

Belmont Middle School

110 North Central Avenue

Belmont, NC 28012

School Phone: (704) 836-9611

Fax Number: (704) 825-6951

Parent - Student Handbook 2019-20 School Year



MISSION STATEMENT

Belmont Middle School is committed to providing a safe environment that promotes learning, academic achievement, and the development of students' strengths and talents.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Belmont Middle School is to achieve academic excellence through rigorous instruction.

OUR BELIEFS

- Learning is a responsibility that is shared among students, staff and parents.
- Our school will provide a safe and caring environment where the enjoyment of learning is promoted.
- Our school will establish and abide by clear and consistent expectations that promote individual responsibility as well as respect for self and others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal:	Susan A. Redmond	Assistant Principal:	Shannon Long
Data Manager:	Anna Shaw	School Counselor (A-L):	Sarah Little
Finance Secretary:	Tammy Heavener	School Counselor (M-Z):	Jennifer Jacobs
Receptionist:	Jennifer Cheshire	Social Worker:	Megan Wilson
Cafeteria Manager:	Lynn Conner	Nurse:	Jessica Absher
Athletic Director:	Carey Galbreath	Media Specialist:	Linda Cathcart
SRO:	Officer Reagan	PTO President:	Ashley Jones

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Belmont Middle School! Our staff are excited about the upcoming year. At BMS, you will learn new concepts in all academic areas, explore related arts and CTE opportunities, make new friends, and create many unforgettable memories.

Our school will help you grow and develop academically and socially. Students will be assigned to a team of teachers. Students will have one block (two 45-minute classes) of core classes such as health and physical education, band, chorus, Spanish, art, or CTE.

We encourage our parents to continue to be involved in your student's education throughout their middle school years. Please join the PTO and volunteer at BMS. Our staff values parental involvement and believes your involvement is essential to ensuring your student's success at BMS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call and make an appointment with your teachers, our assistant principal, or myself. We will be delighted to help assist you and your student. Let's make 2019-2020 the best school year yet! Go Wildcats!

Sincerely,

Susan A. Redmond, Principal

ATTENDANCE

Absences: Students must be present in class a minimum of 1/2 of the day (11:30 a.m.) to be counted present for the day and for the determination of perfect attendance. Students absent from school are responsible for arranging all make-up work with their teachers. *A note must be brought to the office, signed by the parent, or an e-mail to **Anna Shaw**, acshaw@gaston.k12.nc.us, to explain the absence, within 2 days of the absence, for the absence to be excused.* We recognize county approved reasons for absences as an excused absence from school (illness, court, death in family with documentation). Students are responsible for asking their teachers for make-up work.

Arrangements to make up work must be made within **THREE (3)** days of the absence. Parents requesting homework assignments for students who are absent must give a 24-hour notice to the office prior to picking up these assignments. Students are required to be in attendance at least 94% of each school year (only 12 absences allowed per year) to be eligible to pass to the next grade level.

Our School Social Worker, Megan Wilson, **is required** to mail letters to students when they reach 3, 6, and 10 tardy and/or absences. *Please contact her at mwilson@gaston.k12.nc.us for questions, concerns or if assistance is needed.*

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The following summary provides key information on ten significant statements from our Gaston County Schools' Board of Education policy on student attendance. To view the full policy, please visit our GCS website at www.gaston.k12.nc.us

School Day Attendance:

- The school year is 180 days. Students must be in attendance at least 168 days. Only 12 absences, including excused and unexcused absences, are permitted each school year.
- In order for students to benefit from the instructional day, it is important for students to arrive on time and remain at school for the entirety of the school day.
- In order to be recorded present, a student must be present at least one-half of the school day (11:30 a.m.).

Documentation:

- Following any absence(s), a parent or guardian is required to e-mail **Anna Shaw**, acshaw@gaston.k12.nc.us, or send written document stating the reason for the absence(s).
- All absences will be coded unexcused in the computer until an e-mail or written documentation is received from the parent or guardian.
- Written documentation or e-mail must be presented **within two (2) school days** after the student returns to school; otherwise, the absence(s) will be recorded as unexcused.

Communication:

- After each absence, excused or unexcused, the principal or social worker shall inform the parent/guardian/custodian by the way of a personal or computer-generated telephone message.
- Prior to six (6) cumulative absences of any type the school social worker shall notify the parent/guardian by mail for the purpose of sharing information regarding the Gaston County School attendance policy.

