

Bessemer City High School

Student Handbook 2023-2024

**Technology and Industrial Engineering
Choice School**



Building Excellence in Everything !

**119 Yellow Jacket Lane
Bessemer City, NC 28016**

(phone)704-836-9601

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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"!

AND Remember: *Once a Yellow Jacket, Always a Yellow Jacket!*

Dr. Sheila S. Wyont

Dr. Sheila S. Wyont
Principal

BCHS Administration

Principal

Dr. Sheila S. Wyont

Assistant Principals

Students A - K

Students L -Z

Mrs. Meghann Sneed

Dr. Tom Potter

School Counselors

Students A - K

Students L - Z

Graduation Coach

Jennifer Moore

Dr. Angelique Burris

Amanda Martin

School Resource Officer

Security

Athletic Director

SRO Thompson

Lance Hudson

Billy James

Data Manager

Financial Secretary

Receptionist

Brittany Lucas

Kathleen Macdonald

Brandy Chastain

Career Development Coordinator

Nurse

Social Worker

Shane Short

Sarah Hicks

Tabatha Lynch

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 few years from new lights and paint to new signage and an electronic exterior sign. We are currently updating the sound system in the gym. The auditorium is receiving a new sound system and new stage curtains.

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.

BCHS Daily Bell Schedule

1st Bell	8:00 am
Warning Tardy Bell	8:25 am
1st Period	8:30 - 10:05 am
2nd Period	10:10 - 11:45 am
3rd Period	11:50 am - 1:50 pm 1st lunch 11:55 am-12:20 pm 2nd lunch 12:25 pm -12:50 pm 3rd lunch 12:55 pm -1:20 pm 4th lunch 1:25 pm -1:50 pm
4th Period	1:55pm - 3:30 pm

BELL Schedule Thursday (Advisory day)

Doors Open & Bell Rings	8:00 am
First Bell/Warning Bell	8:25 am
Tardy Bell	8:30 am
1st Period	8:30 am -9:50 am
Advisory	9:55 am - 10:25 am
2nd Period	10:30 am - 11:45 am
3rd Period	11:50 am - 1:50 pm
4th Period	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 this test)

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

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

Grading Practices

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 Friday, May 24, 2024. 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.

NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

Students who seek the Future Ready Course of Study also may earn the N.C. Academic Scholars distinction. Students who qualify for this honor receive an honor sticker on their diploma, recognition on their transcript and recognition at graduation.

English	4 Credits: I, II, III, IV
Math	4 Credits: Math I, II, III and one unit of higher level mathematics.
Science	3 Credits: Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and Physics or Chemistry course.
Social Studies	4 Credits: World History, Civics/Economics, American History I & II
Second Language	2 Credits: Two credits of the same language other than English
Health & PE	1 Credit: Health/Physical Education
Career and Technical	6 Credit: Includes two credit of the same language other than English
Second Language	Four additional credits in a concentration area such as Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, Second Language (beyond the first two credits), or other subject area.
Art Education (Dance, Music Theater Arts, Visual Arts)	
Arts Education (Dance, music, Theater arts, Visual arts)	1 Credit: One credit is required in either the visual arts, band, chorus, dance or theater arts as offered at your high school.
Electives or other requirements	3 Advanced Credits-Three credits from higher level (advanced) courses taken during the junior and senior years such as Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced Career and Technical Educational, college level courses, or other advanced courses

*** Please refer to the Gaston County Schools High School Curriculum Guide publication for exceptions, specific information on grading, courses, college athletic eligibility, dual enrollment,, North Carolina Virtual Public School, GCS online courses of study, NC Scholars program, honor graduates, etc.*

**** Online Courses are offered to GCS students through N.C. Virtual Public School.*

***** Parents of students interested in early graduation should contact their student's counselor for an appointment prior to students' senior year*

COLLEGE COURSES

Many college programs will be available to Bessemer City High School students while they are still in high school. These (and other) classes are offered at Gaston College during the school day, and are targeted to high school age students. Students enrolled in these classes will receive both high school and college credit. The high school credits count toward graduation and the college credits may be transferable to NC public colleges or universities!

Please note: In addition to Gaston College classes, college credit is still available on the BCHS campus from our **Advanced Placement (AP)** course offerings or availability and/or provided through NCVPS.

