad Smith
Girls Golf	Brad Smith
Boys Soccer	Brendan Vickers
Girls Soccer	Becca Martin
Wrestling	Scott Hardin

Athletic Eligibility

Eligibility for High School Athletics is based upon policies of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the Gaston County School System. In order to participate in Yellow Jacket Athletics, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:

1. You must have documented permission to participate from a parent/guardian
2. You must have a **Physical Exam Form** (located in the front office, with Coach Boone or on the GCS website) properly completed and on file with the head coach and/or athletic director
3. You must have passed 3 of 4 classes in the previous semester and have 85% school attendance in the previous semester
4. You must have been promoted to the next grade

Student athletes must also meet the criteria in the BCHS “Pass to Play” policy and comply with the BCHS Athletic tardy policy.

BCHS Athletics Rules for Tardies

Athletes at BCHS are expected to attend class on a regular basis and be on time. Athletes who are consistently tardy to class will not only receive consequences from the school (ISS, Parent Conferences, etc) but will also receive team consequences. Each Head Coach will determine rules and consequences for their team.

BCHS Pass to Play

Updated Nov. 2021 to align with NCHSAA rule of passing 3 of 4 courses to be eligible Athletics

- Coaches will check grades on a regular basis.
- Additionally, teachers will communicate with coaches if they are having issues with an athlete in class. This includes both behavioral or academic issues.
- At the 4 1/2 week mark (interim time), grades will formally be checked. Any athlete that is failing 2 or more course(s) will be placed on Academic Probation for the remainder of the grading period. Players and coaches will work together to bring the grade(s) up to passing during the 4 1/2 week probation period.
- At the 9 weeks mark, any athlete failing 2 or more courses will have a 1 week suspension from participating. Athletes may participate in practice but are not eligible to participate in competition. The coach will communicate with the student/teacher to ensure they are making progress.
- Upon completion of the 1 week suspension, the player's academic standing will be reviewed by coach, teacher and student. If the student is passing and/or making progress, they are eligible to return to all athletic competition. If the athlete is still not passing or making progress, they will be given another week of suspension from competition. This will continue until the athlete is improving in all courses previously failed.

Non-Athletics

- Pass to Play applies to non-athletic activities including but not limited to events and activities such as field trips, prom king/queen and homecoming queen participation etc. (Students must be passing all 4 classes to participate.)
- Any field trip restrictions may be applied by the field trip sponsor and will be communicated to the parent/student in writing when the field trip is announced (30 days in advance of the trip) to ensure the restrictions will be upheld.
- Previously served (meaning it was assigned and served before the field trip/event was announced and communicated) ISS/OSS cannot be used to exclude participation.
- Fees for field trips/activities will be refunded if a student violates the written restrictions after they've been communicated. **EXCEPTION:** PROM - Once a prom ticket is purchased a student cannot be excluded for academic performance.
- Any student serving a current out-of-school suspension during the time period of the activity/field trip/prom will **NOT** be granted permission to participate under any circumstance.

** Credit Recovery Students (Edgenuity) must be meeting their goals in all courses in order to be considered passing and eligible to participate.

Driver's Education

Driver's education is contracted to the North Carolina Driving School located on Philadelphia Church Road, Dallas, NC. You can also access information at www.ncdrivingschool.com or by contacting them at 704-922-1960.

You will be allowed to enroll in driver education only if you meet a minimum of 94% attendance for the year (if in middle school) or 94% attendance for the semester (if in high school) before enrolling in driver education.

Students must have been in attendance 168 days of the 180 day school year (for middle school) or 84 days of the 90 day semester (for high school) in the year or semester before enrollment in driver education with Gaston County Schools (medical exceptions considered).

Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation

North Carolina has legislation reflecting a coordinated statewide effort to motivate and encourage students to complete their high school education. The law provides for the revocation of the student's driving permit or license if the student does not maintain adequate academic progress or drops out of school. Adequate academic progress is defined as passing 3 out of 4 classes in a block schedule school.

Lose Your License Legislation

Students given an expulsion/suspension for more than 10 (ten) consecutive days for one of the three reasons listed below are subject to having their permit/license suspended for up to one calendar year.

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under G.S. §115C-391(d1) or that could have resulted in disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
- The physical assault on a teacher or other personnel on school property.

