

Bedford High School

Proposed Student Handbook Changes

For the 2023-24 School Year

1. Remove tiers for Honor Roll

- L. Honor Roll A quarterly Honor Roll is based on numerical grades that are calculated in at least four major subjects resulting in the following a grade point averages: First Honors: 90+ Second Honors: 88+ Third Honors: 85 of 90 or above. These averages are calculated by multiplying each grade by the number of periods the course meets per cycle and dividing that total by the total number of periods. Pass/fail courses are not used. Honor roll is published in local newspapers and shared with students' school counselors only.

Rationale: This is a School Council recommendation for three consecutive years. Students advocate for a system that is less about ranking and competition and more about overall achievement and progress.

2. Addition of Residency Policy

Rationale: Approved by School Committee on March 14, 2023 (linked [here](#))

3. Remove Coordination of Major of Assignments

L. Homework Policy At Bedford High School, we aim to cultivate curiosity and resilience, build meaningful connections and promote balance so that students are empowered to live their best lives. Our mission is to inspire our students to strive for and meet the highest levels of academic and personal achievement, while nurturing a respectful, supportive, engaged, curious, and passionate learning community. In order to promote well-being and achievement of all students, Bedford High School is committed to the following practices regarding assignments and assessments: Homework Practices

1. Homework is announced before the end of the class period, both orally and displayed - either on the board or online.
2. Homework is posted online on a platform that is accessible to students and parents/guardians.

3. Homework-free vacations are observed both in practice and in spirit, with no major test or assignment due until at least the third school day following a school vacation (Thanksgiving, December, February, and April breaks).
4. Any student who is unable to attend class or complete homework because of religious and/or cultural beliefs are provided with the time (no less than one week) and the opportunity to make up missed work and/or assessments.
5. No Homework Nights are observed for students taking the ELA MCAS in March, math MCAS in May, and science MCAS in June. Students taking MCAS retests are provided with the time (no less than one week) and opportunity to make up missed work and/or assessments.

~~Assessment calendar / HW Policy~~

- ~~○ For Major classes, summative assessments (tests, projects, essays) given/due during the final six days prior to vacations, at the end of quarters, and before exams shall be coordinated as follows:~~
 - ~~i. English, science, and world language classes. due on day 1, 2, or 3~~
 - ~~ii. Math, social studies, and any other major class. due on day 4, 5, or 6~~

Rationale: There were many challenges with the coordination of tests and major assignments policy. Students often asked educators to ignore the policy so that they could test the day after a review. There was loss of instructional time due to the limitations posed by the calendar. Bedford High School will create a new assessment calendar for the 2023-2024 school year over the summer and implement it for the 2023-2024 school year. Students and teacher feedback will be solicited at the mid-year mark. Adjustments will be made if necessary. A new assessment policy will be proposed in May 2024.