



Bessemer City Middle School

2019-2020 STUDENT HANDBOOK





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Welcome to Bessemer City Middle School!

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

BCMS Tigers “ROAR”...

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

Contact Information

525 E.D. Wilson Rd.
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 836-9602 phone
(704) 629-4501 fax



Administration

Dr. Jessica Mellon, Principal
jrmellon@gaston.k12.nc.us

Treva Boone, Assistant Principal
tdboone@gaston.k12.nc.us

Logan McGuire, Assistant Principal
plmcguire@gaston.k12.nc.us

Front Office Staff

Teresea Carpenter, Front Desk
Lisa Herman, Data Manager
Schwester Connor, Financial Secretary

School Counselors

Andrea Dixon
adixon@gaston.k12.nc.us

Toni Osborne
tsosborne@gaston.k12.nc.us

School Nurse

Shevia Mills

School Social Worker

Beryl Miller
bmmiller@gaston.k12.nc.us

Athletic Director

Daniel Hartley
dhartley@gaston.k12.nc.us



Tigers “Always Act Safely” by following Arrival and Dismissal Procedures!

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

General Class Schedules

Time	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
8:00 a.m.-8:10 a.m.	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Core 1	Core 1	Encores
9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Core 2	Encores	Core 1
12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.	Core 3	Core 2	Core 2
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Encores	Core 3	Core 3
3:00 p.m.-3:10 p.m.	Connections	Connections	Connections

Arrival Procedures

Drop off Time: The building opens at 7:15 a.m. Students may not be dropped off before this time.

Car Rider Drop-off: Car riders are to be dropped off using the S. Gould St. entrance to the school. Cars will be directed to the covered walkway for drop off. Please do not use the parking lot near the school entrance for student drop off.

Entering the Building: All students will enter the building through the gym lobby.

Breakfast: Students must arrive to school prior to 7:45 a.m. for breakfast. If students arrive after 7:45 a.m. due to a late bus, they will be allowed to have breakfast without being penalized.

Late Arrivals: The tardy bell rings at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in at the front office. When a student is marked tardy to school, parents will be notified by an automated phone message. Students must arrive to school prior to 11:30 a.m. to be counted present for the school day.

Excused Tardies: A tardy may be excused for the following reasons: medical appointments, court appointments, or being detained by a school official. Students must bring a parent or doctor’s note verifying the reason they are tardy. Students arriving late to school due to a late bus will not be penalized.

Dismissal Procedures

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

Early Check Out: In order to be successful in school, it is extremely important that students minimize time missed from all of their classes. Therefore, early check outs from school should be avoided. If there is an emergency or medical appointment that requires a student to be signed out during the school day, students will only be released to those appearing on their contact list. **Consistent with Gaston County School's policy regarding student safety, anyone signing out a student must present photo identification before we will release a child.** Students cannot be signed out over the phone. In order to maintain safety during end of the day procedures and dismissal, no sign-outs will be permitted after 2:45 p.m. Students checking out of school prior to 11:30 a.m. will be counted absent for the day.

Car Riders: Car riders will be picked up from the covered walkway along the front of the school. All cars are to enter the car rider loop using the S. Gould St. entrance. Students are not to be picked up in the parking lot or near the front entrance of the school building. The parking lot adjacent to the football stadium will be blocked off for entry at 3:10 p.m. Cars will only be allowed to exit from this lot after the dismissal process has started. Drivers are asked to use caution and watch for students as they load their vehicles.



Tigers “Reach for Success” by being Present!

Attendance Information

Gaston County Schools Attendance Policy

Class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process and may be taken into account in assessing academic achievement. Students are expected to be at school on time and to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class.

For K-8 students, only 12 absences, including excused and unexcused absences, are permitted each school year. The principal of each school will review information on

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

Following any absence(s), it is required that a written document or e-mail be presented from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence. All absences will be coded unexcused in the computer until a written note or e-mail is received from the parent or guardian. **Written documentation must be presented within three school days after the student returns to school; otherwise, the absence(s) will be recorded as unexcused.** Absences will be coded according to the North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law regulations as printed below. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s);
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions of parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, 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

Please see the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct for the complete policy.

BCMS Attendance Procedures

Notification of Absences: When students are absent or tardy from homeroom, parents will receive an automated call. Please make sure to keep your contact information up to date in order to receive these notifications.

Excuse Notes: Excuse notes should be given to the student's homeroom teacher within 3 days of the absence. The homeroom teacher will submit the note to the data manager in order to have the absence coded "excused". Students should not submit excuse notes directly to the front office. Please ensure that any communication with the front office regarding your child is labeled with their legal first and last name as it appears in PowerSchool.