Students who are at least 14 years old or who are rising 8th graders are subject to this law. The law applies to all students, even to those exempted under Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation. Unlike the Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation law that ends when a student turns 18 years old, the "Lose Control" law does not stop at age 18 nor does it stop when the student graduates.

Students who may lose their permit/license under this legislation may be eligible to regain the permit/license after a six-month period by displaying exemplary behavior in an alternative education setting or having successfully completed a school district approved drug or alcohol treatment counseling program.

Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. In order to encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced breakfast and lunch are offered at reasonable prices.

Cafeteria Student Procedures:

- 1) All students will enter and exit through the main cafeteria doors where the lunch lines are.
- 2) Students getting lunch from the cafeteria will wait in the marked lines by the concession stand in the lobby until they are signaled to move through the doors and into the serving line.
- 3) Students not choosing to purchase a school lunch may bypass the serving lanes and find a seat in the dining area.
- 4) Once seated, students are to remain seated until the bell rings to end their lunch period. Students are not to gather at the doors or wander into the lobby prior to the bell ringing. Supervision in the hallway will redirect you back to your seat.
- 5) Students that need to use the restroom during lunch will exit through the main door and use **ONLY** the restrooms that are directly across from and adjacent to the main office.
- 6) No student traffic will go through the glass doors in the dining area. There will be staff supervision at/near these doors to redirect you to the main entrance doors if you need to go to the bathroom.
- 7) Students may only leave the cafeteria to go to the restroom unless they have been called out by the front office. The members of staff supervising the restroom and hallway have the right to limit access to the restroom to one or two students at a time.
- 8) All food must be consumed in the cafeteria, you cannot take food or cups out of the cafeteria with you.
- 9) Clean up after yourself and ensure you throw all of your trash in the trash can.

Set Meal Prices

The School Nutrition Department offers meals in school cafeterias in line with Government regulations. Standard meals come under a USDA concept called ***Offer versus Serve***. In addition to ***Offer versus Serve***, meals components can be purchased by students as a la carte items - individual components that when combined or eaten by themselves do not constitute a standard meal as defined by the ***Offer versus Serve*** concept.

The ***Offer Versus Serve*** concept has two significant advantages to the student:

1. The items offered under the program provide the student with a well balanced and nutritious meal.
2. When the student consumes a meal classified under ***Offer versus Serve*** it is subsidised by the Federal Government and the School Nutrition Department is eligible for reimbursement for a proportion of the meal cost that is over and above that paid by the student.

The consumption of a meal under this program and the consequent reimbursement from the Federal Government enables the School Nutrition Department to keep the charges to students at a lower rate.

What is a standard lunch meal?

For a meal that is reimbursable under USDA regulations and therefore provides the student with a reimbursable meal at the lower price, students are offered a lunch that contains:

- Schools must offer 5 food components (milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, meat/meat alternates)
- Students are allowed to decline 2 of the 5 required food components
- Fruits and Vegetables are 2 separate food components
- Students must **select at least 1 portion of fruit or vegetable**

Note: If the student selects less than the number of food items for lunch (3), (or it does not include a fruit and/or vegetable) then the meal is regarded as an la carte purchase and NOT subsidised and will be charged accordingly. This will result in the student paying more for less!

In addition to lunch students are welcome and encouraged to eat breakfast at school. Breakfast is offered at all of our school sites each morning. You can find the breakfast menu on the monthly lunch menus which are posted on the Child Nutrition website - www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Domain/132

As with lunch, breakfast also comes under the USDA program of *Offer versus Serve* and is subject to the same conditions to facilitate the Child Nutrition Department to offer students a balanced and nutritious meal at a subsidised price. The composition of a breakfast meal is slightly different from lunch and will contain:

3 components - fruits, grains, milk.

4 will be offered (grain could count as 2)

Note: If the student selects less than the number of food items for breakfast (3) (one of which must be a fruit and/or vegetable) then the meal is regarded as an a la cart purchases and NOT subsidised and will be charged accordingly. This will result in the student paying more for less!

a) Meal Prices (subject to change)

i) Breakfast

(1) Paid students (all grade levels)	\$1.20
(2) Reduced price students (all grade levels)	\$0.00
(3) Adults (staff and visitors)	\$1.50

ii) Lunch

(1) Paid students (grades K – 5)	\$2.70
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(2) Paid students (grades 6 – 12)	\$2.80
(3) Reduced price students (all grade levels)	\$0.40
(4) Adults (staff and visitors)	\$3.75

A la Carte Items

What classifies an item as a la carte?