Make-Up Work:

- Upon the student’s return to school, arrangements for make-up for excused or unexcused absences shall be made **within three (3) school days**. Due dates for make-up work will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Tardiness: Students must be in class by 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be counted tardy. A note from their parent or guardian stating the date and reason for the tardy should be given to the front office. There are **excused and unexcused** tardies. **Only medical, legal, dental/orthodontist appointments are considered excused. Please bring a note from your appointment to excuse the tardy. The note is to be left in the office when checking in.**

MORNING ARRIVAL, CHECK-OUT, AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Morning Arrival: Students are not to arrive at school prior to 7:00 a.m. All students are to report to the gym. Students who participate in the breakfast program will be directed to the cafeteria at 7:25 a.m.

Leaving School: All students leaving school during the school day must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian. Students may leave with relatives only if the office talks with a parent or the person is listed on the ***Student Information Form***. Students checking out after 11:30 a.m. will be counted present for the day. Students checking out before 11:30 a.m. will be counted absent for the day unless the student returns with a valid excuse.

School Closing: In the event of severely inclement weather or a mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. School closing, delayed starting time, or early dismissal will be announced over the radio and T.V. stations. These reports will be made in the morning beginning at 6 a.m. and also on the evening newscast at 6 and 11 p.m. If no report is heard, it can be assumed that school will be in session. ***Please do not call the school. Telephone lines must be kept open for emergencies!***

Daily Schedule:	Doors Open:	7:00 AM
	First Bell:	7:50 AM
	Tardy Bell:	8:00 AM (tardy if not in class when this bell rings)
	Dismissal Time:	3:10 PM

STUDENTS DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP AREA

Drop Off: Students arriving by car may be dropped off on Central Avenue. If you are driving on the school side (north on Central), please pull over to the curb to drop off your student. If you are headed south, on the opposite side from the school, your child must use one of the crosswalk areas provided for safe crossing. The crosswalk closest to the public library is staffed by a crossing guard provided by the Belmont Police. There is a crosswalk farther south before the traffic light, and students may cross with the traffic light.

Pick-up: Car riders and students walking home are dismissed at 3:10 pm. At that time, all students walking or being picked up, are asked to leave campus as quickly as possible as supervision is limited. **Once you have left campus, you should not return unless it is for a supervised extracurricular activity.** If you are being picked up by someone driving on the school side, (north on Central), that driver is ask to please pull over to the curb to pick up your student. If you are headed south, on the opposite side from the school, your child must use one of the crosswalk areas provided for safe crossing. The crosswalk closest to the public library is staffed by a crossing guard provided by the Belmont police. There is a crosswalk farther south before the traffic light, and students may cross with the traffic light. **For your safety, please do not cross in the middle of the street!** We are very fortunate that First Baptist Church allows parents to park in their back lot to pick up students. You may wish to use this option. Please follow their directional arrows and park in a parking spot (Do not park in a designated parking spot). **Students will exit out the front entrances of the school, not the side or back doors. Parents should not pick-up students on Hill Street or the teacher parking lot (the back side of our school) for safety reasons.**

BUSES

Students who are riding a bus will be dismissed at 3:10. Students riding the bus should *report directly* to the auditorium. **Students who leave campus will not be allowed to return to campus and ride the bus. This is part of our safety plan.** We share buses with our feeder area so our buses arrive after the elementary routes are finished. While waiting for their bus to arrive, students will be seated in an assigned seat/area. Students will follow the established rules/procedures while waiting for their bus. The rules/procedures will be reviewed with students at the beginning of the school year. While on the bus, students are to remain in their seats at all times when the bus is in motion. There is to be no horseplay, unnecessary movement/loud noises or tampering with the bus. No objects shall be thrown within or outside the bus. **All school rules apply on the bus.** Students are to ride only the bus they are assigned and to get off at their assigned stop. Permission for a student to ride a bus other than the assigned bus is not allowed. **Bus riding is a privilege and not a right.** Students who violate the bus rules when riding the bus may be suspended from riding the bus both to and from school.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Parents and/or students are responsible for informing the school of changes in address and/or phone numbers at any time during the school year. Two (2) proofs of address are required to change an address. Emergency phone numbers are needed for prompt notification and handling of accidents or illness.

MEDICAL

Accidents: Any accident on or off of the school grounds at a school-sponsored event must be reported immediately to a BMS staff member. Initial claims for insurance **must be filed by the pupil** within thirty (30) days of the accident. **All claims must be sent to the insurance company by the parent.** Forms may be picked up in the main office.

