

2026-27 Buffalo High School/Phoenix Learning Center Student Handbook Changes:

Pg. 9 - Adjust: Academic Requirements

● GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each trimester course at BHS will earn a student $\frac{1}{2}$ credit toward graduation. Students must take a minimum number of total credits and earn credits within a number of required areas set forth by the BHM School Board and the MN Department of Education. ~~Due to the recent transition from a four quarter schedule to a three trimester schedule, each graduating class has slightly different requirements.~~ Students must earn 27.5 credits from a total of 30 credits possible. See a summary below:

~~———— Class of 2026 — 28 credits needed of 30.5 possible~~

~~———— Class of 2027 & 2028 — 27.5 credits needed of 30 possible~~

~~Students will be notified of specific course requirements for each grade level as the district, in accordance with state statutes, determines them.~~ Students are required by Minnesota State law to demonstrate satisfactory completion of the credit requirements set forth and their understanding of academic standards in order to receive a public high school diploma.

Pg. 11 - Clarify: Academic Information

● ONLINE or ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Unless explicitly stated by the teacher of a class, the use of online or artificial intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT, to create content demonstrating student learning will be considered academic dishonesty. Unless directed otherwise, students may use AI tools to assist with brainstorming, outlining, or refining ideas, but students must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Attribution: Any content or ideas must be transparently acknowledged and cited following the course or teacher's guidelines.
- Student Accountability: Students maintain full responsibility for the accuracy, ethical quality, and reliability of their submitted work.
- Learning Verification: Upon request, students must be prepared to verify the authenticity of their work, share any prompts used to generate content, and explain their process for utilization to demonstrate authentic learning.

Pg. 11 - Adjust: Academic Information

● ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES

All students intending to participate in co-curricular activities must meet minimum academic guidelines for eligibility. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a student being ineligible until they have successfully demonstrated they can meet academic expectations.

Minimum academic guidelines for co-curricular participants include making satisfactory progress towards graduation. This is defined as having enough credits in order to graduate on time during a student's 12th grade year.

In addition to meeting credit requirements, students who are struggling with academics or attendance may be subject to activities-related discipline, including loss or practice or playing/performance time at the discretion of the activities department and team officials.

Pg. 16-17 - Adjust: Expected Behaviors and Requirements

● CELL PHONES, SMART WATCHES, AND EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES

Readily available technology can be a powerful asset when it comes to student learning and building real-world connections. Also, there is significant research to support the concern that personal devices, such as cell phones, continuously connected to social networks, are a challenging distraction to teens and adults alike and, in many cases, negatively impact student academic performance, classroom environment, social interaction with peers, and individual

mental health. BHS will take necessary measures to help promote a distraction-free classroom environment where students can thrive personally and academically.

General Guidelines

All students are expected to have daily access to a charged learning device, not a cell phone. If a student needs access to a chromebook, these are available through Buffalo High School. Students may NOT use cell phones, smart watches, earbuds/headphones, other personal electronic devices during class time - bell to bell. Students may only use these devices if they have the expressed permission of the teacher, within the classroom, and it is being used for academic tasks only. Personal device use is limited to before and after school, during passing time, and the cafeteria during lunch.

Starting this fall, all personal electronic devices must be stored in a teacher-determined location (e.g. pocket chart), or stowed in a backpack or locker during all class periods. school hours. Students do NOT need a cell phone at school. Students are welcome to leave their phones at home or in their vehicles. If a student chooses to bring their phone into school, they must place their phone in the dedicated location during class. Buffalo High School and staff are not responsible for lost or broken cell phones, airpods, headphones, or other personal electronics. If you are concerned about the well-being of your devices, we recommend that they are not brought to school.

Consequences

If any electronic device, including a cell phone, is seen or heard during school hours, without teacher/staff approval, excluding lunch and passing time, it can be confiscated by any staff member.

- *First Infraction: The student will be directed to bring their device to the office and may pick it up at the end of the day.*
- *Second Infraction: A parent/guardian must pick up the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.*
- *Third Infraction: Cell phone plan created. Phone may be held by administration during days or not allowed on site. Parents/Guardians devise a plan together with school administration.*