Any item that is purchased individually and not part of a meal as outlined above in line with the *Offer versus Serve* reimbursable standard meal program is regarded as a la carte and will be charged at the individual item's price. Individual a la cart items are not subsidised and therefore more expensive.

Charged Meals

- a) High School students may **NOT** charge meals.
- b) High school students who do not have meal money can request a complimentary alternate meal if they are unable to find or borrow money.
- c) Students who have received more than five (5) complimentary alternate meals per year **MAY** receive additional complimentary meals at the mutual discretion of the Principal and School Nutrition Director.
- d) Students who have exceeded the complimentary meal limit may not purchase a la carte items with the exception of milk, fruit juice, or water.
- e) Schools are provided negative balance letters for distribution to students at least once a week.
- f) A negative balance report can be provided by the Cafeteria Manager at any time upon request.
- g) Students who apply for free or reduced price meal benefits are responsible for all charges incurred before their Free and Reduced Meal Applications are received by the Cafeteria Manager or School Nutrition Department.

Student Accounts

- a) Check, Cash, or Money Order can be accepted in the school cafeteria.
- b) Parents/Guardians may utilize K12PaymentCenter at www.k12paymentcenter.com to pay with their credit or debit card. PLEASE NOTE: This service is available at all schools as a means of collecting and managing other school fees.
- c) Parents requesting a refund must contact the School Nutrition Business Manager at (704) 836-9110 ext. 3.
- d) Positive balances remaining at the end of the school year will remain on students' accounts for the following school year unless a refund is requested.
- e) NSF checks are referred to NEXCHECK, a check guarantee and collection service.
- f) Parents/Guardians desiring to restrict or prohibit the purchase of meals in the cafeteria may do so by submitting a "Purchase Account Limits" form. This form is available on

the Gaston County Schools web page in the School Nutrition section, and must be renewed annually.

- g) Parents/Guardians desiring to restrict or prohibit the purchase of a la carte items in the cafeteria may do so by contacting the school Cafeteria Manager.
- i) A la carte items may **NOT** be charged.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications.

If you believe you are entitled to take advantage of the schools Free and Reduced Meal program please have you parent or guardian follow the directions below:

- a) Paper applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, the enrollment department at the Central Office, and at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell.
- b) Online applications are available for SY 18 - 19 on the Gaston County Schools website. Links can be found on the School Nutrition departmental tab.
- c) Only **one application** is required **per household**.
- d) Paper applications should be returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center – 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC 28098.
- e) Students who received free or reduced price meals on the last day of school in School Year 2019 – 2020, will **temporarily** receive free or reduced price meals at the beginning of School Year 2020 – 2021. However, **ALL** households must submit a new application each year, and the application must be processed for benefits to continue after the first 30 school days of the new school year.
- f) Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits, and should be include on the household application (not a separate application).
- g) Students designated as homeless by Gaston County Schools’ homeless liaison are categorically eligible for free meals. No application is required, but documentation must be received from the homeless liaison before benefits begin.
- h) If any member of the household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP (food stamps), or FDPIR or TANF/Work First benefits, provide the name and case number on the application for the person who receives the benefits. All students listed on that application are categorically eligible for free meals.
- i) If a student receives SNAP or TANF/Work First benefits and is notified that he/she has been approved for free meal benefits by way of Direct Certification, an application is not required **for that student**. If there are other children that have not been identified as being directly certified, but who are living in the same household, please contact the Free and Reduced Meal Specialist at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell for assistance, (704) 836-9110 ext. 1.

Special Dietary Needs

- a) Students with medical conditions such as allergies and diabetes may request modification to school meals by completing a Diet Order form.
- b) Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, the School Nurse, the

School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on the School Nutrition page on the Gaston County Schools website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us).

- c) The Diet Order form must be signed by a physician and returned to the Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center.
- d) All students are encouraged to complete a new Diet Order form for each new school year. However Diet Orders will remain in effect perpetually until School Nutrition receives signed notification from a physician indicating a change to, or termination of the Diet Order.

NOTE: Special diets are only accommodated for medical reasons as indicated by a physician signing the Diet Order form. Diet restriction related to personal or religious reasons cannot be accommodated outside of the standard menu offerings

Students not utilizing the cafeteria meal service.