HONOR GRADUATES

Gaston County high school seniors will be eligible for graduation honors based on their weighted GPA. The student with the highest weighted GPA will be named valedictorian while the student with the second highest weighted GPA will be named salutatorian. In the event of an exact numerical tie, co- valedictorians and/or salutatorians will be named. Other honor graduates are as follows:

Summa cum laude	4.3+	Denoted by gold stole
Magna cum laude	4.0-4.299	Denoted by a silver stole
Cum laude	3.7-3.99	Denoted by a white stole

Jacket Pride Academic Award 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. Cards will be awarded at the beginning of the school year and the beginning of the second semester.

Gold Card will be given to students with all A's

Green Card will be given to students with A's and B's

White Card will be given to students with all B's

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

Discount Prom ticket.

Discount Yearbook.

**Rewards will be leveled by Card Status.*

Student Support Services

Student Services is composed of two counselors, counseling secretary, a Career & Technical Education Coordinator, school nurse and social worker.

Counselors Burris and Moore will assist with:

- Orientation
- Personal and social issues
- Career Planning
- College entrance exams
- Scholarship Applications
- Financial aid applications
- Mental Health referrals
- Drop-out prevention
- Graduation Coaching
- Student Records Maintenance
- Academic advising and registration
- College selection, planning, application and advising

Graduation Coach Martin

- Works with all seniors to assist with academics and all things graduation

Support Personnel

Shane Short

Career Development

- Work Keys / CTE
- CTE Course Support
- Military Contact

Tabatha Lynch

Social Worker

- Drop-Out Prevention
- Truancy
- Family Services

Sarah Hicks

School Nurse

- Health Plans
- Medical concerns
- Immunizations

Students wishing to see a counselor or other student services personnel should schedule an appointment by email.

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 entrance.

If it is necessary for a visitor to enter the building, they will provide their ID to the receptionist and receive a visitor's badge upon entering the building.

PARENTS MUST CHECK IN AT THE FRONT DESK anytime they are on campus during the instructional day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

The only exception is when parents are dropping off or picking up their child. They should remain in their car during drop off and pick up.

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 at any time. **BCHS will follow GCS guidelines to metal detect and search everyday at every entrance.** When a student signs in late or returns to school, he or she will be metal detected and searched.

Food & Drink

Students cannot bring food or drinks into the building unless it is in a lunch box. **Students may only carry clear water bottles to stay hydrated. Students MAY NOT carry Yeti, Stanley, etc. cups.**

Deliveries

Bessemer City High School **will not accept deliveries of food or gifts for students.** All delivery attempts will be turned away, and the school will not be held responsible for any incurred cost. Parents **MAY NOT** bring food to students. Parents may leave NON-Food or NON-drink items at the receptionist desk for students, but students will not be called out of class to receive these items.

Book Bags

You may **carry a CLEAR book bag** during the school day. The use of clear book bags will not negate the search of book bags. We will continue to search any and all bags brought on campus per Gaston County Schools Guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why not mesh bags? Answer: Mesh bags with various patterns and colors are more difficult to screen and often require staff members to hand search. We are discontinuing their use.

Question: Do lunch bags have to be transparent too?

Answer: No, they do not, but they are subject to be searched.

Question: Are transparent colored backpacks allowed?

Answer: No. Colored transparent backpacks are not allowed. Only fully clear backpacks

Question: Can the backpack have colored straps?

Answer: Yes. The backpack may have colored straps.

Question: Are company or trademarked logos allowed on the front of the backpacks?

Answer: Small company logos are allowed, but large logos, or other visual obstructions are not.

Question: Can we design or decorate the backpack?

Answer: No. Designs or decorations can not hinder the ability to see inside the backpack.

Question: Will athletic bags and instrument cases, which are not clear, be allowed on campus?

Answer: Yes, these are permitted, but will be searched everyday and stored in the band room or locker room at the beginning of the school day. A Coach will supervise the storage of bags in the athletic locker rooms on the PE Hallway from 8:00 - 8:30 AM. (Athletic bags CANNOT be stored in the specific coach's classroom.)

Question: What about purses or pocketbooks?

Answer: Any purse or pocketbook larger than a composition book is considered a book bag, and will not be permitted unless it is clear.

Question: What about lunch bags/lunch boxes?

Answer: Any lunch bag/lunch box larger than a composition book is considered a book bag, and will not be permitted unless it is clear.

Question: What about makeup bags or small purses?

Answer: We understand the concern with the privacy of certain items. Students will be permitted to carry such items in a small makeup pouch within the backpack or a small purse. However, the pouch is subject to search

Lockers

Due to health and safety concerns, lockers will not be assigned or used in the main building during the school day.

BCHS 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.

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.

Withdrawal from the School 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 chromebooks, 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.

