

BMS Handbook Changes for 2022/2023

June 8, 2022

General: Updated all 21/22 dates to 22/23, updated staff names as needed, updated calendars. Will update page numbers on Index once these changes are approved.

Page 10: Under **Bemidji Middle School Attendance Policy - Teacher/School Responsibilities** section, *Removed the following bullet point #7:*

- ~~7. Teachers should have students and parents sign a verification form stating they have received, read and understand the attendance policy.~~

Page 11: Under **Interventions and Reporting:**

Updated the Attendance Review Team (ART) members:

The Attendance Review Team (ART) is made up of the principals, counselors, social worker, truancy intervention coordinator, ~~**Indian Education Home School Liaison**~~ etc. BMS Offers a volunteer Beltrami County truancy/tracker program by parent or school request.

Page 13: Under **BUS REGULATIONS** –

Added a bullet point:

- No friends will be allowed on the bus. The bus drivers will not accept notes written by parents or school staff. This would include birthday parties, sleepovers, etc.
- Students will be instructed to return to the school building and may miss their assigned bus ride.
- Students will not be transported to locations for work, music lessons, driver education, etc. The bus drivers will not accept notes written by parents or school staff. Students will be instructed to return to the school building and may miss their assigned bus ride.
- ***Incidents that happen on the bus may be referred to our Code of Conduct.***
- Any violations of these provisions may result in loss of bus privileges on all buses.

Page 13: Under **CAFETERIA CONDUCT** –

Added the following wording:

Student behavior in the cafeteria is based on courtesy and cleanliness. You are responsible for cleaning up your table and the area around it. Students remain in the cafeteria/outside until they are dismissed for their next class. Upon arriving to the cafeteria they should get all of their food and sit down. They should remain seated until they are dismissed. Students who throw food ***and/or leave their area in a mess*** may receive 1-3 days lunch detention, loss of privileges, and/or will be asked to clean up their mess.

Parents/guardians may request permission to eat lunch with their child.

Page 15-16: Under **DRESS GUIDELINES** –

Updating the Dress Code Guidelines:

~~All of the attitudes and behaviors of students and staff contribute to the climate of the Middle School. Individual student dress and the appearance of students contribute to a school climate in a positive or negative manner.~~

~~Wearing apparel and hair shall be neat, clean, safe and should not disrupt the instructional process.~~

~~Staff members who feel a student is dressed inappropriately will refer student to the office. Students not adhering to this dress code will be asked to change into appropriate clothing, have a parent conference, be assigned detention/ Room 1004 and/or will be sent home.~~

~~The following are examples of unacceptable dress/clothing:~~

- ~~• Caps, hats, hoods, bandanas~~
- ~~• Backless, low cut, off shoulder shirts, spaghetti straps, midriff shirts, or any see-through garments~~
- ~~• Dresses or shorts no shorter than four inches above the knee (the length of a folded sheet of 8 1/2 by 11" paper)~~

- Clothing with holes or cutouts including holes in jeans 4" and up from the knee
- Visible underclothing, including bra straps and underwear
- Apparel that is sexually suggestive or that features crude/vulgar printing or pictures that depict drugs, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, racial/ethnic slurs or gang affiliation
- Any gang related apparel
- Baggy pants and shorts worn below the waist
- Extra long belts and chains
- Bare feet, stocking feet or slippers

Wearing or carrying coats, backpacks, flags, blankets or sling bags during school hours

New Guidelines:

Our district mission statement outlines that each person will show sensitivity and respect for self and others and there are expectations of quality for ourselves and for others. At BMS, we believe our school to be a professional setting first and foremost. As such, BMS has expectations of student dress that seeks to align with a professional setting, student development, and self-expression. These dress guidelines seek to set the standard of quality, professionalism, and respect at BMS regarding student dress.

