



BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2017-2018

**BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL**

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[www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net)

School Hours: 7:55 a.m. to 3:36 p.m.

Eric P. Cormier, Principal  
Nanette Kubena, Counselor  
Janette Demny, Secretary  
Rachel Martinez, Registrar

**STUDENT'S NAME:**

*Excellence in Education Since 1974*

*Revised 01/10/2018*

## General Information

### Brazos Independent School District Board of Trustees

President: Matthew Demny Vice-President: Myles Marek

Secretary: Chris Nanez

Members: Mark Fernandez, Wayne Jetelina, Felix Martinez, II & Brian Demny

Board Meetings are held every fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Brazos Independent School District Administration Building.

### Superintendent: Brian Thompson

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Phone Number: (979) 478-6551

bthompson@brazosisd.net

Principal: ----- Eric P. Cormier – [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net)

Counselor: ----- Nanette Kubena – [nkubena@brazosisd.net](mailto:nkubena@brazosisd.net)

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Registrar: ----- Rachel Martinez – [rachel.martinez@brazosisd.net](mailto:rachel.martinez@brazosisd.net)

District Librarian:----- Jill Hutchins – [jhutchins@brazosisd.net](mailto:jhutchins@brazosisd.net)

Nurse: ----- Kim Fischer – [kfischer@brazosisd.net](mailto:kfischer@brazosisd.net)

Athletic Director: ----- Ned Barrier – [nbarrier@brazosisd.net](mailto:nbarrier@brazosisd.net)

Girls Athletic Coordinator: -----Deena Kolafa – [dkoloafa@brazosisd.net](mailto:dkoloafa@brazosisd.net)

Band Director: -----Cody Jamison – [cjamison@brazosisd.net](mailto:cjamison@brazosisd.net)

District Technology Director: ----- Eric Stuessel – [estuessel@brazosisd.net](mailto:estuessel@brazosisd.net)

District Food Service Director: ----- Georgina Matula – [gmatula@brazosisd.net](mailto:gmatula@brazosisd.net)

District Webmaster: ----- Lisa Kanak – [lkanak@brazosisd.net](mailto:lkanak@brazosisd.net)

UIL Coordinator: ----- Chad Divin – [cdivin@brazosisd.net](mailto:cdivin@brazosisd.net)

Cheerleading Sponsor: -----Teresa Ressler – [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net)

FFA Sponsor: ----- Lauren Grigar – [lgrigar@brazosisd.net](mailto:lgrigar@brazosisd.net)

FFA Sponsor: ----- Ross Sheffield – [rsheffield@brazosisd.com](mailto:rsheffield@brazosisd.com)

## **School Spirit**

**School Mascot:** Cougar

**School Colors:** Red, Black, & White

**School Motto:** Excellence in Education

### **School Song**

Brazos High forever,

That is our name.

Never, oh never

Will we lose our fame.

Rah, rah, rah!

So we cheer forever,

Champions we'll be.

For we are bound together until eternity.

PRIDE days: Students and staff wear red, black, and/or white each Friday to promote spirit.

## Acknowledgment Form

My child and I have received a copy of the Brazos High School Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2017-18. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook or the Code of Conduct, I should direct those questions to the Brazos High School principal, Eric P. Cormier, at (979) 478-6832 or [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net).

Printed name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to your child's school*

### **Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook**

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of or to electronically access at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net) the Brazos High School Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2017-18.

I have chosen to:

- ☐ Receive a paper copy of the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.
- ☐ Accept responsibility for accessing the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct by visiting the web address listed above.

I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook or the Code of Conduct, I should direct those questions to the principal, Eric P. Cormier at (979) 478-6832 or [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net).

Printed name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to your child's school*

**Directory Information Waiver 2017-2018****Release of Directory Information**

In accordance with Board Policy concerning Public Information and the Open Records Act, certain school records called directory information may be released to the public, upon request, without your consent unless you have previously instructed the school not to release them. The only directory information that would be released by the Brazos I. S. D. is your child's name, phone number and address. All student records including the names, addresses, and phone numbers of students are available to authorized school personnel for school use only.

1. Your child's name may appear on the Honor Roll List.
2. Your child's picture may appear in the yearbook.
3. Scholarship information concerning your child may be shared with colleges and universities.
4. Your child's name may be listed in programs such as plays and sporting events which may include weight and height of athletic team members.
5. Your child may be recognized in District publications, video and audio productions, as well as area newspapers and other news media. This may include news items relating to your child's school work, academic, athletic, or other achievements.
6. Your child's work may be displayed at District sponsored contests and exhibitions.

**SCHOOL USE**

Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_      Directory information listed in items 1-6 may be released about my child.

Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_      Your child's name, picture and work produced by your child may appear on websites maintained by the District. This may include news items relating to your child's schoolwork, academic, athletic, or other achievements.

**NON-SCHOOL USE**

Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_      Directory information, which is my child's name, address, and phone number may be released for non-school use (i.e. vendors, sales persons).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Campus Attending

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please return this form, completed and signed, to the office at your child's campus.*

## Información del Directorio Renuncia 2017-2018

**Divulgación de Información del Directorio**

De conformidad con la Política del Consejo relativa a la Ley de Registros Abiertos de Información Pública, ciertos registros escolares llamados información de directorio pueden ser compartidos con el público a pedido, sin su consentimiento, a menos que usted haya instruido previamente que la escuela no de la información. La única información de directorio que sería compartida por el distrito de Brazos es el nombre, número de teléfono, y la dirección de su niño(a). Todos los expedientes de los estudiantes, incluyendo los nombres, direcciones y números telefónicos serán disponibles para el personal autorizado de la escuela para uso de la escuela.

1. El nombre de su hijo puede aparecer en la lista de cuadro de honor.
2. El foto de su hijo puede aparecer en el anuario.
3. La información sobre becas en relación con su hijo puede ser compartida con los colegios y universidades
4. El nombre de su hijo puede aparecer en programas tales como obras de teatro y eventos deportivos que pueden incluir el peso y estatura de los miembros del equipo de atletismo.
5. Su hijo puede ser reconocido en publicaciones del Distrito, vídeo y producciones de audio, así como periódicos de la zona y otros medios de comunicación. Esto puede incluir noticias relacionadas con el trabajo escolar de su hijo, información académica, y actividades deportivas u otros logros.
6. El trabajo de su hijo puede ser exhibido en concursos y exposiciones patrocinados por el distrito.

**USO DE LA ESCUELA**

Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_ La información del directorio que aparece en los temas 1-6 puede ser publicado de mi hijo.

Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_ El nombre de su estudiante, la imagen y el trabajo producido por su hijo de su hijo puede aparecer en sitios mantenidos electrónicamente (el web) por el Distrito. Esto puede incluir noticias relacionadas con el trabajo escolar de su hijo, sus académicas, actividades deportivas u otros logros.