Receptionist Desk/Area

Students are NOT allowed to congregate/hang out at the receptionist desk at the main entrance. The receptionist area is for school business only. Students are not allowed to stop by to just talk during class or class change. Students will not leave bookbags, clothes, shoes, etc. at the front desk during the school day.

Arrival 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.

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

2.If a parent or guardian is checking a student out, they must report to the reception desk at the main entrance. At that time they **MUST present an approved government ID. The person checking out the student must also be listed on the contact list in PowerSchool. Only parents, guardians, or individuals on the contact list may sign out a student. 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.**

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

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

BCHS LOCK OUT Tardy Policy

Arrive ON TIME:

- Arriving to 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 front entrance. You may not park in the front entrance lot.
- All students arriving to class after 8:30 AM will be searched and metal detected 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:

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE TARDIES TO CLASS

- 1st - 3rd tardy Warning
- 4th - 6th tardy Administrative conference with the student
- 7th tardy and subsequent Student may receive ISS up to 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.

RESTRICTED AREAS

Restricted areas are defined as those locations off-limits to students during the day because of safety concerns. Violations of restricted area policies will result in disciplinary actions. The following areas are restricted:

- Parking Lots: Students are not permitted to go to their car during the day, and therefore are not allowed in the parking lots.
- Gym, Gym Hall, and Athletic Fields: Only students scheduled for physical education are permitted in these areas during the school day.
- Cafeteria and Lunchroom Area: Students are permitted in the cafeteria and lunchroom areas only during their scheduled lunch time or with prior permission.
- Classroom Hallways During Lunch: The classroom hallways are closed to students during their lunch time.
- Auditorium: Students are permitted in the auditorium only during scheduled events or with prior permission.
- Lobby: Students should not loiter in the lobby and commons.
- Restrooms: Students will have a color coded hall pass provided by the teacher each time they leave class to go to the restroom. Students must use the restroom on the same hallway as the classroom.
- Senior Cafe: Only Seniors are allowed in the Senior Cafe during lunch.

CAFETERIA

1. Students are expected to be courteous and considerate of others in the cafeteria. Be considerate of cafeteria staff and property.
2. Be considerate of students who eat later: leave tables clean & throw all trash into trash cans.
3. Students are to eat in the cafeteria. Seniors may eat in the Senior Cafe.
4. Students are not permitted to break in line. Once in line, you cannot leave and then return to your place - you must move to the back of the line. Violations will result in disciplinary action.
5. It is the responsibility of all students to maintain the beauty of BCHS. Throwing food will not be tolerated. It will be considered disruption of school and defacing of property. Violations will result in OSS or another appropriate discipline.
6. Students must move quickly and quietly to and from the cafeteria and must remain in the cafeteria during the entire lunch period.
7. **ONLY** the restrooms in the cafeteria area are to be used during lunch.
8. The Senior Cafe is for 12th grade students only.

BCHS 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
- 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
- Non-clear book bags
- Bandanas
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Tobacco, including electronic cigarettes and cigarette lighters.
- Belt Bags/Fanny packs
- NON Clear Water bottles
- See GCS Student Code of Conduct for additional information.

Bathroom Policy

At BCHS our goal is to maintain a strong 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. 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

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 assigned bus, get on/off at **YOUR** assigned stop, and follow the drivers' directions at all times.

Dress Code

GCS RULE 16: Dress Code (GCS Code of Conduct) The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. Each student is expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment or the safe and healthy climate of schools.

Students shall not wear:

- Headwear - Hats, bandanas, hair picks, combs or other types of headgear or sunglasses in the building.
- Clothing - Clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol or drug, and/or gang symbols.
- No style of clothing or the manner in which it is worn may expose undergarments or create a distraction or disturbance in the educational setting. The expectations noted above represent the minimum standards established throughout the school system. In addition, items not specifically mentioned may still be deemed inappropriate in a school setting in the judgment of the school administration. The Board of Education recognizes that local law enforcement agencies may determine that wearing particular gang related attire may present a threat to student safety. The Superintendent will work collaboratively with these agencies to prohibit such dress. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Superintendent who will make any proposed recommendations for change to the Gaston County Board of Education.

Bessemer City High School Specific Expectations:

BCHS students are expected to dress appropriately at all times.

- Shorts & Skirts - must be visible underneath shirts/sweatshirts. Fingertip length shorts and skirts are appropriate.
- Shirts - modesty should prevail. Off the shoulder shirts, strapless, or spaghetti straps are not permitted at school. Additionally, **NO** cleavage, midriffs, bellies, navels, stomachs or backs should be exposed = **NO crop tops**
- Pants - no sagging; no underwear exposed by holes
- Hoods and head coverings - these items are not permitted to be worn in the school building. Students must remove hoods and head coverings when they enter the building.
- NO slippers, blankets, or pillows, are appropriate in a school setting and will not be permitted.
- No fanny packs/hip packs/belt bags.