Students are only permitted to eat meals in the cafeteria. It is not an option to eat meals or snacks in classrooms.

Students have four options as far as obtaining meals to eat in the school cafeteria:

- a) Purchase complete meals or a la carte items from the cafeteria menu as described above
- b) Obtain a complete meal from the cafeteria menu as part of the Free and Reduced meal Program.
- c) Bring a packed lunch with them from home which must be kept in their bookbag in the locker until lunchtime. It is recommended that pack lunches are either “shelf stable”, (do not require refrigeration or heating), or are held in an insulated lunch bag containing a frozen ice pack. The school accepts no responsibility for the safety of bag lunches.
- d) Have a meal delivered to school via the reception desk. There are specific rules for this option.
 - i) Meals will only be received for a student if being delivered by a parent or guardian.
 - ii) If a parent / guardian is delivering food for a student it is the students responsibility to collect the item(s) from the reception desk at the beginning of the lunch period. The student will **NOT** be called from class to collect the items.
 - iii) Any food items not collected from the reception area that are not collected by the student by the end of the school day will be disposed of.

NOTE: There are no facilities for holding and maintaining hot or cold food temperatures in the reception area and as such, any items left for a student are done so at the parent's/ guardian's / student's risk. BCHS accepts no responsibility for the safety of food items that have been delivered for a student by the parent or guardian.

- iv) No on-line ordering and delivery from restaurants is permitted
- v) No deliveries from third party meal delivery services will be accepted

Parent Portal

Parent Portal Instructions - New Accounts/Reset Previous Accounts

Parents/Guardians,

All parents have the opportunity to monitor their students progress through the Parent Portal which is accessible via PowerSchool. Follow the following process to set yourself up to enable you to utilize the service.

New Accounts only (No previous account):

Parents should contact BCHS to set up a new account for the Parent Portal. Mrs. Kristin Boone (Data Manager) can help you with this. A temporary password will be assigned to you from the school. You will then be able to log on to:

Gaston County Homepage - <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/>

→ Parents/Students

→ Parent Student Portal log in

You will enter the User Name and Temporary Password you have been given.

Once logged in, please click on **accounts** and change the temporary password to a password that you prefer.

Reset Accounts (Currently has a Powerschool Parent Portal account)

If you previously had an account with either BCHS or other schools that have Powerschool and are unable to log in, you will not need to create another account but you will only need to reset your password. You will need to do this through the Parent Portal. You should be able to access your child's account at this point with BCHS.

The Parent Portal:

The Parent Portal online program allows parents to monitor their student's progress. Parents have access to grades, attendance, schedules and other important information

The Portal is available just for parents and is accessible with a few clicks of a mouse. PowerSchool Parent Portal is a convenient online program that makes it easy for parents to monitor their child's academic progress. The program is made available through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Parents with children in Gaston County Schools (GCS) may use the Parent Portal to see grades, attendance, class schedules and other information. It is an Internet-based resource that allows parents to track how well their child is doing in school.

The Parent Portal is available now for parents to view attendance and other information.

Important Questions and Answers about the Parent Portal:

1. What is the Parent Portal? What is PowerSchool?

The Parent Portal is an Internet-based program that provides information to parents about their student's academic performance.. The Parent Portal is a part of PowerSchool, which is the state's computer system that stores information about students.

2. Is the Parent Portal available now?

Yes, the Parent Portal is available for parents' use.

3. How do I access the Parent Portal?

This is a simple process but if you need assistance please contact the school's Data Manager, Ms. Boone,

To begin, go to <https://gaston.powerschool.com> and click the "Create Account" tab. Parents should fill in the "Create Parent Account" information at the top of the page (First Name, Last Name, E-mail, Desired Username) and create a password. The letter will provide an access ID and access password, which the parent fills in at the bottom of the page under the "Link Student to Account" section. This will link the child's grades and information to the parent's account.

4. What if I have more than one child in school? Can I link all of my children to one account?

Yes, you may link all of your children to your account (regardless of which school they attend). Do this by entering each child's name, access ID and Access password in the "Link Students to Account" section. You may link up to seven children to one account.

5. What is available for me to see in the Parent Portal?

Parents will be able to see their child's grades, attendance, class schedules, assignments and other information.

6. When will I be able to see my child's grades?

You will be able to see your child's grades after they are entered by the teacher. If you have questions about a grade or assignment, please contact your child's teacher.

