

Middle School Handbook Recommendations - June 2024

The following areas of addition, modification, and deletion are based on recommendations from the MSHSL, updated MN Statutes, and current patterns of student behaviors. Upon approval, the handbook would be updated with the designated information and formatting and page numbers would be adjusted.

Table of Contents - change page numbers and formatting will be updated once the 2024-2025 handbook is confirmed by the School Board.

P. 4 - Updated BMS Letter

P. 5 - Updated building wide schedule

P. 6 - Updated language

The curriculum provided to students in grades 6-8 is aligned with the Minnesota State Standards, taking into account the unique needs of young adolescent learners. Progress reports will be accessible to students and parents/guardians midway through each trimester, while grades will be officially reported at the end of each trimester. ~~The course of study delivered to students in grades 6-8 is aligned to the Minnesota State Standards with consideration given to the specific needs of young adolescent learners. Progress reports will be available for students and parents/guardians at the mid-trimester point, and grades will be reported at the end of each Trimester.~~

P. 7 - Include description of DIG Courses

P. 7 - Grading Parameters - adjusted language to be more accurate.

Summative Assessment: (70%) Work conducted when a student has had adequate instruction and practice to be responsible for the material. Summative assessments are generally given at the end of the course, unit or lesson. Summative assessments provide students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned (added language) (i.e. final drafts, tests, exams, assignments, projects, performances). Summative Assessment will account for approximately 70% of the trimester/course grade.

Formative Assessment: (30%) Work conducted when a student is still learning the material. Formative assessments are generally given during instruction with the primary goal of improving or modifying instruction to promote student achievement of intended learning outcomes. (added language) (i.e. teacher observation, quizzes, homework, rough drafts, peer editing, and/or notebook checks). *Once the Summative for the concept has been completed, Formatives can no longer be turned in for credit.*

P. 9 - ~~or entered as an asterisk.~~

P. 9 - Remove - Incomplete Summative assessments should be recorded as missing, and will be marked as a zero or entered as an asterisk. Teachers will make every effort to make sure that opportunities are provided for students to complete required (assessed) learning.

P. 9 - ADD - **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

Google classroom is our learning management system for Becker Middle School. Google Classroom serves as our digital home for each class period. Resources, assignments, announcements are found here. Staff may grade within Google Classroom, communicate with students, and provide feedback throughout the school year.

P. 9 LEARNING TARGETS

Identified standard based skills that students will be focused on for a specific lesson or specified learning time. Learning targets are directly linked to priority standards.

P. 10 - Remove - Make sure you start your research early! Give yourself plenty of time.

- Make sure you take notes accurately. Use a highlighter to mark exact quotes and unique phrases that should be in quotation marks.
- Make sure that you have accurately recorded bibliographic information for all sources used in your research
- Make sure you clearly indicate where the information came from, source and page number.

P. 11 - Remove Incidents of cheating or plagiarism can have serious consequences.

P. 11 - ADD Students are required to be in class by the beginning of the 8:08 announcements.

P. 12 - ADD Students who are on an individual plan may have stipulations identified for the ability to make up work per administration approval.

P. 16 - ADD

PERSONAL DEVICE EXPECTATIONS

Students are allowed to bring personal devices such as cell phones, smart watches, and earbuds to school. However to minimize distractions, encourage student "Face-to-Face" interactions, prevent inappropriate behavior, and promote personal responsibility: ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP THEIR PHONES IN THEIR LOCKERS AT ALL TIMES.

Students are allowed to check phones for a limited amount of time during passing time, before school, and with staff permission.

In order for students to be fully engaged and attentive during the school day, students are only allowed to use earbuds/headphones for school related activities as directed by staff members.

Students who have a wearable device are responsible to set their device on "silent mode" or "do not disturb mode" during the school day. Students that use a wearable device as a communication tool during the school day will lose the privilege of having them on their person during the school day and will be treated similarly to our cell phone expectations.

Students who have a medical condition supported by a physician's directive will be allowed to have their personal device on their person. The phone will only be used as a medical assistance device. Students and families must communicate with administration regarding the device.

P. 16 Remove - Only use your locker, Personal cell phones are required to remain in student lockers. Use your hall locker for necessities; clothing, books, cell phones, and supplies. Keep trips to your locker within reasonable guidelines, Keep your locker orderly so you can find what you need.