Professional dress at BMS means:

- ***Clothing without holes***
- ***Clothing is worn in a way that does not limit the student from being identified by adults***
- ***Clothing covers all private body parts and underwear is not showing***
- ***Appropriate footwear is worn at all times***
- ***Clothing does not call into question the student's professionalism or negatively affects school culture/climate***

Unacceptable student dress:

- ***Hoods, hats, masks (without medical purpose), face paint or facial coverings that cause students to be less identifiable.***
- ***Clothing depicting violence, pornography, alcohol, drugs, and/or gang affiliation.***
- ***Clothing depicting graphics or language that are racist or derogatory towards any group.***
- ***Clothing that creates a safety hazard for the student in their learning environment (i.e. baggy clothing during science class or shop class, no shoes while outside or in the building, wearing flags or capes that could cause someone to trip.)***
- ***Items of clothing that could be a safety concern for self or others or could be capable of damage to school property (i.e. chains, spike necklaces)***
- ***Visible undergarments or private areas of the student's body showing (groin, buttocks, chest)***

If any teacher or staff member brings it to the attention of administration, administration may use any of the following to address the concern: allow the student to change clothes, provide alternative clothing if available, parent phone call, room 1004, after school detention or out of school suspension due to willful repeated offenses.

Page 16: Under **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** –

Updated to the following wording:

Due to the age and developmental level of our students, and the disruptions/distractions cell phones and smart technology devices may cause, all cell phones and smart devices are to be kept in the student's locker during the school day. From 8:35am-3:20pm, all cell phones and smart technologies ***should not be out or used*** ~~are NOT allowed to be on their person.~~ At the request of a staff member to student, any cell phone or smart technology (***including headphones, ear buds, etc***) seen during the school day will be asked to be placed in their locker. If the student refuses or is continually found in non-compliance, the item in question may be confiscated by the staff member and the parent/guardian will need to pick up the item from the office.

Page 19: Under **GROUP DISORDERLY CONDUCT**–

Added the following wording:

Group disorderly conduct is defined as riotous, rowdy, disruptive or unruly conduct that breaks up the order or progress of the educational process, or school sponsored or directed activities, where two or more persons are involved and/or act in concert including gang related behavior or attire. ***These actions would be referred to the Code of Conduct.***

Page 20: Under MID-TERM REPORTS –

Updated the wording:

Mid-term Reports will be given to all students *and can also be accessed using Family Access*. Families are encouraged to follow student progress on Family Access *throughout the school year*. To register for Family Access, apply online through our website or contact the ~~transportation department at 218-333-3225~~ *District Registrar's office at 218-333-3100 ext. 31134 for access.*

Page 20: Under NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY –

Updating the Criteria and Name:

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

~~—Selection for membership in Junior National Honor Society is by a faculty Council and is based on outstanding character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.~~

NJHS Selection Process

~~To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a student during second semester 6th grade, 7th grade, or 8th grade. Candidates must have been in attendance at BMS the equivalent of one semester.~~

~~Scholastic eligibility for membership shall be a cumulative average of at least B+, or 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). In addition, prospective members must earn no grade lower than a B in any class. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.~~

~~The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. The Middle School office will provide disciplinary information to the Faculty Council to assist them in their selection process.~~

~~All students meeting the minimum standards for scholarship will be notified by the chapter regarding their eligibility to apply for membership.~~

~~In addition to the minimum standards for scholarship, all applicants must submit documentation (student activity information form) of active membership in at least two teams, groups, clubs, organizations or activities. One of these must be school related (sports team, music group, club, student council, etc.) and one must be non-school related (community clubs, organizations or teams, boy or girl scouts, 4-H, church groups, etc.)~~

~~As a part of the application process, students will need to submit two references from teachers or other adult leaders, other than parents, addressing the candidate's character.~~

~~A more complete description of this process may be found in the Bemidji Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society By-Laws, Article VI: Selection of Members. The by-laws are available in the middle school office.~~

NJHS Dismissal Procedures

~~Students falling below the selection standards (GPA, character, service requirements) will be warned in writing. The warning will include the nature of the violation, a time period given for improvement and the possible consequences for non-improvement. This letter will also be sent home.~~