**USO FUERA DE LA ESCUELA**

Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_ La información del directorio, que incluye el nombre , dirección y número de teléfono de mi hijo puede ser compartido para su uso fuera de la escuela (es decir, se le dará a vendedores.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nombre del estudiante ( letra de imprenta )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grado

\_\_\_\_\_  
Escuela que Asiste

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma del Padre

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha

*Por favor, devuelva este formulario , cumplimentado y firmado , a la oficina de la escuela de su hijo.*

## **Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education**

Federal law requires that the district release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, the name, address, and phone number of secondary school students enrolled in the district, unless the parent or eligible student directs the district not to release information to these types of requestors without prior written consent. [See **Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education** on page 5 for more information.]

**Parent:** Please complete the following only if you **do not** want your child's information released to a military recruiter or an institution of higher education without your prior consent.

I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), request that the district **not** release my child's name, address, and telephone number to a military recruiter or institution of higher education without my prior written consent.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that if this form is not returned with the other materials identifying what the district considers directory information, the district will assume that permission has been granted for the release of this information.

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to your child's school*



## **Consent/Opt-Out Form**

Dear Parent:

The district is required by federal law to notify you and obtain your consent for or denial of (opt-out) your child's participation in certain school activities. The activities include any student survey, analysis, or evaluation, known as a "protected information survey" that concerns one or more of the following eight areas:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom the student has a close family relationship;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

This notice and consent/opt-out requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and to certain physical exams and screenings.

The district will provide parents with notification as well as an opportunity to review the survey and consent or opt their child out. Please note that this notice and authority to consent transfer from the parent to the student when the student reaches 18 or is an emancipated minor under state law.

**Parent Statement Prohibiting Corporal Punishment**

A parent has the responsibility of submitting a signed statement to the principal each year if he or she chooses to allow or prohibit the use of corporal punishment with his or her child. A parent may reinstate permission to use corporal punishment at any time during the school year by submitting a signed statement to the principal. Corporal punishment will be administered in accordance with the law, district policy, and the Student Code of Conduct (SCOC). [See FO[Local] and the SCOC]

Corporal punishment will be administered as soon as possible after an offense and will not be administered in anger. The principal or a designee may choose not to use corporal punishment even if the parent has requested its use. Any use of corporal punishment will be documented on a district form. The principal or a designee will inform the parent when corporal punishment is used. Paddles used for administering corporal punishment will not be generally displayed and will be under the control of the principal or designee. Corporal punishment will be limited to spanking or paddling and will consist of an appropriate number of strikes based upon the size, age, and the physical, mental, and emotional condition of the student. Before corporal punishment is used, the district may give the student a choice between other disciplinary measures and corporal punishment.

**Parent Statement Choice Regarding Corporal Punishment:**

Please circle your selection and fill in the following from.

I have read the information on the use of corporal punishment in the Brazos Independent School District.

Please circle the following options and complete the form.

I DO or DO NOT allow the use of corporal punishment with my child.

Name of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to your child's school.*

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## **PREFACE**

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2017–18! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

The Brazos High School Student Handbook is designed to provide basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. The handbook is divided into two sections:

**Section I—PARENTAL RIGHTS**—with information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook.

**Section II—OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**—organized alphabetically by topic, and, where possible, further divided by applicability to ages and/or grade levels, for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

Please be aware that the term “parent,” unless otherwise noted, is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of the student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Brazos Independent School District Student Code of Conduct, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found on the district’s website at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net) and is available in hard copy upon request.

The Student Handbook is a general reference guide only and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

In case of conflict between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any provisions of the Student Handbook, the current provisions of board policy and the Student Code of Conduct are to be followed.

Also, please be aware that the Student Handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed board policy changes by attending board meetings. Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications. The district reserves the right to modify provisions of the Student Handbook at any time, whenever it is deemed necessary. Notice of any revision or modification will be given as is reasonably practical under the circumstances.

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the Student Handbook does not create any additional rights for students and parents. It does not, nor is it intended to, create contractual or legal rights between any student or parent and the district.

If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact Eric P. Cormier, Principal.

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following forms provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon the student’s enrollment:

1. Acknowledgment Form OR Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook;
2. Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information;
3. Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities; and
4. Consent/Opt-Out Form.

[See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 6 and **Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation** on page 6 for more information.]

**Note:** References to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. The district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net)

## **SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS**

This section of the Brazos High School Student Handbook includes information related to certain rights of parents as specified in state or federal law.

### **CONSENT, OPT-OUT, AND REFUSAL RIGHTS**

#### **Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation**

A district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent unless the examination, test, or treatment is required under state or federal law regarding requirements for special education or by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for child abuse investigations and reports.

#### **Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information**

Teachers may display students' work, which may include personally identifiable student information, in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement.

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, original videos or voice recordings, and other original works on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district, such as a campus or classroom website, and in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

#### **Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if Student is Under Age 14**

A child under the age of 14 must have parental permission to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program; otherwise, the child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE), is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

#### **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Otherwise Permitted by Law**

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity;
- When it relates to media coverage of the school; or
- When it relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

The district will seek parental consent through a written request before making any other video or voice recording of your child not otherwise allowed by law.



[See **Video Cameras** on page 86 for more information, including a parent's right to request video and audio equipment be placed in certain special education settings.]

### **Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual.

If you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child as a method of student discipline, please return the form included in the forms packet with your selection.

You may choose to revoke this prohibition at any time during the year by providing a signed statement to the campus principal. However, district personnel may choose to use discipline methods other than corporal punishment even if the parent requests that this method be used on the student.

Please note that if the district is made aware that a student is in temporary or permanent conservatorship (custody) of the state, through foster care, kinship care, or other arrangements, corporal punishment will not be administered, even when a signed statement prohibiting its use has not been submitted by the student's caregiver or caseworker.

### **Limiting Electronic Communications with Students by District Employees**

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities. For example, a teacher may set up a social networking page for his or her class that has information related to class work, homework, and tests. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media, [www.Remind.com](http://www.Remind.com), to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests.

However, instant or text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee or if you have questions related to the use of electronic media by district employees, please contact the campus principal.

### **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated "directory information" from a child's education records without written consent. "Directory information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Examples include a student's photograph for publication in the school yearbook; a student's name and grade level for purposes of communicating class and teacher assignment; the name, weight, and height of an athlete for publication in a school athletic program; a list of student birthdays for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition; a student's name and photograph posted on a district-approved and -managed social media platform; and the names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local

newspaper or other community publication to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period. Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of a student's directory information. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of your child's first day of instruction for this school year. [See the "Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information" included in the forms packet.]

As allowed by state law, the district has identified two directory information lists—one for school-sponsored purposes and the second for all other requests. For all district publications and announcements, the district has designated the following as directory information: FL(LOCAL)].

- student name,
- photograph,
- date of birth,
- major field of study,
- degrees, honors, awards,
- dates of attendance,
- grade level,
- enrollment status,
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and
- weight and height of members of athletic teams.

If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these limited school-sponsored purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use the information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information: FL(LOCAL)].