Medicine: All medicine that can be given outside of school hours without adversely affecting the health of the student should be given at home. When the student must take medication at school, the following requirements apply:

- Medication must be in the original container or pharmacy bottle and clearly labeled.
- Medication can be given only after the parent has presented a permission form.
- All medication that has to be given long term (more than 14 days) must also have physician authorization. This includes over-the-counter medication. An authorization form for the physician may be picked up in the office.
- Parents **must** deliver any medication to the school. Students **cannot** bring medication to school. Parents should also pick up any medication remaining after treatment is completed. All medication will be discarded seven (7) days after the last administration.
- Any medication, whether it is aspirin or prescription medication, must be brought to the office by a parent or guardian. Caffeine pills, sleeping pills, etc. are not allowed on campus. Possession of medication or any other pill or tablet without permission may result in disciplinary action.

Please contact **our school nurse, Jessica Absher at jabsher@gaston.k12.nc.us** for any questions or concerns.

Illness: If a student becomes ill at school, he/she should notify his/her teacher and come to the office immediately. **Do not go into the restroom and remain there alone.**

PERSONAL PROPERTY, LOCKS, AND LOCKERS

Personal Property: All students' personal property must be labeled with the student's name. Students are encouraged to secure all valuables. Do not walk away and leave your valuables unsecured. Students are asked not to bring large amounts of money, expensive jewelry, and other valuables to school.

Lost and Found: All found items are placed in lost and found bins in assigned locations throughout the school. Any found electronic items should be brought to the office. We will hold clothing for approximately four weeks. If these items are not claimed, they will be donated to a charity agency. Electronic items are kept until the end of the school year.

Lockers/Locks: Locks may be purchased at any time. **Only Belmont Middle school issued locks (\$7.00) may be used on school lockers.** For security, students may only use the locker assigned to them. Students are not allowed to share lockers with other students. Students are required to lock their lockers. Do not share lock combinations.

Locker Breaks: Students' team teachers will determine when locker breaks will occur. Students will need to respect the other classes occurring near their lockers during the break. Excessively loud noise will not be tolerated.

COMMUNICATION WITH HOME

Teachers will use e-mail, written notification, and phone calls to communicate with parents on a regular basis. The principal will utilize the ParentLink phone system to announce important news. Also, follow Belmont Middle on the GCS App for regular announcements. Be sure to use your Parent Portal account to monitor your student's progress. ***If you wish to receive e-mail, please send your email address to Anna Shaw, acshaw@gaston.k12.nc.us at the school.*** Be sure to check our website frequently for updates at <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/belmontmiddle>. You may also use the GCS Mobile App to stay up-to-date on BMS events and happenings. This app connects to our Twitter and Facebook accounts and provides parents with easy access to Parent Portal.

TRANSFERS AND WITHDRAWALS

Transfers: Students who move out of the Belmont school district and wish to remain for the year must secure transfer approval through the Student Services Office.

Withdrawals: A student withdrawing from school should go to the counselor to obtain a withdrawal form and check with the librarian, the cafeteria manager, and his/her advisory teacher to see that all debts to the school have been paid. Take your lock to your advisory teacher and the withdrawal form and any books to the teacher. The school counselor will help with this process.

VISITORS

Safety is a top priority at Belmont Middle School. Therefore, anyone not a member of the BMS faculty/staff or student body is considered a visitor. **All visitors must check in at the front office.** Visitors are not allowed anywhere in our building without permission from the office.

FRONT OFFICE

Students should not come to the office between classes. If it is necessary to come to the office, they need to go to their teacher and receive a hall pass for permission to come to the front office. No student may use the office telephone for personal calls--*only for emergencies*. Parents are asked to help their students remember to bring all supplies, PE and athletic clothes, lunch items, homework, etc. needed for the day with them at the beginning of the day so that parents do not have to drop off items during the day.

CAFETERIA

Students may bring a lunch from home or purchase one in the cafeteria. **Food from outside vendors (McDonalds, Subway, Taco-Bell, etc.) is prohibited in the cafeteria. Food may not be delivered to students from outside vendors.** Students are expected to follow all school rules and the cafeteria expectations.