P. 17 ADD and delete old bullet points. Each student is assigned a school-owned locker, which may be inspected by staff if necessary. School bags and personal cell phones must be kept in lockers, which should not be written on or lined with stickers. Students are responsible for any repair or replacement costs of locks or lockers and must keep combinations private. Only use your assigned locker and school-issued locks. Spray bottles and similar items can only be used in the locker room, and no open food or beverages are allowed. Maintain an orderly locker and ensure it is locked before leaving. Report any issues with lockers immediately. Locker privileges may be revoked if misused.

P. 17 ADD and delete old bullet points We expect honesty from our students. They should only use items with the owner's permission and bring found items to the office. Being responsible and using common sense helps prevent theft. Do not share your locker combination, leave belongings unattended, or bring expensive items or large sums of money to school. Store all band instruments in the designated band room locker. Students are responsible for their belongings, and the school is not liable for lost or stolen items. Report any theft immediately to the office or a teacher. Video cameras are strategically placed throughout the school to aid investigations and promote safe behavior.

P. 18 - ADD -Posters for school-related and for non school-related activities require administration approval. All posters must be removed immediately after the publicized event is over and should not be placed on display cases.

P. 19 - ADD/CHANGE - Clothing where the buttocks or excessive torso is exposed are not allowed. Sleeveless shirts must have straps at least 2 inches wide, spaghetti straps are not allowed. Clothing where undergarments are exposed are not allowed. This includes no bare backs, bare full shoulders, no low cut shirts and no midriffs or undergarments exposed. Pants are to be worn at the waist. Clothing where the entire thigh is exposed such as micro minis or short shorts. Pajamas, capes, costumes, flags, blankets are not to be worn. "Pajama Day" or "Costume Day" are the only exceptions specifically designated spirit week days indicated by student council and administration approval.

P. 22 - REMOVE, already located in a new location in handbook. Students are required to keep personal mobile devices in lockers during the school day.

P. 24 REMOVE The Middle School building will be locked from 8:20 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

P. 25 SIMPLIFY - Activity Nights are sponsored by the Middle School Student Council and held on Friday nights as scheduled by administration. Students in grades 6-8 at Becker Middle School, including home school students in the Becker School District, can attend. Home school students must have parents contact the middle school office in advance to confirm expectations and provide contact information. To ensure a safe and fun environment, only BMS students can attend, and guests from other schools or grades are not allowed. Students not in the student council must leave after school and return when the event starts. Students absent due to illness on the day of the event cannot attend. Attendance is a privilege and may be revoked for inappropriate behavior.

P. 26 update Fee structures - Middle School Extracurricular Fees

- Middle School Fine Arts: ~~\$85~~ \$95
- Middle School Athletics: ~~\$135~~ \$150
- 2024-2025 FAMILY MAXIMUM for activities: ~~\$700~~ \$900

P. 28 - SIMPLIFY to read -

Our Media Center boasts a vast collection of 18,000+ books, including fiction and nonfiction. The Media Center is a resource for studying and recreational reading, and staff are available to assist with finding information or book recommendations. While quiet conversation is allowed, the library is primarily for focused work and reading, not socializing. Students must return or renew materials on time to avoid limitations on borrowing. The library is open from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm on most school days, and passes are required during class time. Students are encouraged to visit before school, during lunch, or after school to enjoy the welcoming environment, including a cozy reading lounge. Students are expected to follow the 3 R's and the Media Center Matrix while being in the media center, before, during and after school.

P. 27 ADD **CAFETERIA/COMMONS:**

BMS cafeteria/commons area is utilized before, during and after the school day. Students who are utilizing this space are expected to follow the 3 R's as well as specific items below:

- Abiding by the rules and procedures that are required while in the BMS cafeteria/commons area.
- Waiting patiently at the table until dismissed and waiting in line, using appropriate manners while obtaining food.

- Cleaning up after themselves by disposing of trash and returning trays and utensils to designated areas.
- Respecting the personal space and property of others.
- Using indoor voices and avoiding disruptive behavior.
- Refraining from running, roughhousing, or engaging in any unsafe activities.
- During the school day, we ask students to not have soda or energy drinks during the school day. Those items need to be kept closed in student lockers.
- Due to allergies and social dynamics, students are responsible for their own food and not sharing with other students (ie: potlucks/large quantities of junk food).
- All food and drinks must remain in the designated cafeteria or commons area; they are not permitted outside of these areas. Juice and other non-water liquids are prohibited in classrooms to prevent messes and attract insects.
- Outside food vendors may not deliver during the school day unless part of a school-sponsored activity. Parents/guardians will be allowed to drop off food for their students only.

END OF HANDBOOK

Update iPad agreement information.

Update Testing graphs.