- name,
- photograph,
- major field of study,
- degrees, honors, awards,
- dates of attendance,
- grade level,
- enrollment status,
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and
- weight and height of members of athletic teams.

If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these purposes, the school must release this information when the school receives a request from an outside entity or individual.

Also review the information at **Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records**.

### **Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district is required by federal law to comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students' names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the district not to release their child's information without prior written consent. A form included in the forms packet is available if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

### **Participation in Third-Party Surveys**

#### ***Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation***

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

#### ***“Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information***

As a parent, you have a right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child's participation in:

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information. Note that this does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for

the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

As a parent, you may inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

## **REMOVING A STUDENT FROM INSTRUCTION OR EXCUSING A STUDENT FROM A REQUIRED COMPONENT OF INSTRUCTION**

### **Human Sexuality Instruction**

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction.

State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) must:

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

### **[Health Curriculum Addendum**

#### High School

- discuss the legal implications regarding sexual activity as it relates to minor persons
- analyze the importance of healthy strategies that prevent physical, sexual, and emotional abuse such as date rape

- examine the legal and ethical ramifications of unacceptable behaviors such as harassment, acquaintance rape, and sexual abuse
- discuss abstinence from sexual activity as the only method that is 100% effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the sexual transmission of HIV or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity.
- analyze the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of barrier protection and other contraceptive methods including the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), keeping in mind the effectiveness of remaining abstinent until marriage
- describe the interrelatedness of alcohol and other drugs to health problems such as drugs and date rape, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD), and drinking and driving

As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, you may remove your child from any part of the human sexuality instruction with no academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. You may also choose to become more involved with the development of curriculum used for this purpose by becoming a member of the district's SHAC. Please see the campus principal for additional information.

#### **Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12**

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

#### **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 71 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

#### **Religious or Moral Beliefs**

You may remove your child temporarily from the classroom if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

### **Tutoring or Test Preparation**

Based on informal observations, evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests, or results from diagnostic assessments, a teacher may determine that a student is in need of additional targeted assistance in order for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills. The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible. In accordance with state law and policy EC, the school will not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent consents to this removal.

The school may also offer tutorial services, which students whose grades are below 70 will be required to attend.

[Also refer to policies EC and EHBC, and contact your student's teacher with questions about any tutoring programs provided by the school.]

### **RIGHT OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS, CURRICULUM MATERIALS, AND DISTRICT RECORDS/POLICIES**

#### **Instructional Materials**

As a parent, you have a right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

You are also entitled to request that the school allow your child to take home any instructional materials used by the student. If the school determines that sufficient availability exists to grant the request, the student must return the materials at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the child's teacher.

#### **Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent**

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that he or she be provided, for the remainder of the school year, a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to his or her child's misconduct that may involve placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion. [See policy FO(LEGAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.]

#### **Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments**

You may request information regarding any state or district policy related to your child's participation in assessments required by federal law, state law, or the district.

#### **Student Records**

##### ***Accessing Student Records***

You may review your child's student records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,

- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns,
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child, and
- Teaching materials and tests used in your child's classroom.

#### ***Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records***

A federal law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, affords parents and eligible students certain rights with respect to student education records. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is age 18 or older or who is attending an institution of postsecondary education. These rights, as discussed in this section as well as at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 4, are:

- The right to inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- The right to request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA.
- The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy. Before disclosing any personally identifiable information from a student's records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records.

Inspection and release of student records is primarily restricted to an eligible student or a student's parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records.

Federal law requires that, as soon as a student reaches the age of 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a postsecondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and under limited circumstances when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without written consent of the parent or eligible student, in the following circumstances:

- When district school officials have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student's records. School officials would include board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or district medical staff); a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer); a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student's records includes working with the student; considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data; reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official's professional responsibility to the school and the student; or investigating or evaluating programs.
- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, school district/system, or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.



- When the district discloses information it has designated as directory information [see **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 4 for opportunities to prohibit this disclosure].

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

A parent or eligible student who wishes to inspect the student's records should submit a written request to the records custodian identifying the records he or she wishes to inspect. Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The address of the superintendent's office is P.O. Box 458 • 16621 Highway 36 South Wallis, Texas 77485.

The address(es) of the principal's office is: P.O. Box 458 • 16621 Highway 36 South Wallis, Texas 77485.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student's records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the appropriate records custodian. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy. [See **FINALITY OF GRADES** at FNG(LEGAL), **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 74, and **Complaints and Concerns** on page 30 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at policy FL is available from the principal's or superintendent's office <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/145>

The parent's or eligible student's right of access to and copies of student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as a teacher's personal

notes about a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

### **Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications**

You may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers, including whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and whether the teacher is currently teaching in the field of discipline of his or her certification. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

## **STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **Children of Military Families**

Children of military families will be provided flexibility regarding certain district requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than five excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent's return from deployment.

Additional information may be found at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=7995>.

### **Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments**

#### ***Multiple Birth Siblings***

As a parent, if your children are multiple birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.) assigned to the same grade and campus, you may request that they be placed either in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. Your written request must be submitted no later than the 14th day after the enrollment of your children. [See policy FDB(LEGAL).]

#### ***Safety Transfers/Assignments***

As a parent, you may:

- Request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the district to have been a victim of bullying as the term is

defined by Education Code 37.0832. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the principal for information.

- Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the board decides to transfer your child to another classroom or campus. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus.

[See **Bullying** on page 22, policy FDB, and policy FFI.]

- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE.]
- Request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. If the victim does not wish to transfer, the district will transfer the assailant in accordance with policy FDE.

#### **Service/Assistance Animal Use by Students**

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a request in writing to the principal at least ten district business days before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus.

#### **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)**

A student who is currently in the conservatorship (custody) of the state and who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities outside the district's established testing windows, and the district will grant proportionate course credit by semester (partial credit) when a student only passes one semester of a two-semester course.

A student who is currently in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside of the district's or school's attendance boundaries, or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside the district's or school's boundaries, is entitled to continue in enrollment at the school he or she was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at the particular school. In addition, if a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

[See also **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 33, **Course Credit** on page 33, and **Students in Foster Care** on page 82 for more information.]

#### **Students Who Are Homeless**

Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement, if the student is unable to provide previous academic records, or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness;
- Credit-by-examination opportunities;
- The award of partial credit (awarding credit proportionately when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course);
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 is homeless and transfers to another school district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

Federal law also allows a homeless student to remain enrolled in what is called the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

[See also **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 33, **Course Credit** on page 33, and **Homeless Students** on page 62 for more information.]

#### Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district’s overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation. For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

A parent may request an evaluation for special education services at any time. If a parent makes a written request to a school district’s director of special education services or to a district administrative employee for an initial evaluation for special education services, the school must, not later than the 15th school day after the date the school receives the request, either give the parent prior written notice of its proposal to evaluate the student, a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards, and the opportunity for the parent to give written consent for the evaluation or must give the parent prior written notice of its refusal to evaluate the student and a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards.