Make up Work: Students are required to make up any work missed from excused and unexcused absences. Make up work is the student's responsibility. Upon return to school following an absence, students have 3 school days to make arrangements for completing missed assignments. The work must be completed as directed by the teacher within the agreed-upon time frame.

Athletic Eligibility: To be eligible for athletics, students must maintain good attendance. Students will be deemed ineligible if they have more than 13 absences (excused or unexcused) in a semester. The only exception applies to incoming 6th grade students. Incoming 6th graders are automatically eligible for athletics upon promotion to middle school. This applies for the 1st semester only. Sixth graders have to meet all eligibility requirements for 2nd semester sports. Please refer to the Athletics section of this handbook for a full list of eligibility requirements.

School Social Worker: BCMS employs a part time social worker who regularly monitors student attendance. When a student accumulates 3 or more unexcused absences, parents will be contacted by the school social worker. Students with 10 or more unexcused absences are subject to prosecution under the North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law.



**Tigers have “Outstanding Achievement” by
focusing on Academics!**

Academics

Middle School Grades

Gaston County Middle School Grading Scale:

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=Below 60

Grade Percentages:

Tests= 40%

Independent Work: 30%

Guided Work= 20%

Homework= 10%

Middle School Grade Reports

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

Report Cards: Report cards will be distributed at the end of each 9 weeks grading period. Please see below for report card dates:

1 st 9-weeks	2 nd 9-weeks	3 rd 9-weeks	4 th 9-weeks
10/31/19	1/23/20	4/2/20	Mailed 6/22/20

Parent Portal: The online Parent Portal will allow parents to access attendance, grades, and assignments at any time. Parents can set up regular notifications of their child's progress. In addition to this, parents can see missing assignments and receive alerts when their student's grade has been updated. Information for setting up your Parent Portal will be sent home with your beginning of the year forms. If you need this information again or have questions about Parent Portal, please contact the front office.

Honor Roll: Students will be recognized each 9 weeks for outstanding academic achievement. Students who maintain honor roll status all year will be recognized at our end of the year awards program. To qualify for "A" Honor Roll, students must have earned an "A" in all subjects. "B" Honor Roll consists of students who have no grades below a "B" in all subjects.

National Junior Beta Club Membership (7th and 8th grade only): Students consistently demonstrating academic excellence will receive an invitation to be a member of the BCMS National Junior Beta Club. In order to receive an invitation, students must maintain an average of 90 or above for the entire year in all classes. In addition to this, students must not have received a grade below 80 in any 9-weeks grading period. After becoming a member of the Jr. Beta Club, students must continue to maintain good grades. If a Junior Beta Club member receives a grade below 80 in any 9-weeks grading period, they will be placed on probation. Repeated probation will result in loss of membership. Students will also be removed from Junior Beta Club if they receive a conduct rating of "unsatisfactory".

Healthful Living Education (7th and 8th grade only): Seventh and 8th grade students will be enrolled in the Health component of Healthful Living Education. In this course, students have the opportunity to learn about the prevention of serious health risks for adolescents including the following topics: poor nutrition and the effects on the body, violence prevention, drug/alcohol/tobacco use, lack of physical fitness, unintended pregnancy, and diseases. Gaston County Schools follows requirements of the Healthy Youth Act, passed by the legislature in 2009. Lessons on relationships and abstinence until marriage will continue to be taught along with methods of pregnancy prevention, disease prevention, and preventing and reporting sexual assault and abuse. Also taught are the topics of healthy dating relationships and ways to avoid sexual pressure. The administration and faculty of Gaston County Schools recognize parents as the most important source of information about family life and sexuality and that schools have a role in promoting healthy behavior as well. A recent statewide poll indicates a high level of parental support for NC students to learn about these issues in public schools (www.nchealthyschools.org). If you prefer your child **not** receive this information, you have the right to opt him/her out. To do so, simply send a letter stating your wishes to the Healthful Living teacher. Your child will be given an alternative assignment during those class periods. You are encouraged, if you have any questions about the NC Standard Course of Study, to contact your child's teacher.

End-of-Grade (EOG) Tests, N.C. Final Exams (NCFE), and N.C. Check-ins: During the school year, students will participate in several assessments required by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and Gaston County Schools. Dates of testing will be shared through a ParentLink message and on our school Facebook page.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility, and self-control, in all areas, including academics. Cheating (including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work), plagiarizing (including copying the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work), or violating copyright laws is specifically prohibited. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will be assigned a zero for the assignment and their parents will be notified. The incident will be recorded on the student's discipline record. In the event of repeated incidents of this nature, the student will be subject to in school suspension (ISS) or out of school suspension (OSS).