Prices for students 2019-2020 are as follows:

Breakfast		Lunch	
Students:	\$1.20	Paid Students:	\$2.80
Reduced Price Students:	\$0.00	Reduce Price Students:	\$0.40
Adults (staff and visitors):	\$1.50	Adults (staff and visitors):	\$3.75
		Adults Holiday meals:	\$4.00

● Charged Meals

- Students who do not have money or money in their account may charge a meal if their account has not exceeded the \$5.60 limit.
- Students who do not have money and who have exceeded the charge limit may receive a complimentary alternate meal upon request, not to exceed 5 per year.
- Students who have applied for free or reduced price meal benefits are responsible for all charges incurred before their Free and Reduced Meal Applications have been processed and approved at the School Nutrition Center.
- A la carte* items may not be charged.
- Students with a negative balance on their lunch account may not purchase *a la carte* items with the exception of milk, juice, or water.

● Free and Reduced Meal Applications

- Applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, the enrollment department at the Central Office, and at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell
- Only **one application** is required **per household**
- Applications should be returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center – 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC 28098
- Students who received free or reduced priced meals in School Year 2018-2019, will **temporarily** receive free or reduced price meals at the beginning of School Year 2019-2020, however, all households must submit a new application each year and the application must be processed for benefits to continue after the first 30 calendar days of the new school year.
- 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 any member of the household receives Food and Nutrition Services (food stamps), or FDPIR or TANF/Work First benefits, provide the name and case number on the application for the person who receives the benefits. All students listed on that application are categorically eligible for free meals.
- If a student receives Food and Nutrition Services (food stamps) or TANF/Work First benefits and is notified that they have been approved for free meal benefits by way of Direct Certification, an application is not required **for that student**.

● Special Dietary Needs

- Students with medical conditions such as allergies and diabetes may request modification to school meals by completing a Diet Order form.
- Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, School Nurse, School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on the School Nutrition page on the Gaston County Schools website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us).
- The Diet Order form must be signed by a physician and returned to the Cafeteria Manager or School Nutrition Center.
- All students are encouraged to complete a new Diet Order form for each new school year. However, Diet Order forms will remain in effect perpetually until School Nutrition receives signed notification from a physician indicating a change to, or termination of the Diet Order.**

● School Accounts

Check, Cash, or Money Order can be accepted in the school cafeteria. Parents/guardians may utilize **K12PaymentCenter** at www.k12paymentcenter.com to pay with their credit or debit card. This service has expanded to all schools as a means of collecting and managing other school fees.

ASBESTOS

All schools are required to keep on file, for public inspection, a letter concerning the presence of asbestos in the school and the condition of that asbestos. Belmont Middle School's Asbestos Management Plan is available for your inspection in the school's office.

SCHOOL SAFETY EXERCISES

School safety exercises such as fire, lockdown, bus and tornado drills are practiced on a regular basis by the students and by all school personnel. During all drills, students should follow the direction of the teacher and/or BMS staff while moving quickly and quietly. BMS Staff will instruct students as to the procedures of these drills based on their location in the school.

As an additional safety measure, random metal detection will be executed. Students and adults may be randomly scanned as they enter school, during the school day, entering ball games, other school activities, or as needed.

GRADING

Grading Scale	Percentage Breakdown
100 - 90 = A	40 percent - tests (major projects, papers and performances)
89 - 80 = B	30 percent - independent work - (quizzes, classwork, common assessments, etc.)
79 - 70 = C	20 percent - guided work - (group activities, teacher led activities, etc) and
69 - 60 = D	10 percent - homework
Below 60 = F	

Interims will reflect the actual grade, however, the GCS board policy states no grades below 50 may be entered on a report card for any marking periods.

Report Cards: Report cards will be issued to students on **October 31, 2019, January 23, 2020, April 2, 2020, and mailed on June 18, 2020.** It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their parent or guardian receives the report card. **Interim reports will be distributed 4 1/2 weeks into each 9 weeks.**

Cheating: Cheating on school work, tests, projects, etc. will not be permitted. BMS policy on cheating is as follows: All students involved will receive a **zero** on the work in question and the teacher will notify a parent/guardian.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to maintain appropriate dress and appearance that will not, in any manner, disturb or disrupt class or any school-related activities. In today's fashion world, there are many styles available to our students and some of them simply are **not** appropriate for school. Please keep this in mind as you guide your student's selection of school attire. Following is a list of examples of prohibited items, however any dress that school officials deem a disturbance or distraction will not be allowed:

- No tank tops, tube tops, mesh shirts, cut-off T-shirts, backless, halter, spaghetti strap or one-shoulder tops. Hem of shirt must overlap top of pant/skirt/short so not showing stomach or waist. See-through, sheer, and/or lace shirts are not allowed unless layered over another garment that follows dress code. No low/revealing necklines.
- All undergarments should be covered at all times (standing and sitting). This includes top and bottom undergarments.
- Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times.
- No pajamas or bedroom slippers.
- No clothing with indecent language or pictures containing sex, alcohol, drug, or tobacco related messages.
- No headwear (hats, hoods, etc.), bandanas, or sunglasses inside the building or on the bus.