If the school decides to evaluate the student, the school must complete the initial evaluation and the resulting report no later than 45 school days from the day the school receives a parent’s written consent to evaluate the student. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period must be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45 school day timeline. If the school receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, the school must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

- Upon completion, the school must give you a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.
- Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled "Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process."
- The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students with disabilities and their families:
  - Texas Project FIRST
  - Partners Resource Network
- The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is Monica Gross at 979-478-6832.

#### **Students Who Receive Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home**

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. However, the district is not required to provide transportation to the other children in the household. The parent or guardian should speak with the principal of the school regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for any other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

#### **Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English**

A student may be eligible to receive specialized support if his or her primary language is not English, and the student has difficulty performing ordinary class work in English. If the student qualifies for these extra services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

#### **Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected Under Section 504**

A child determined to have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law, and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services, may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine if the child is in need of services and supports under Section 504 to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as this is defined in federal law.

The designated person to contact regarding a referral for evaluation applicable to Section 504 is Monica Gross at 979-478-6832 or [mgross@brazosisd.net](mailto:mgross@brazosisd.net)

[Also see policy FB.]

## **SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Topics in this section of the Student Handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Where possible, the topics are also organized to alert you to the applicability of each topic based on a student's age or grade level. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact

Brazos High School Principal – Eric P. Cormier [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net) – 979-478-6832

### **ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day's, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with the required presence of school-aged children in school, e.g., compulsory attendance, the other with how a child's attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

#### **Compulsory Attendance**

##### ***Age 19 and Older***

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student age 19 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. [See policy FEA.]

##### ***Between Ages 6 and 19***

State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 19 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

## **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance**

### ***All Grade Levels***

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's arrival or return to campus; and
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state,
  - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
  - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

As listed in Section I at **Children of Military Families**, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments. Please see page 13 for that section.

### ***Secondary Grade Levels***

In addition, a junior or senior student's absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided this has been authorized by the board under policy FEA(LOCAL), the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

Absences of up to two days in a school year will also be considered an exemption for:

- A student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district's board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences; and
- A student serving as an election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

An absence of a student in grades 6–12 for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran will also be excused by the district.

## **Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

### ***All Grade Levels***

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special



programs, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student’s ARD committee or Section 504 committee will be notified, and the committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a re-evaluation, and/or modifications to the student’s individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

### ***Age 19 and Older***

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required by law explaining that the district may revoke the student’s enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student’s enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

### ***Between Ages 6 and 19***

When a student between ages 6 and 19 incurs unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school will send a notice to the student’s parent, as required by law, to remind the parent that it is the parent’s duty to monitor his or her child’s attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent. These measures will include a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, or referrals to either in-school or out-of-school counseling or other social services. Any other measures considered appropriate by the district will also be initiated.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is Brazos High School – Eric P. Cormier. If you have questions about your student and the effect of his or her absences from school, please contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may also impose penalties against a student’s parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student is absent without excuse from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student ages 12–18 incurs unexcused absences on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

[See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

### **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (Kindergarten–Grade 12)**

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student in kindergarten–grade 12 must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit or a final grade for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the

instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit or a final grade for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed the plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences. [See policy FEC.]

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered extenuating circumstances for purposes of attendance for credit or the award of a final grade.
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will review absences incurred based on the student's participation in board-approved extracurricular activities. These absences will be considered by the attendance committee as extenuating circumstances in accordance with the absences allowed under FM(LOCAL) if the student made up the work missed in each class.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit or a final grade.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the board by following policy FNG(LOCAL).

The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit or a final grade will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.

**Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)**

The district must submit attendance of its students to the TEA reflecting attendance at a specific time each day.

Official attendance is taken every day at 9:00 a.m. which is during the second instructional hour as required by state rule.

A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

**Documentation After an Absence (All Grade Levels)**

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence.

**Doctor's Note After an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)**

Within 3 days of returning to school, a student absent for more than 3 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student's absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school in order to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused.

[See policy FEC(LOCAL).]

**Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver license, written parental permission must be provided for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to access the student's attendance records and, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the student's attendance information to DPS. A verification of enrollment (VOE) form may be obtained from the office, which the student will need to submit to DPS upon application for a driver license.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW (All Grade Levels)**

Brazos Independent School District and each of its campuses are held to certain standards of accountability under state and federal law. A key component of the accountability requirements is the dissemination and publication of certain reports and information, which include:

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by TEA, the state agency that oversees public education, based on academic factors and ratings;
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district compiled by TEA based on academic factors and ratings;
- The district's financial management report, which will include the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA;
- The performance ratings of the district's evaluation of community and student engagement using the indicators required by law; and
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law.

Information about all of these can be found on the district's website at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net)

Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA also maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at <http://www.texaschoolaccountabilitydashboard.org> and <http://www.tea.texas.gov>.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS (All Grade Levels)**

At Brazos High School, students are recognized for academic achievement at Six Weeks Awards assemblies, Awards Night in June, with membership in National Honor Society, and by election to Academic All-district athletic teams.

Medals are presented at Awards Night for the following:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Spanish
- Agriculture
- CTE
- Fine Arts
- Physical Education
- Perfect Attendance

### **BULLYING (All Grade Levels)**

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school

property, at a school-sponsored or -related activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- Results in harm to the student or the student's property;
- Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property; or
- Is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the student may also be transferred to another campus in the district. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [Also see **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 13.]

A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's website, and is included at the end of this handbook in the form of an appendix. Procedures related to reporting allegations of bullying may also be found on the district's website.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL).

[Also see **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 13, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34, **Hazing** on page 58, policy FFI, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas: business, technology, science, math, speech, career preparation, and vocational agriculture. Admission to these programs is based on registration and/or meeting the prerequisite course requirements.

Career Preparation Students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate excellent attendance because of the reduction in daily school hours due to Career Preparation. Consequently, a student may not attend his or her Career Preparation job on the day of a school absence;
2. Demonstrate excellent behavior at school and in the workplace. Consequently, students may not attend his or her Career Preparation job on days assigned in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension; and
3. Refrain from a DAEP assignment. Consequently, any student assigned DAEP will be automatically disqualified from Career Preparation.

These programs will be offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. [Brazos Independent School District] will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs. [Also see **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 69 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and Section 504 coordinator, who will address certain allegations of discrimination.]

## **CELEBRATIONS (All Grade Levels)**

Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the child's teacher prior to bringing any food in this circumstance. Occasionally, the school or a class may host certain functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that will involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers for bringing food products.

[Also see **Food Allergies** on page 60.]

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN (All Grade Levels)**

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net).

As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has

been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse and neglect, and it is important to be calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you.

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. [To find out what services may be available in your county, see [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County](#).]

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect:

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet](#)
- [KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse](#)
- [Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Resources](#)
- [Texas Attorney General, What We Can Do About Child Abuse Part 1](#)
- [Texas Attorney General, What We Can Do About Child Abuse Part 2](#)

Reports of abuse or neglect may be made to:

The CPS division of the DFPS (1-800-252-5400 or on the web at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](#)).

