



Dear Bedford High School parents and guardians:

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2019-20 school year! As we gear up for a successful year, we want to highlight some important items from the Student Handbook. Please note that the entire handbook can be found at www.bedfordps.org/BHS/handbook.

ALICE Training

Bedford Public Schools participates in ALICE training to respond to potential crisis situations. Throughout the course of the year, BHS will conduct a series of drills aimed at preparing the students and staff to respond to a variety of situations. An email will be sent following each drill. Please be assured that we take your child's safety seriously; these drills are conducted in the best interest of all involved.

Attendance

To be successful at BHS, students need to be in school to participate in valuable learning experiences. Our goal is to work with students and support their growth by using a variety of interventions to promote regular attendance in school. In the event that students achieve excessive absences or tardies, there are consequences that may include detention, suspension, and loss of privileges (e.g., parking, attendance at school events).

Community Service

As a graduation expectation, students must complete 20 hours of community service. The community service requirement also appears on student transcripts. Beginning this year, students can accumulate those hours over the course of their entire high school career rather than just during senior year, which has been the past practice. Please make sure to keep track of your hours and submit them to our community service coordinators, Ms. Faulstich and Ms. Creamer. Further details on community service and the changes will be explained at our opening class assemblies.

Safety

School safety is our leading priority and something BHS reviews regularly in conjunction with the District Crisis Team and Town agencies. We wanted to offer three points of emphasis for this year:

- Exterior cameras have been installed around the high school campus. They will provide added security for our students and faculty as well as assist in investigations conducted by administration.
- Students who leave campus without permission may be subject to consequences outlined in the Student Handbook. Further, students who return to school during an unauthorized absence may be subject to a search.

- After 7:45 AM, the building is locked and all students and visitors must enter the building through the main entrance and check in with the office. Please note that this policy includes seniors coming in during flex block and students returning from internships. To be clear: **every student entering the building after 7:45 AM must enter through the main entrance and check in with the office.**
- Students may not allow other students or individuals into the building at any time. Students who permit others to enter the building through alternative means may be subject to consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

Searches

As a means of safeguarding all students and staff, students may be subject to a search of their belongings if there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of the law or school rules has occurred. Should a student refuse to comply with a search once reasonable suspicion has been established, the student is then required to leave the building and subject to a 10-day suspension, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Vaping & Restrooms

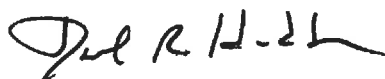
Vaping is absolutely prohibited at BHS. Beginning this year, students found to be vaping or in possession of items appertaining to vaping will face a suspension from school. In addition, it is important that students are able to use restrooms without having to deal with individuals or groups of students engaging in vaping or other such activities. Therefore, students are to refrain from congregating in restrooms. Going forward, the act of loitering in a restroom constitutes reasonable suspicion and may result in students being subject to searches.

Video Recording

With the proliferation of electronic devices, we have also seen a rise in students and faculty that have been recorded and had images and/or videos of them distributed without their consent. All of our stakeholders should feel safe and comfortable within our school. Students who are involved in these types of infractions may be subject to consequences, including detentions, suspension from school, and confiscation of electronic equipment used in the event.

We look forward to partnering with all of our students, families, faculty, and staff to ensure the safety of all parties, so that teaching and learning can continue to thrive at Bedford High School.

Sincerely,



Dan Hudder
Assistant Principal



Tom Casey
Assistant Principal