In the event that a student is determined to be in violation of the dress code, or dressed in any way that disrupts school, a parent will be notified. The majority of dress code violations can be prevented before ever coming to school by reviewing the dress code policies frequently and parental monitoring of student attire.

DISCIPLINE

Belmont Middle School follows the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct.. The Student Code of Conduct is reviewed with all students at the start of the school. If a student comes to BMS after the start of the year, the Code of Conduct is reviewed with the student at that time. Students sign that they have reviewed the Code of Conduct once this has taken place. The administration reserves the right to handle discipline issues according to GCS policy including consequences such as Redirect and in/out of school suspension. Parent/guardian will be notified by the teacher when assigning consequences from the classroom level and the administration will make contact when assigning consequences from the office.

Belmont Middle School is continuing to implement a *Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)* this school year. Below is our school-wide expectations for students:

	P Practice Respect	A Always Be Responsible	W Work to Succeed	S Stay Safe
Arrival	*Use kind words *Keep conversations to a Level 1	*Turn off and put away cell phones *Stay seated in your assigned section *Leave no trace *Finish food and drink before entering the building	*Prepare yourself for the day *Use your time wisely (study, finish homework, talk quietly with friends)	*Stay in your seat *Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself *Ask permission before getting objects from under the bleachers.
Hallway / Stairs	*Transition quietly *Maintain personal space *Respect all BMS Staff	*Be efficient *Leave no trace	*Walk with a purpose	*Walk on right side of hallways *Take stairs one at a time
Restroom	*Quick, clean and quiet	*Allow for personal space	*Follow posted maximum of students *Leave no trace	*Report problems immediately to the closest staff member
Walk Time	*Keep hands and feet to yourself *Use kind words *Follow all adult instructions	*Collect your belongings *Use restroom before walk time *Preserve nature as you found it	*Walk with a purpose *Make positive social interactions *Have fun	*Stay on the track *Move in one direction *Walk at a reasonable pace
Assembly	*Be polite to all presenters *Use appropriate voice level	*Ask appropriate questions *Leave no trace	*Watch for attention signal	*Stay seated and use appropriate voice level *Keep hands to self and feet on floor
Reward Recess	*Be a team player *Include others *Practice good sportsmanship	*Return equipment (sign in/out) *Report issues immediately to the nearest staff member *Be accountable for belongings *Use appropriate language	*Follow game rules *Encourage others *Leave no trace	*Enter / exit building calmly *Stay in assigned areas *Close all doors
Cafeteria	*Keeps hands and feet to yourself *Follow outer walls to lunch line *No more than 4 in serving area	*Eat only your own food *Get all items before being seated *Use appropriate voice level	*Leave your area better than you found it *Leave no trace	*Raise your hand for help from staff *Stay seated at assigned area
Dismissal	*Be aware of your surroundings *Respect personal space	*Cell phones off and away until you exit the building *Leave no trace	*Gather all needed materials before leaving *Help others *Walk with a purpose	*Walk calmly in halls and stairwells *Hands, feet, and objects to yourself *Exit through your given path (use appropriate exit)

Redirect: Teachers may send students to Redirect for behaviors that interrupt the instruction of other students. The teacher will continue with the lesson and the student will report to the Behavior Lab for a period of no more than 20 minutes. The student will be expected to reflect on their behavior and complete work while in Redirect. Redirect staff will work with the student to correct the behavior. The teacher assigning the Redirect will contact a parent within 24 hours. When a student has received 3 Redirects, a letter is sent home to

notify the parent that the *next* Redirect will result in one day of ISS (in-school-suspension.) When a student has received 4 Redirects, a letter will be sent home and the student will be assigned to one day of ISS (in-school-suspension).

Behavior Lab: A student who is assigned an in-school suspension by the principal or assistant principal reports to the Behavior Lab teacher.