### **CLASS RANK/HIGHEST-RANKING STUDENT (Policy EIC(LOCAL))**

Brazos Independent School District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

### **The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018.**

#### **Class Rank Calculation**

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12 only, except as excluded in this policy.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in any local credit course.

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced Placement (AP)/Dual Credit, Honors, and Regular as follows:

Category	Weight
AP/Dual credit	multiplied by 1.1
Honors	multiplied by 1.05
Regular	multiplied by 1.0

In order for the semester grades in a two-semester course to be awarded a weight other than Regular weight, the student must complete both semesters of the course.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Regular category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

#### **Loss of Scholarship Consideration**

Any student who graduates in fewer than or more than eight semesters shall waive all local scholarship considerations.

#### **Transferred Grades**

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if a similar or equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

#### **Honor Graduates**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fourth six-week grading period of the senior year. The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has completed the Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement and whose weighted numerical grade average is among the top 20 percent in the graduating class.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]



### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the two school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement; and
3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to the ten-thousandths (the fourth decimal) place, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

[For further information, see policy EIC.]

### **The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2019.**

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, a new graduation program is in effect. Therefore, class ranking procedures may be adjusted by the district based on the new graduation plan. As these decisions are made, the district will make the information available to the students affected by these changes.

### **Class Rank Calculation**

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken at any grade level in the District in the following subject areas only: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and languages other than English. The District shall also include semester grades earned in high school credit courses in these subjects in grades 9–12 at an accredited school that is not a District school.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in any local credit course.

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced Placement (AP)/Dual Credit, Honors, and Regular, in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

The District shall assign weights to semester grades, including failing grades, earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average, in accordance with the following:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Weight</b>
AP/Dual credit	multiplied by 1.1
Honors	multiplied by 1.05
Regular	multiplied by 1.0

In order for the semester grades in a two-semester course to be awarded a weight other than Regular weight, the student must complete both semesters of the course.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

#### **Loss of Scholarship Consideration**

Any student who graduates in fewer than or more than eight semesters shall waive all local scholarship considerations.

#### **Transferred Grades**

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Regular category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if a similar or equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

#### **Honor Graduates**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the **fifth six-week grading period** of the senior year.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

#### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the two school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
3. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to the ten-thousandths (the fourth decimal) place, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

[For further information, see policy EIC.]

### **CLASS DUES/CLASS FUNDRAISERS**

In order to fund class activities such as prom and senior trip, students must pay class dues. To reduce the financial obligation, students may choose to participate in class fundraisers.

1. Class sponsors and class officers will select fund raiser activities annually.
2. Students will be responsible for participating in 2 class sponsored fundraisers per year or pay class dues equivalent to profit margin of the fundraiser for each student. (i.e., if the sale of each ticket produces \$3.00 of profit and each student was supposed to sell 10 tickets, then the student would pay dues in the amount of \$30. If they sell a portion of the 10 tickets, then they will owe the profit for the unsold tickets).
3. Students will be held responsible for returning unsold tickets or money for sold tickets. Lost tickets will result in full payment for lost tickets.
4. Students who chose not to participate in fundraisers or who did not pay class dues will be prevented from attending class sponsored activities (i.e., prom, class sponsored trips etc.) unless dues are paid prior to the event.

### **CLASS SCHEDULES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a class/course schedule to fulfill each period of the day. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades 9–12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day's schedule.

[See **Schedule Changes** on page 76 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

### **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

For two school years following his or her graduation, a district student who graduates in the top ten percent and, in some cases, the top 25 percent, of his or her class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas if the student:

- Completes the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program\*;  
or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

\*Beginning with ninth graders in the 2014–15 school year, to be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must be on track to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program. This means that a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required math courses.

In addition, the student must submit a completed application for admission in accordance with the deadline established by the college or university. The student is ultimately responsible for ensuring that he or she meets the admission requirements of the university or college to which the student submits an application.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University during the summer or fall 2017 term, the University will be admitting the top seven percent of the high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

Should a college or university adopt an admissions policy that automatically accepts the top 25 percent of a graduating class, the provisions above will also apply to a student ranked in the top 25 percent of his or her class.

Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines.

[See also **Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student** on page 25 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 51 for information associated with the foundation graduation program].

### **COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Students in grades 9–12 have opportunities to earn college credit through the following methods:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college preparatory;
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network;
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Wharton County Junior College, Blinn College, and the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB), which may be offered on or off campus;
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities; and
- Certain CTE courses.

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student's grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.

It is important to keep in mind that not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

## **COMMUNICATIONS — Automated**

### ***Emergency***

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency purpose may include early dismissal or delayed opening because of severe weather or another emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

[See Safety for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

### ***Nonemergency***

Your child's school will request that you provide contact information, such as your phone number and e-mail address, in order for the school to communicate items specific to your child, your child's school, or the district. If you consent to receive such information through a landline or wireless phone, please ensure that you notify the school's administration office immediately upon a change in your phone number. The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or e-mail communications that are closely related the school's mission, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial to maintain timely communication with you. Standard messaging rates of your phone carrier may apply. If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child's principal. [See Safety for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

## **COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS (All Grade Levels)**

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the board has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at

<http://www.brazosisd.net/default.aspx?name=parent.complaints>

Should a parent or student feel a need to file a formal complaint, the parent or student should file a district complaint form within the timelines established in policy FNG(LOCAL). In general, the student or parent should submit the written complaint form to the campus principal. If the

concern is not resolved, a request for a conference should be sent to the superintendent. If still unresolved, the district provides for the complaint to be presented to the board of trustees.

## **CONDUCT (All Grade Levels)**

### **Applicability of School Rules**

As required by law, the board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus as well as on district vehicles—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules. During any periods of instruction during the summer months, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

### **Campus Behavior Coordinator**

By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The campus behavior coordinator at each district campus is listed below:

- Eric P. Cormier – Brazos High School

### **Disruptions of School Operations**

Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disruption of classes or other school activities while on district property or on public property that is within 500 feet of district property. Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; and entering a classroom

without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct.

- Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district.

### **Social Events**

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.

Please contact the campus principal if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events.

## **COUNSELING**

### **Academic Counseling**

#### **Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels**

The school counselor is available to students and parents to talk about the importance of postsecondary education and how best to plan for postsecondary education, including appropriate courses to consider and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction related to how the student can best prepare for high school, college, and a career.

#### ***High School Grade Levels***

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures. Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and CTE opportunities, as well as information on the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission, financial aid, housing, and scholarships as these relate to state colleges and universities. The school counselor can also provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

#### **Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional or mental health issues, or substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should notify the school secretary, Janette

Demny. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child's mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

[Also see **Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention** on page 83 and **Suicide Awareness** on page 83.]

### **COURSE CREDIT (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student in grades 9–12, or in a lower grade when a student is enrolled in a high school credit-bearing course, will earn credit for a course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-semester (1 credit) course, the student's grades from both semesters will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. Should the student's combined average be less than 70, the student will be required to retake the semester in which he or she failed.