Parent Conferences: Gaston County Schools has designated October 10, 2019 and March 12, 2020 as Parent Conference Days. Information will be sent home for scheduling conferences on these days. If it is necessary to meet with your child's teacher at any other time, please contact the front office, a school counselor, or contact the teacher directly through email. Teacher's email addresses can be found on our school website.



Tigers “Respect Themselves and Others” by using Student Services.

Communication

School Telephone: If a student needs to call home during the school day they must request a pass from their teacher and report to the front office. These calls should be limited to emergencies or illness. Students may not come to the front office and make the call themselves. The front office secretary must verify the contact is on the student’s approved list and place the call. Students are in violation of the school cell phone policy if they are found using their cell phone to call or text during the school day.

Automated Telephone Notification System: Keeping families informed is a priority for Gaston County Schools and BCMS. We use the ParentLink notification system to provide emergency weather communication, attendance notifications, and updates on events. To ensure that you receive notification calls, please let the school know about any updates to your contact information.

Inclement Weather Notification: When Gaston County Schools officials delay or close schools in order to ensure student safety, parents will be notified using the ParentLink automated telephone notification system. No announcement means school is operating on a regular schedule. Information is also shared with local TV news and posted on the GCS website: www.gaston.k12.nc.us

Counseling

School Counselors: BCMS School counselors provide a comprehensive school counseling program that improves student achievement and enhances the academic, career and personal/social development of all students. The comprehensive school counseling program is delivered through classroom lessons, individual student planning sessions, and individual and group counseling. If you have a concern or question about your student please call to set up an appointment with a school counselor.

School Based Therapist: Gaston County Schools has agreements in place with agencies to offer school based therapy. You may request a referral from the school counselor or social worker at the school. Each school is assigned to receive School Based Therapy from a specific agency. If you choose to have a referral with the assigned agency, then services may be delivered in the school.

Health Services

GCS Health Assessments: State law requires that every child entering public schools in N.C. receive a health assessment. The assessment must occur within 12 months prior to entering school. The medical provider, parent, or guardian must provide a completed health assessment transmittal form to the principal of the school on or before the child's first day of attendance. Students enrolling from out of state must have a completed health assessment in order to complete the enrollment process.

Immunization Requirements for Seventh Grade: Students should be up-to-date on all the vaccines required for kindergarten entry. In addition, students need one dose of Tdap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis-Whooping Cough) and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

School Nurse: BCMS has a part time nurse. The goal of the school nurse is to maximize the health and well-being of students and to address the diverse needs of the school population while minimizing health issues that can be a barrier to learning. If a student becomes sick during the school day they may ask their teacher for a pass to see the school nurse. If this occurs during a time when the nurse is off campus, the front office will call to inform the parent or guardian.

Student Health Plans: For the safety of your child, it is critical that you notify the school nurse if your child has any chronic medical conditions or severe allergies. Our school nurse will complete a health plan that will address the needs and actions to take in an emergency. An alert will be placed on the student's record and the plan will be shared with the student's teachers and school administrators.

Medication During the School Day: To minimize disruptions to the school day, medicines should be taken at home rather than at school whenever possible. School personnel will not administer any medication that could be taken at home. However, if there is a need for a student to receive medication during the school day, parents must complete a Medication Authorization Form, which can be obtained on Gaston County Schools website or in the front office. All medication must be in the original container or a pharmacy bottle that is clearly labeled. Middle school students are allowed to carry asthma inhalers but must have a Medication Authorization Form on file. For more detailed information about the policy you may visit the GCS website or contact the front office.

Vision Screening: The school nurse is authorized to conduct routine vision screening of students. Requests for a vision screening can be submitted to the school nurse or a counselor.

School Nutrition Services

Breakfast: All students are eligible for breakfast free of charge at BCMS. Students should arrive to school prior to 7:45 a.m. in order to eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Students arriving late to school will have the opportunity to eat breakfast from our Second Chance Breakfast Kiosk.

Lunch: All students are eligible for lunch free of charge at BCMS. School lunch accounts may be used to purchase a-la-carte items. The cafeteria accepts cash, check or money order. Parents may also use a credit or debit card by utilizing www.mealpayplus.com.

Outside Food: Students are not allowed to bring food in from outside vendors for lunch. Students and parents should refrain from bringing any food (McDonald's, Subway, Bojangles, etc) into the school. Classroom teachers will designate a location for students to store lunches brought from home. Lunches should be in a lunch box or bag. It is not appropriate for students to bring items packaged in large amounts, such as boxes of cereal, a party size bag of chips, or a 2-liter soda. If students bring these items to school, they will be directed to place them in their lockers until dismissal.