- The student is counted present for attendance.
- The student receives classroom written assignments and upon satisfactory completion is given credit for the work.
- If a student is assigned to the Behavior Lab for a Redirect or ISS, administration holds the right to have the student not participate in any after school activities.
- Students who cause disruptions while in the Behavior Lab may be assigned OSS.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): A student who is assigned an out-of-school suspension by the principal or assistant principal is sent home and is marked absent (excused absence) for the days suspended. Assignments may be picked up the next afternoon. Students assigned to OSS will not be allowed on any Gaston County School campus during the suspension nor may a student attend any school activity.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Book Bags: Book bags are not allowed in classrooms. All book bags are to be left in lockers. PE clothes may be carried to the gym in a small mesh/cinch bag.

Gum: Students are not to have gum or chew gum at school.

Food and Drink: Students are not allowed to eat snacks outside the cafeteria unless teachers/administration give special permission. Students may take a **clear or tinted bottle containing plain water only** into the classroom. No eating or drinking is allowed in the computer labs, media center, or auditorium. No sharing or selling of food or drinks.

Aerosol: Due to allergies, **aerosol products are not permitted at school.** This includes, but is not limited to, deodorants, hairspray, perfume, body spray, etc.

Cell phones and other Electronic Devices: Before entering the building, students should power off their cell phones and place it in their book bag. **Cell phones and other electronic devices stay in the student's locker during the instructional day.** The only time a student will have permission to take a cell phone in the classroom will be for teacher activities that require students to bring their own device. Should a cell phone or other electronic device be found with a student during the instructional day the following will occur:

*First offense, the item will be sent to the office and the parent must pick it up.

*Second offense, the item will be sent to the office and the parent will need to pick the item up and the student will be assigned one day in-school suspension (ISS).

*Third offense, the item will be sent to the office and the parent must pick the item up and the student will be assigned two days in-school suspension (ISS).

Photographs: Photographs and videos may be taken, by school personnel, of students for internal purposes (end of the year celebration presentations, student of the month, honor roll, etc.), GCS Websites, and other special events. In addition, we may release similar publicity information to the newspapers. Any parent who does not want his/her child to be photographed or videotaped must indicate so on the Student Enrollment Form and/or notify administration. **Students are not allowed to take pictures at school and/or post those pictures to the Internet** unless they have received teacher/administration approval as Yearbook photographers, etc. Students who take pictures at school may be subject to discipline.

Class Tardy: Arrival to class on time is each student's responsibility, and failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Hall Pass: Any student out of class and not with a teacher must have a hall pass in his/her possession.

Physical Contact: Students are expected to keep their hands to themselves. *We were "just playing"* will not be an acceptable excuse. Physical contact may result in disciplinary action.

Displays of Affection: Displays of affection are not appropriate in the school setting and will not be permitted. Students are expected to refrain from all forms of contact. Displays of affection may result in disciplinary action.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Student Services Department: Belmont Middle School offers the services of a counselor to assist each student with personal or school-related concerns. The counselor's office is open before school and after school hours for those who may find it difficult to come during class time. You need a note to come to the counselor's office. Do not hesitate to ask to speak with a counselor. Remember, the counselor's primary purpose is to help students. In addition, we have a school social worker and a school nurse to help meet additional needs for students.

Media Center: The Media Center provides services for the entire school. The center is fully automated to allow student access to books, reference materials, and the Internet. The Media Center is open after morning BTV announcements until 3:10 p.m. every day.

Procedures for use of the Media Center are:

- Students must have a hall pass unless they are with a class.
- Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed.
- A limit of two books may be checked out for a two-week period. Each book may be renewed once.
- Books must be returned when they are due.

- Students are responsible for materials checked out in their names. Intentional defacing or damages caused by negligence may result in a charge to the student.

ATHLETICS

Belmont Middle School's athletic program is designed to enable students to have a well-rounded middle school experience and to participate in various sports. The goal of the athletic program is to provide opportunities for the development of emotional maturity, discipline, a strong work ethic, respect for the game and all the people involved, basic skills, and enjoyment for the students who choose to participate in inter-school athletics. We encourage our student athletes to play hard, play fair with a desire to win, and respect for their fellow teammates and opponents.