### **CREDIT BY EXAMINATION—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (All Grade Levels)**

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit or a final grade for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to take an examination to earn credit for a course or to be awarded a final grade in a subject after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

The school counselor or principal would determine if the student could take an exam for this purpose. If approval is granted, the student must score at least 70 on the exam to receive credit for the course or subject.

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an exam.

[For further information, see the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) and FD(LOCAL).]

### **CREDIT BY EXAMINATION FOR ADVANCEMENT/ACCELERATION—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject**

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction, i.e., for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees, and state law requires the use of certain exams, such as College Board Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, when applicable. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2016–17 school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district's website. The only exceptions to the published dates will be for any exams administered by another entity besides the district or if a request is made outside of these time frames by a student experiencing homelessness or by a student involved in the foster care system. When another entity administers an exam, a student



and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity. During each testing window provided by the district, a student may attempt a specific exam only once.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [For further information, see policy EHDC.]

### **Students in Grades 6–12**

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 50 or higher on an exam administered through the CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

## **DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION (All Grade Levels)**

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/145>. [See policy FFH.]

### **Dating Violence**

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household; destroying property belonging to the student; threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship; threats to harm a

student's current dating partner; attempts to isolate the student from friends and family; stalking; or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law that negatively affects the student.

### **Harassment**

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

In addition to dating violence as described above, two other types of prohibited harassment are described below.

### **Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment**

Sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student are prohibited.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student's gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender.

Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

**Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

**Reporting Procedures**

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. [See policy FFH(LOCAL) and (EXHIBIT) for other appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.]

Upon receiving a report of prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by that policy. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine if the allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying, as defined by law and that policy. If the alleged prohibited conduct, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct and would also be considered bullying as defined by law and policy FFI, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted.

The district will promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy FFH.

**Investigation of Report**

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During the course of an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action, and, in some cases, corrective action, will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful.

All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the district investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34.]

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **All Grade Levels**

Distance learning and correspondence courses include courses that encompass the state-required essential knowledge and skills but are taught through multiple technologies and alternative methodologies such as mail, satellite, Internet, video-conferencing, and instructional television.

The distance learning opportunities that the district makes available to district students are Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) and The University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB).

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), as described below, in order to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

### **Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)**

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TxVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TxVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [Also see **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 44.] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TxVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child be enrolled in a TxVSN course, please contact the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the Superintendent, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TxVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

A copy of policy EHDE will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact Brazos High School principal, Eric P. Cormier, at (979) 478-6832 or [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net)

## **DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE, PUBLISHED MATERIALS, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS (All Grade Levels)**

### **School Materials**

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, flyers, etc.

The school yearbook, *The Cougar*, is available to students.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

### **Non-school Materials**

#### ***From Students***

Students must obtain prior approval from the Brazos ISD Superintendent, Brian Thompson before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than 30 copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. The decision regarding approval will be made within two school days.

The Brazos High School Principal, Eric P. Cormier has designated the front office counter as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA.]

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes non-school material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without approval will be removed.

#### ***From Others***

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, except as permitted by policy GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the Brazos ISD Superintendent, Brian Thompson for prior review. The Superintendent will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA or GF.]

The Brazos High School Principal, Eric P. Cormier, has designated the front office counter, as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a non-curriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL).
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

All non-school materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

### **DRESS AND GROOMING (All Grade Levels)**

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

With the exception of school issued uniforms (e.g., athletics, band, cheerleaders, etc.) and school sanctioned specialty events (e.g., banquets, prom, etc.), students must comply with the following at all Brazos Independent School District sponsored activities including, but not limited to

- the school day from the moment a student arrives at Brazos Independent School District to the moment that he or she is off Brazos Independent School District grounds
- at all school sanctioned events after the regularly scheduled day and
- at sites away from Brazos Independent School District where Brazos Independent School District is participating
- Student dress and grooming expectations will be provided for specialty events such as prom and banquets.

Please note that the Brazos Independent School District administration has the right to impose any other dress code regulation at his or her discretion.

### **Females and Males**

#### **Clothing:**

- Shirts designed to be buttoned must be buttoned, unless a school appropriate undershirt is worn.
- See-through shirts are allowed if a school appropriate undershirt is worn.
- Bare midriffs are not allowed. Midriffs should not be seen at any time. Exposed undergarments are not allowed.
- Saggy, baggy, or oversized pants are not allowed. Pants must be worn at the waist level.
- Excessively torn garments are not allowed.

- No skin will be exposed above the knee, except when wearing shorts, skirts or dresses.
- Pajamas are not allowed.
- Students are not to wear or carry blankets in the school building.
- Shorts may be worn, whereas they are not more than 5 inches above the knee. Shorts that are exceptionally baggy, tight, or wide legged are not allowed.
- Athletic and knit shorts are not allowed in Grades 6-12.
- Shoes with a substantial sole must be worn. House shoes, shower shoes, and slippers are not allowed.
- Headgear is not allowed during the instructional day (e.g., bandannas, caps, hats, hoods, sweatbands, etc.). Headgear is not allowed to be visible (e.g., carried in the hallways, attached to a backpack, etc.). Visible headgear will be confiscated by the campus administration. However, hair accessories for females are allowed.
- Tattoos that are visible during normal dress (i.e., forearms, upper arms, feet, ankles, calves, torso, and neck) are not allowed.
- Gang related clothing articles, as identified by school or law enforcement officials, are not allowed. Bandannas are not allowed. Articles of clothing that advertise tobacco and alcohol products are not allowed. Discriminatory, lewd, offensive, sexually oriented, or vulgar articles of clothing (e.g., blood, body parts, destruction, images of death, mutilation, etc.) are not allowed. This also applies to student supplies and materials.

#### **Hair:**

- Hair rakes, combs, and sharp hairpins are not allowed.

#### **Jewelry:**

- Body piercing is limited to the ears only for females.
- Dog collars, studded wrist bands, studded arm bands, chains and any other unorthodox type of jewelry are not allowed.
- Dark glasses are not allowed unless prescribed by a physician.
- Excessive jewelry is not allowed.

#### **Males**

##### **Clothing**

- Sleeveless shirts are not allowed.

**Hair:**

- Designs cut in the head are not allowed. A single line part is allowed. Also, Mohawks and ponytails are not allowed. Hair should not extend lower than the eyebrows, past the middle of the ear, nor should it extend lower than the top of the collar of a standard dress shirt. Hair color must be within naturally occurring shades. Natural looking highlights are acceptable; two-tone and multicolored hair are not.
- Braided hair is allowed as long as all other hair requirements are met.
- Facial hair is not allowed (e.g., mustaches, beards, goatees, etc.). Sideburns should not extend past the base of the ear, whereas sideburns should be no more than 1 inch wide.

**Jewelry:**

- Earrings are not allowed. This includes ear gauges, bars, fillers, plugs, tapers, etc.