~~Beginning with the second offense, the student will receive a written notification of their pending dismissal. This letter will also be sent home. At this point, a conference between the student and the faculty council may be requested by either party (student or faculty advisor).~~

~~The faculty council will vote on all dismissal cases. A majority vote and principal approval is required for dismissal. The student, parent/guardian and principal will receive written notification of the decision. A student who is dismissed may appeal the decision to the principal and beyond under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.~~

~~Upon notification of dismissal, the membership card and emblem must be returned to the chapter advisor or principal. A student who has been dismissed may not apply to be a member of the National Junior Honor Society in the future.~~

~~A more complete description of this process may be found in the Bemidji Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society By-Laws, Article VII: Discipline and Dismissal. The by-laws are available in the middle school office.~~

MINNESOTA JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY - (MJrHS)

Selection of membership in Minnesota Junior Honor Society is by a faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Once selected, members have a responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

MJrHS Selection Process

To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a student for three semesters at Bemidji Middle School. Scholastic eligibility for membership shall be a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.6 for entering 7th grade and 3.5 for entering 8th grade (on a 4.0 scale). In addition, prospective members must earn no grade lower than a B in any class. Candidates will also be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. The Middle School office will provide disciplinary information to the Faculty Council to assist them in their selection process.

All students meeting the minimum standards for scholarship will be notified by the chapter regarding their eligibility to apply for membership.

In addition to the minimum standards for scholarship, all applicants must submit documentation (student activity information form) of active membership in at least two teams, groups, clubs, organizations or activities. One of these must be school related (sports team, music group, club, student council, etc.) and one must be non-school related (community clubs, organizations or teams, boy or girl scouts, 4-H, church groups, etc.)

As a part of the application process, students will need to submit two references from teachers or other adult leaders, other than parents, addressing the candidate's character.

MJrHS Dismissal Procedures

- A written description of the discipline and dismissal procedures will be made available to all interested parties.
- A member who drops below the original standards of acceptance in the MJrHS will be given a warning and a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency.
- A member who violates a school's Code of Conduct may face immediate dismissal from the MJrHS by action of the faculty committee.
- A member of MJrHS who receives a warning or faces dismissal shall have the right to a hearing before the faculty committee. This meets the criteria of due process.
- For purposes of a warning or dismissal, a majority vote of the faculty committee is required.
- A member who has been warned or dismissed may appeal to the principal of the school for a final decision.

Page 22: Under OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION –

Added the following sentence:

A student/parent/guardian is responsible for gathering any missed work.

Page 22: Under PHYSICAL EDUCATION GUIDELINES –

Updated the following wording:

We will be going outside as much as possible, please make sure to have the appropriate attire for Minnesota Weather.

Phy Ed dress code: separate attire for physical education

- ~~T-shirts with sleeves, shorts, or sweats.~~
- ~~Shorts need to be fingertip length or longer.~~
- ~~Athletic shoes with shoes tied tight. No sandals or clog shoes.~~
- 1. ***Crew Neck T-shirts with Sleeves, Shorts or Pants that meet the BMS dress code.***
- 2. ***Shorts must be longer than fingertip length and follow the BMS dress code.***
- 3. ***Athletics shoes with laces that can be tied. No crocs, slip on vans, cowboy boots, Dude shoes, etc.***
- 4. One-piece suit and towel for swimming class.
- If you are gone from class for any reason (besides school sponsored sport activities):
 - Make up assignments for an ***Excused Absence will consist of:*** ~~will include:~~
 - 40 minutes of activity (***PER DAY MISSED***) written down and signed by your parent/guardian.
 - Ex: walking dog, raking leaves, biking, push-ups etc.
 - Must be turned in ***before MidTerm/End of Term 2*** ~~Phy Ed days after absence.~~
 - If unable to participate because of an injury, see your teacher for more options.