Special Dietary Orders: Students with special medical conditions such as allergies and diabetes may request modification to school meals by completing a Diet Order form. Parents may obtain a Diet Order application from the cafeteria manager, school nurse, School Nutrition office or online at www.gaston.k12.nc.us. The form must be signed by a physician and returned to the cafeteria manager or sent to the GCS School Nutrition Office, 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC 28098.

Community Eligibility Program: All BCMS students will receive free breakfast and free lunch as a part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the USDA's Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Students attending CEP schools do not need to complete a Free and Reduced Meal Application.

Snack Shack: Students will have the opportunity to purchase snacks after lunch in the school Snack Shack. All items are \$1. Students may also redeem their PBIS Reward points for Snack Shack items.

Lost and Found

Loss Prevention: Students should label commonly lost items such as coats, hats, gloves, scarves, lunchboxes, band instruments, glasses, and notebooks with their first and last name. This will allow the front office to easily return lost items to students.

Lost and Found: Lost and found items will be kept in ISS. If students find an item, they should not take items directly to ISS without their teacher's permission. Students who have lost an item must have their teacher's permission to go to ISS to check Lost and Found. Students are not allowed to go check Lost and Found during class change or any other time without permission from their teacher. Lost and Found items will be kept for 10 days. After this time, they will be discarded or donated.

Lockers

Lockers: All students will be issued a locker and a lock at the beginning of the school year, free of charge. All locks must be returned at the end of the school year or students will be charged a fee.

Locker Safety: Students are not to share their locker or locker combination with any other student. Lockers are considered school property and are subject to search at any time. If a lock is missing from a locker, it will be banded shut. Book bags and cell phones must be stored in student lockers throughout the school day.

Lost Locks: The fee for a lost lock is \$7.00.

Buses

Bus transportation is provided to middle school students living at least a mile and a half from BCMS. Students and parents should always treat bus transportation as a privilege, not a right. Students behaving in a manner that is distracting to the driver or endangers others, will be removed from the bus. Contact the front office if you have questions about the bus or for bus stop information.



Visitors

Daily Visitors: Visitors are welcome at BCMS. In order to maintain the security of our campus, all visitors must gain entry to the school through the front door, check in at the office using the Gaston County Schools ID Management System, and receive a visitor's badge. Meetings with teachers must be pre-arranged in order to prevent a disruption to the learning environment. Arrangements must be made with the principal in order to visit students in class. Students are not allowed to bring guests of any kind to school or to school dances.

Volunteers: Volunteers are welcomed and needed in our schools. Adults wishing to help should contact the school principal for more information about volunteer opportunities. Volunteers complete an online application (www.gastonnschoolvolunteers.com) and attend a short orientation. Orientation dates are posted on the Gaston County Schools website.

Student Information

Updated Contact Information: Please check with the front office to ensure your contact information is up to date. Student information forms provided to teachers are not submitted to the front office and do not constitute an official change in your child's contact information. In order to change your address, two proofs of residency must be provided to the front office, examples include a copy of a lease agreement, cable bill, landline phone bill, or other utility statement. Phone numbers should also be kept up to date in the event of an emergency and to receive calls through the automated calling system during the year.

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

School Safety Practices

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

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

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

Morning and Afternoon Traffic: Parents should use extreme caution when driving on to the school campus. Watch for students entering and exiting their vehicles and follow the instructions from the security officer directing traffic in the car rider line.



Tigers “Reach for Success” on and off the field!

Athletics

Sports: BCMS believes participation in sports fosters self-discipline and team spirit. We hope that many of our students will participate in a sport. Some sports have a large number of students interested and unfortunately everyone cannot make the team. Others are more inclusive and everyone who is willing to work hard can participate. Sixth grade students may participate in all sports except football. BCMS has the following sports team:

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Football	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Softball	Girls Basketball	Girls Soccer
Golf		Track
Volleyball (late Fall)		

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

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

- Sports Physical- All athletes are required to have a NCHSAA physical form completed by a doctor before they can tryout or participate in any capacity. A physical is good for 395 days. All physicals must be on the NCHSAA form, which can be obtained on the GCS website or from the front office.
- Academics- Students must pass 4 out of 5 classes in the previous semester, to be eligible to participate in athletics in any capacity. When students are promoted to the sixth grade, they are automatically eligible for fall sports. However, if they are not passing 4 out of 5 classes within their first semester of middle school, they will not be eligible for winter or spring sports.
- Attendance- Students can have no more than 13 absences in a semester to be eligible to play sports.
- Residency- A student must participate in sports only at the school to which Gaston County Schools has assigned him or her.
- Age- A student is ineligible if they will be 15 years of age on or before August 31.
- Behavior- If a player is assigned In-School-Suspension (ISS) they are ineligible to participate in try-outs, practices, or games from the moment ISS is assigned until the morning after the consequence is served. If a student is assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during a sports season, they will be removed from the team. Discipline records will be reviewed prior to team selection, coaches can choose to exclude a player from the team based on poor behavior.
- Dual Participation (Football Only)- A player of a school football team is prohibited to play on an additional team during the schools season. This is for safety reasons.