**Females****Clothing:**

- Due to the nature of women's clothing, non-tucked shirts are permissible. Sleeveless shirts are allowed as long as each strap is a minimum of 3 inches wide.
- Halter tops, camisole tops, midriff tops, and other low-cut or revealing tops are not allowed. This includes backless garments.
- Skirts may be worn, whereas both the length and the slit are not more than 3 inches above the knee. Elementary students must wear shorts or leggings underneath skirts and dresses.
- Leggings may be worn under skirts, dresses, which extend to, at least 5 inches above the knee, with the exception of Pre-K and Kindergarten.

**Hair:**

- No designs or shaved portions are to be cut in the hair. Also, Mohawks are not allowed. Hair should cover the entire head area.
- Hair color must be within naturally occurring shades of color. Natural looking highlights are acceptable; two-tone and multicolored hair is not.

**Jewelry:**

- Ear piercing is limited to two earrings per ear. Ear gauges, bars, fillers, plugs, tapers, etc. are not allowed.
- Nose piercings and facial piercings are not allowed.

**If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code or is distracting to the learning environment, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student will be assigned to in-school**



**suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school.** Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Brazos Independent School District Student Code of Conduct.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (All Grade Levels)**

### **Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones**

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. Consequences are as follows:

- 1st Offense- If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student or parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15, or the student may wait three days and pick the device up without paying the \$15 fee.
- 2nd Offense- The device will be confiscated and the will be kept for three days and the student or parent may pick up the device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15, or the student can wait eight days and pick up the device without paying the \$15 fee.
- 3rd Offense and subsequent- The device will be confiscated and will be kept for six weeks and the student or parent may pick up the device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15, or the student can wait an additional two weeks and pick up the device without paying the \$15 fee.

During the time that a student's electronic device is in the school's possession due to not following the telecommunications guidelines, the student is prohibited from bringing another electronic device to school. If a student does bring another electronic device during the period that the other device is being held due to not following the guidelines by the school, it will be confiscated and kept according to the student handbook.

If any of the return dates fall on a Saturday or Sunday or during a school holiday the student will have to wait until the following Monday or when we return to school. The day that the device is picked up is 'Day 0'. The next day is 'Day 1'.

The student may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15 or waiting the allotted time for non-payment.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 78 and policy FNF.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

### **Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices**

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 78 and policy FNF.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device.

### **Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child ['Before You Text' Sexting Prevention Course](#), a state-developed

program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

## **END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS**

[See **Graduation** on page 51 and **Standardized Testing** on page 81.]

High School students must successfully complete five End-of-Course Assessments in order to receive a diploma.

- Algebra I
- Biology
- United States History
- English I
- English II

End-of-Course assessments are taken initially in the spring of the year the student is enrolled in the course. Students who are not successful on the initial assessment are offered retests in June and December. Students are required to retest until a passing score is achieved.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (All Grade Levels)**

A student who is an English language learner is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. To determine whether the student qualifies for services, a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will be formed, which will consist of both district personnel and at least one parent representative. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC for an English language learner. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

In order to determine a student's level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will then designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR L, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing** on page 81, may be administered to an English language learner, or, for a student up to grade 5, a Spanish version of STAAR. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English language learners who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an English language learner and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make instructional and assessment decisions in conjunction with the LPAC.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS (All Grade Levels)**

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Participation in some of these activities may result in events that occur off-campus. When the district arranges transportation for these events, students are required to use the transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions to this may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [Also see **Transportation** on page 85.]

Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL athletic activities and their parents can access the UIL Parent Information Manual at <https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals>; a hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request. To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or [curriculum@tea.texas.gov](mailto:curriculum@tea.texas.gov).

[See <http://www.uil texas.org> for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. The equipment used in football is no exception. As a parent, you are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

In addition, the following provisions apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- No Pass – No Play Exemption List

These classes are identified as advanced by the State Board of Education are cited below. By state law a grade of less than 70 in any of these classes listed does not affect a student's eligibility: Calculus AP, Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors

The following courses have been approved by the Brazos ISD Board of Trustees as advanced courses designated for no-pass no-play exemption under the following criteria: Any student who receives a six-weeks grade lower than a 70 at the end of a six-week

grading period but 65 or above is eligible for a once per school year exemption in each class. This exemption may be granted by the principal after receiving a written request from the student.

English I Honors	English II Honors	Honors World Geography
Honors World History	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Honors
Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics
Honors Anatomy & Physiology	Statistics & Risk Management	

Dual credit and concurrent enrollment classes included in the “Community College General Academic Course Guide Manual (Part One)”

- 
- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. The District shall permit unlimited absences for participation in extracurricular activities for which a student is eligible.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

### **Standards of Behavior**

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization’s standards of behavior.

### **Offices and Elections**

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include:

- Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020
- Class Favorites
- FFA
- Homecoming Court
- Mister and Miss BHS
- Senior Superlatives

- National Honor Society
- National Art Honor Society
- Drama Club
- Spanish Club
- Student Council

### **FEES (All Grade Levels)**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Class Dues [See **Class Dues** on page 29]
- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles** on page 85.]
- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for

the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.

- Dual credit tuition
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN).

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the principal. [For further information, see policy FP.]

## **FIELD TRIPS**

### **High School Field Trips**

- Freshman Class – Holocaust Museum
- Sophomore Class – University Field Trip
- Junior Class – TSTC Field Trip
- Senior Class – Austin County College Fair, WCJC day

Students WILL lose their privilege of attending the reward field trip if one or more of the following occurs during the school year:

- they have been assigned or have continued a DAEP assignment,
- if they have been suspended from school, one or more days, during the school year that the field trip will occur,
- or if the student has served 3 or more days in In School Suspension, during the school year that the field trip will occur,
- received 3 or more swats,
- if they are below the 90% attendance rate,
- more than 5 issued lunch detentions.

## **FUNDRAISING (All Grade Levels)**

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the principal and approved by the superintendent at least 14 days before the event. Organizations are limited to two fundraisers per school year. [For further information, see policies FJ and GE.]

## **GANG-FREE ZONES (All Grade Levels)**

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.



## **GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34.]

## **GRADE-LEVEL CLASSIFICATION (Grades 9–12 Only)**

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
5	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
10	Grade 11 (Junior)
15	Grade 12 (Senior)

## **GRADING GUIDELINES (All Grade Levels)**

Established at the district level, all teachers will meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of two grades per week must be taken per each grading period;
- No one grade or assignment can count more than 20%; and
- Campus principals will require teachers to have their grading criteria reviewed and approved before the start of the school year.

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated and distributed to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines have been reviewed by each applicable curriculum department and have been approved by the campus principal. These guidelines establish the minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period. In addition, these guidelines establish how the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.). Grading guidelines also outline in what circumstances a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination for which the student originally made a failing grade. Procedures for a student to follow after an absence will also be addressed.