Rules for Participating in Athletics: The athletic programs of Belmont Middle School are conducted under the guidelines of Gaston County Schools and the following rules that govern Belmont Athletics. Once a student-athlete has voluntarily given up their position on a team, then he/she will not be eligible to try out for another sport until the former team has completed its season. For example: a student cannot leave the basketball team and join the wrestling team until the basketball season has completed its season. *By state guidelines*, students in grades 6 and above may participate in interscholastic athletic competition, however, **sixth graders may not participate in football**. In order to qualify for middle school participation, a student-athlete must meet the following requirements:

- **Residence:** The student must meet the residence criteria of G.G. 115-366(a) as it appears in the public school laws of North Carolina. **The student may participate only at the school to which the student is assigned by the LEA** or, if over the age requirements, the school which the student would be assigned at the next higher grade level.
- **Legal Birth and Age Limits:** The principal must have evidence of the legal birth date of the student. A student shall not participate on a middle school team if he/she becomes **15 years of age on or before August 31** of said school year.
- **Medical Examination:** In order to be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletic contests, a player must receive a medical examination once every 395 days by a **duty licensed medical physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant**. A copy of this sports physical must be on file at the school.
- **SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS: Local Promotional Policy Code 3420**
A student must pass 3 of 4 academic subjects, including math and language arts. Students should also maintain a passing average in the combined yearly averages of the elective courses. A passing average in the 4th academic class can be substituted for one yearly elective average. **Middle School Eligibility:** To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must pass 3 of 4 core courses from the previous year. The student must also meet local promotional standards for the year. (football, softball, wrestling, boys' soccer, volleyball and golf) To be eligible for the spring semester, a student must pass 3 of 4 core courses from the previous semester. (baseball, track, basketball, and girls' soccer)
- **Attendance Requirements:** A player must have been in **attendance at least 85 percent** of the previous semester. Summer school attendance shall not be counted in determining percentage of attendance of athletic eligibility.
- **Behavior Requirements:**
 - ◆ Students assigned to the in-school suspension (ISS) program may not participate in athletics on the day of the suspension. This non-participation begins immediately upon assignment by the administration and ends when the student athlete has completed the total number of days assigned.
 - ◆ Repeat in-school suspension (ISS) placement may result in suspension from the team.
 - ◆ One out-of-school (OSS) suspension may result in suspension from the team. The student may be ineligible to try out for another sport for the duration of the sport from which he/she was suspended.
 - ◆ Coaches have the right to hold their athletes to their own set of established rules and consequences. These are shared with parents at the parent meetings prior to the start of the sports season. The coach will retain authority to suspend any athlete from games or the team based upon the conduct of the athlete while representing Belmont Middle School.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of the homework is to enhance student achievement by helping students develop good work habits and become self-directed, independent learners. Homework may be assigned to be completed outside the student's day for practice and help in mastering specific skills that have been presented in class.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

HONOR ROLL CELEBRATION: At the end of the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd nine weeks grading period, each grade level will recognize students with all A's or A's & B's with a special honor roll breakfast.

COOL CAT CARD PROGRAM: This program is designed to reward all students based on grades and conduct. These cards will be distributed at the end of each nine weeks. The cards are not transferable to other students and are only valid for the current nine weeks.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Our Student of the Month program recognizes those who have gone above and beyond. Students of the Month are selected by each team of teachers at each grade level. The recipients are recognized and receive special incentive awards.

ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC AWARDS CEREMONIES: These special events will be held to recognize numerous students who have achieved academically or excelled on the playing field. Family and friends will be invited to attend celebrations at the end of the school year.

BETA CLUB: Students are invited to be members of the National Junior Beta Club who have attained a 90% or above average in all subjects, with no grade of "C" in any subject area, have teacher recommendation based on outstanding qualities in character, honesty, citizenship and attitude. The initiation is held in the spring of each academic year.

**BELMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE
2019-2020**

Belmont Middle School welcomes you and your family to our learning community! The teachers, staff, and administration at BMS will work diligently to ensure an optimum education for all students. In order to facilitate this, it is important that all students, with their parent/guardian, read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.

After reading the Belmont Middle School Parent-Student Handbook AND the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct together, BMS asks that both the student and their parent/guardian sign the acknowledgement below and return this form to your student's Advisory teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to a rewarding and successful year!

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we have read, discussed, and understand the policies and procedures explained in the Belmont Middle School Parent-Student Handbook and Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct for 2019-2020 school year. Our signatures indicate our pledge to cooperate between home and school to ensure a safe and effective learning environment for all students and staff at Belmont Middle School.

Student's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Student's Signature/Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature/Date

Grade Level

Team Name