If you are in violation of the BCBS 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

Cell Phones OFF & AWAY

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.

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 offense: If a student is violating the electronic device policy by actively using the device during the defined instructional day, the student will be warned and instructed to put it away.

Second offense: the phone, airpods, etc. will be taken and given to the receptionist to be picked up by the student at the end of the day.

On the third time that the device is given to the receptionist, a parent must pick up the device at the end of the school day.

Suspension will occur if a student refuses to comply with the above rules. 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.

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 is to be displayed at all times. Permits will only be issued to students with a valid driver's license. Students must provide a valid driver's license, proof of car insurance and complete a parking registration form. Students will pay the \$25.00 annual fee to Mrs. Lucas at the front office window during lunches. 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.

Parking privileges are subject to revocation for excessive tardies, absences, suspensions, and discipline violations.

BCHS Athletics

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

BCBS Athletic Director - Coach William “Billy” James 2023-2024 Teams and Head Coaches

Baseball - Coach Matthew Denham

Men's Basketball - Coach Marcus Barnette

Women's Basketball - Athletic Director Billy James

Cheerleading - Coach Brittany Lucas

Football - Coach Shane Short

Softball - Coach Lindsay Shumaker

Men's Track - Coach Chris Lance

Women's Track - Coach Scott Hardin

Cross County - Coach Chris Lance

Volleyball - Coach James McIntyre

Men's Golf - Coach Lance Hudson

Women's Golf - Coach Lance Hudson

Men's Soccer - Coach Maxwell Baidoo

Women's Soccer - Coach Robert Johnson

Wrestling - Coach 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** 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. *(you may only miss 13 days per 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 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. Sponsors will schedule meetings and announce using our social media, email and morning announcements.

Club

Art Club
FCA
Health Science Club
National Technical Honor Society

National Honor Society
Drama Club
Prom Club
Spirit Club
Student Leadership Team
Impact Service Club

Sponsor

Mrs. Capps
Coach Hardin
Mrs. Brotherton
Mrs. Huffstetler &
Coach Short
Ms. Angela Bates
Mr. Homesley
Ms. Beaty
Mrs. Kelly James
Dr. Wyont
SRO Thompson

BCHS Pass to Play

***Updated Nov. 2021 to align with NCHSAA rule of passing 3 of 4 courses to be eligible
In order to be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities, a student
must be passing 3 of 4 classes.***

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 9 weeks mark, any athlete failing 2 or more course(s) will have a 1 week suspension from participating in competition. 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 one 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.

BCHS Pass to Play

***In order to be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities, a student
must be passing 3 of 4 classes.***

Non-Athletics/Extracurricular Activities

- Pass to Play applies to non-athletic/extracurricular activities including but not limited to events and activities such as field trips, prom king/queen and homecoming queen participation etc.
- 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 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 circumstances.

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.

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. Brittany Lucas (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, Mr. Perez.

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.

School Year 2023 - 2024

Gaston County School Nutrition (GCSN)

Information Guide for School Handbooks

1. Breakfast and Lunch are offered daily in all schools.

Breakfast -A complete school breakfast consists of:

An entrée made with grain and /or protein. Fat free or 1% milk, and Fruit and/ or juice (limit of one juice per meal)

All students will be required to take at a minimum one serving of fruit or juice and an entree in order to receive a complete School Breakfast at established meal price (or no charge for a CEP schools). The maximum amount of food a student can select is one entrée, one milk, and one fruit and /or juice. If a student does not select a complete school breakfast as outlined above, they have to pay individually for the items they choose.

Lunch - A complete school Lunch consists of:

An entrée made with protein and/or grain. Fat free or 1% milk, Vegetable, and Fruit

All students will be required to take a minimum one serving of vegetable or fruit and two addition items in order to receive a school lunch at an established meal price (or no charge for CEP schools). A lunch entrée may count as two items. At a minimum, a student must select an entrée and a fruit or vegetable OR they must select two fruits or vegetables and two additional items to have the meal count as a lunch. The maximum amount of food a student can select is one entrée, one milk, two vegetables, and two fruit. If a student does not select a complete school lunch, as outlined above, they will have to pay individually for the items they choose.