Clubs

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



Tigers “Respect Themselves and Others” by displaying appropriate behavior!

Positive Behavior Rewards

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS): BCMS will be implementing PBIS throughout the 2019-2020 school year. PBIS focuses on teaching students the appropriate behaviors in various settings and providing early intervention to avoid misbehavior which may lead to larger disruptions of school.

PBIS Rewards: Students have the opportunity to earn PBIS Reward points based on positive behaviors. Points are awarded when students ROAR (**R**espect ourselves and others, **O**utstanding achievement, **A**lways acting safely, and **R**eaching for success). Students will have the opportunity to use their points to purchase items at our PBIS store each day or save their points in order to participate in a bigger event. A schedule of PBIS events will be provided to your child. Parents and students will also receive information about signing up for the BCMS PBIS Rewards app in order to view Rewards points and send and receive messages with your child’s teachers.

School-wide Discipline Procedures

All students are required to adhere to the rules outlined in the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct, which your child received at the beginning of the school year or at enrollment. If a student is referred to the office, BCMS administrators utilize the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct as a guide to administer a consequence. In addition to the Gaston County Schools Code of Conduct, individual school rules have been established at BCMS. Below you are provided additional information on common misbehaviors that occur in middle school. This is not an all-inclusive list. You may refer to the Gaston County Schools website or contact a BCMS administrator if you have further questions.

Dress Code: Students are 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. Below is a list of some of the items that are specifically prohibited. However, items not specifically mentioned may still be deemed inappropriate in the school setting in the judgment of school administration.

- Prohibited Items- bandannas, hair picks, combs, wide headbands, head scarves, sunglasses in the buildings, masks, distracting wigs, clothing that displays sexually explicit words/drawings, profanity, alcohol, drugs, or gang symbols, clothing that exposes undergarments, clothing with large rips or tears that expose skin from the upper chest to mid-thigh, low cut tops that expose student’s cleavage, pajamas, or bedroom shoes.

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

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

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

- Instigating- When an incident of fighting or major verbal altercation occurs, administration will fully investigate the situation. Although a student may not appear to be the aggressor in an exchange, consequences may still follow if it is determined that the student has engaged in the conflict leading up to the altercation. This involves texting, sending messages via social media, sending messages through other students, or talking about the conflict with others in a manner that perpetuates the conflict.
- Consequences- Students involved in a physical altercation with another student will receive Out-of-School Suspension. In accordance with the district policy, this suspension can be up to 10 days. The length of suspension will be determined by considering the level of disruption, history of aggressive behavior/fighting, prior interventions to avoid confrontation, the risk to the safety of others, the severity of the incident, and level of regard for staff members trying to intervene. Additionally, students are subject to criminal charges at the discretion of administration and the school SRO.

Prohibited Items: Drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, or e-cigarettes are not permitted anywhere on school grounds (including bus stops). Possession of any kind of weapon,

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

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

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

Classroom Misbehavior/Redirect: Warning and other interventions will be used in order to address minor class disruptions. If a student does not appropriately correct their behavior, the student may be removed from class and sent to redirect for the remainder of the period. Parents will be notified when students are sent to redirect. **Students sent to redirect will not be permitted to participate in any afterschool activities.** When a student has acquired 6 redirects, they will be referred to a school-based intervention team in order to develop a behavior intervention plan. Additionally, student consequences may extend beyond a period in redirect and may result in an assignment of In-School-Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, a schedule change, or an amended day.

Office Referrals: Major classroom disruptions and other violations of the Gaston County School's Code of Conduct will be referred to an administrator. Administrators will investigate the issue, meet with the parties involved, and determine an appropriate consequence. Administrators use the Gaston County Schools Code of Conduct as a guide when determining consequences. In addition to this, the student's discipline record will have an impact on the length and severity of the consequence. If an offense is severe and violates a law, the school's resource officer will be involved in the investigation and will determine whether legal charges will be brought against the student. Students with repeated office referrals will be referred to a school-based intervention team in order to develop a behavior intervention plan. Additionally, student consequences range from loss of privileges, In-School-Suspension, Out-of-School

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