2. Meal Prices

Breakfast

Paid students (all grade levels) \$1.40

Reduced price students (all grade levels) \$0.00

Adults (staff and visitors) \$2.00

Lunch

Paid students (grades K – 5) \$2.90

Paid students (grades 6 – 12) \$3.00

Reduced price students (all grade levels) \$0.00

Adults (staff and visitors) \$4.00

3. Charged Meals

Students who do not have money may charge a meal if their account has not exceeded the following limits:

Elementary (K-5) \$21.50

Middle School (6-8) \$ 8.80

High School (9-12) no charging allowed

Elementary and middle school students who do not have money and who have exceeded the charge limit may receive a complimentary alternate meal upon request.

Principals will be provided a daily list of students who have exceeded the charge limits so that they can inform the student they will only be able to receive a complimentary alternate meal unless they bring money the following day. High school students who do not have money may also request a complimentary alternate meal if they are unable to find or borrow money.

Students who have received more than five (5) complimentary alternate meal per year may receive additional complimentary meals at the mutual discretion of the Principal and School Nutrition Director.

Students who apply for free and reduced price meal benefits are responsible for all charges incurred before their Free and Reduced Meal Applications are received by the School Nutrition Department. Students who have exceeded the charged meal limit may not purchase a la carte items with the exception of milk, fruit juice, or water.

Schools are provided negative balance letters for distribution to students at least once a week. A negative balance report can be provided by the Cafeteria Manager at any time upon request.

4. Student Accounts

Checks, Cash, or Money Orders can be accepted in the school cafeterias.

Parents/Guardians may utilize Family Portal Link <https://family.titank12.com> to pay with their credit or debit card. Parents requesting a refund must contact the School Nutrition Free and Reduced Specialist at 704 836-9110 ext. 1.

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.

Seniors who graduate and have a positive meal balance should contact Tina Franks at 704-836-9110 ext. 1 to receive a refund or transfer funds to another child. This must be done within 1 school year of graduation.

NSF checks are referred to Envision payment solution, a check guarantee and collection service.

5. Free and Reduced Meal Application

Paper applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, and at School Nutrition Center in Lowell. Online applications are available on the Gaston County Schools website. Links can be found on the School Nutrition department tab.

Only one application is required per household.

Paper applications should be returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center - 500 Reid Street Lowell, NC 28098.

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits, and should be included on the household application. (Not a separate application)

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. If there are other children that have not been identified as being directly certified, but who 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.

6. Holiday Meal

a) Grades K - 12, Wednesday, November 15, 2023

b) ADULT PRICE FOR HOLIDAY MEALS IS \$4.50

7. Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch.

We have 40 schools participating in school year 23- 24.

Students transferring /advancing to NON- CEP schools will need to complete a GCSN Free and Reduced Meal Application for school year 2022-2023.

Families of students moving from a CEP school to a NON- CEP, will need to apply for Free and Reduced Meals in order to receive benefits at the new school.

Students who were approved for Free & Reduced meals due to applying in school year 2022 - 2023, will temporarily receive free and reduced price meals at the beginning of the School Year 2023-2024. 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.

A list of CEP schools is as follows:

310 Ashbrook High	436 Bessemer City Middle
400 Gardner Park	500 Stanley Middle
480 Pleasant Ridge	360 Cherryville High
332 Bessemer City Central	438 Lingerfeldt
408 Grier Middle 488 Robinson	504 Tryon
336 Bessemer City High	364 Cherryville Elem
426 Holbrook	440 Lowell
490 Sherwood	514 W C Friday
338 Bessemer City Primary	372 Warlick
428 Hunter Huss	456 Mt Holly Middle
492 H H Beam	520 Woodhill
339 W B Beam Intermediate	376 Costner
431 John Chavis	468 North Belmont
498 Southwest Middle	526 York Chester
340 Brookside	392 Sadler 470
432 Kiser	North Gaston
499 Springfield	394 Webb Street
344 Carr	478 Pinewood

8. Special Nutrition Needs

All Students with unique meal time needs are required to have a Diet Order form.

Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, the School Nurse, the School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on School Nutrition page on Gaston County School website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us) The Diet Order form must be signed by a recognized medical authority and returned to the school nurse to submit electronically to the School Nutrition Dietitian mhcameron@gaston.k12.nc.us.

9. Water Availability During Lunch Meal Service

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (the Act), Public Law 111-296, establishes a requirement for making water available to children in all school meal programs. Drinking water must be made available to students at no charge and without restriction in place where meals are served.

To ensure water availability during meal service, each school's Principal must choose one of the following options:

- Allow students to access water fountains in the dining room or an adjacent area.
- Request a water cooler with disposable water cups which are supplied by School Nutrition and maintained by Cafeteria staff.