In grades 9 – 12, achievement is recorded and reported via numerical grades which correspond to the following letter grades as designated below:

A	=	90 – 100
B	=	80 – 89
C	=	75 – 79
D	=	70 – 74
F	=	Below 70
I	=	Not all work turned in.

## **Grading Categories**

Daily  
Major  
Quiz

Brazos Independent School District offers an online grade-book program for parents/guardians to access their child's grades.

- Teachers will post grades weekly.
- Grades are to reflect mastery of the TEKS
- Grades will not be given; they will be earned.
- Students are expected to meet their due dates on all assignments.
  - 1 day late = 85% credit
  - 2 days late = 70% credit
  - More than 2 days late = 50% credit
  - These guidelines maybe adjusted for special education and 504 students with the extended time accommodation.
  - These guidelines do not apply to dual credit classes, grading guidelines for dual credit classes are set by the professors and are not subject to BISD guidelines
- Progress reports will be disseminated during the 4th week of each 6-weeks grading period.
- Report cards will be disseminated at the completion of each 6-weeks grading period.

## **Extra Credit**

No extra credit opportunities will be given. Teachers may continue to offer bonus points on assignments.

## **Exam Improvement Policy**

- A) Any exam or quiz that is designated as such in the teachers' gradebook will be given an opportunity for improvement.
- B) All requirements to raise an exam score as given by the classroom teacher must be completed by the student no later than one week (5 school days) after the receipt of the initial graded paper.
- C) Exam scores can be improved through a reasonable method of the teacher's choosing and can include such opportunities as retesting, corrections, or alternate assignments.
- D) Teachers have the discretion in the coursework they teach to allow one of the following on exams:
  - Allow students who failed an exam to have the option to retest to earn a maximum grade of 70.

- Allow all students to earn back 1/2 of the deducted points on the exam, regardless of the initial grade, by completing the teacher's required remediation.

### **Absentee/Suspension Assignment Makeup**

Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after the absence(s) or suspension(s). Tests must be made up by appointment. Students who are absent or suspended will have the same number of days to make up assignments for full credit as they were absent or suspended.

[Also see **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 74 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

### **GRADUATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

#### **Requirements for a Diploma for a Student Enrolled in High School Prior to the 2014–15 School Year**

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student who was enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year must successfully:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state; and
- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law.

[Also see **Standardized Testing** on page 81 for more information.]

#### **Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2014–15 School Year**

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, as well as any currently enrolled high school student who decides to graduate under the foundation graduation program, a student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state;
- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law; and
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education (SBOE).

### Testing Requirements for Graduation

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on norm-referenced national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an applicable EOC assessment, should a student choose this option. See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation to the student in the content area for which the performance standard was not met. This may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours or at times of the year outside normal school operations.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on two or fewer of the required assessments may still be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate.

[Also see **Standardized Testing** on page 81 for more information.]

### Minimum, Recommended, and Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Programs

For students who were enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year, the district offers the graduation programs listed in this section. Students enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year also have the option to pursue the foundation graduation program as described below. Note that permission to enroll in the Minimum Program as described in this section will be granted only if a written agreement is reached among the student, the student's parent or person standing in parental relation, and the school counselor or appropriate administrator. In order for a student to take courses under the Minimum Program, the student must be at least 16 years of age; have completed at least two credits each in English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses that are required for graduation; or have failed grade 9 one or more times. [See policy EIF(LEGAL).]

All students who were enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year must meet the following credit and course requirements for graduation under the programs listed or may choose to pursue the foundation graduation program as described on page 54:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Minimum Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Recommended Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Advanced/ Distinguished Achievement Program</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4	4

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Minimum Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Recommended Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Advanced/ Distinguished Achievement Program</b>
Mathematics	3	4	4
Science	2	4	4
Social Studies, including Economics	4	4	4
Physical Education*	1	1	1
Speech	0.5	0.5	0.5
Language other than English		2	3
Fine Arts	1	1	1
Locally required courses	1 credit in Business Information Management (BIM)	1 credit in Business Information Management (BIM)	1 credit in Business Information Management (BIM)
Electives**	6.5 credits	5.5 credits	4.5 credits
Miscellaneous			Completion of 4 Advanced Measures***
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

\* A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

\*\* State rules prohibit a student from combining a half-credit of a course for which there is an EOC assessment with another half-credit of an elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement. However, the district will allow a student to satisfy a graduation requirement for which there are multiple options with one-half credit of one allowable option and one-half credit of another allowable option, if neither course has an EOC assessment.

\*\*\* A student graduating under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program must also achieve a combination of four of the following advanced measures:

1. An original research project or other project that is related to the required curriculum. These projects must be judged by a panel of professionals or conducted under the direction of a mentor and reported to an appropriate audience. Please note that no more than two of the four advanced measures may be received from this option.
2. Test data where a student receives:

- a. A score of 3 or above on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;
  - b. A score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam; or
  - c. A score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT score will count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.
3. College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical courses, including locally articulated courses, provided the student scores the equivalent of a 3.0 or higher.

### **Foundation Graduation Program**

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the “foundation graduation program.” Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student, as described on page 55.

State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgments” that will be acknowledged on a student’s transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB exam, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance exams, or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student enrolled in high school prior to the 2014–15 school year has the option of graduating under the foundation graduation program rather than the programs identified above that would otherwise be applicable to that student. See the school counselor for additional information.

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

<b>Course Area</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program</b>	<b>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program With an Endorsement</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Science	3	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3	3
Physical Education**	1	1
Language other than English***	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Locally required courses	1 credit in Business Information Management (BIM) .5 credit in Speech	1 credit in Business Information Management (BIM) .5 credit in Speech
Electives	8.5	6.5
Miscellaneous		Available Endorsements****: (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Business and Industry Arts and Humanities Multidisciplinary Studies
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26 credits</b>	<b>26 credits</b>

\* In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be denoted on a student's transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission purposes to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits.

\*\* A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

\*\*\* Students are required to earn two credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. In

limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

\*\*\*\* A student must specify upon entering grade 9 the endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

### ***Personal Graduation Plans for Students Under the Foundation Graduation Program***

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student who is subject to the requirements of the foundation graduation program. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement, as well as facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student's personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please also review TEA's Graduation Toolkit, available here: <http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>.

A student may, with parental permission, amend his or her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation.

### **Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs**

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area will be distributed to students each spring in order to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year. Note that the district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation.

Please be aware that not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at his or her regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for those students to take a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or CTE, the district will offer the course for the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

### **Certificates of Coursework Completion**

A certificate of coursework completion will be issued to a student who has successfully completed state and local credit requirements for graduation but has not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on the state-mandated tests required for graduation.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, a student with a disability who receives special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her IEP and in accordance with state rules.



A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL).]

Please also be aware that if an ARD committee places a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the Minimum Program, if that program is applicable based on the school year in which the student entered high school, in accordance with state rules.

If a student receiving special education services is scheduled to graduate under the Minimum Program or in accordance with the provisions of his or her IEP, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the general EOC assessment is an accurate measure of the student's achievement and progress and, if so, whether successful performance is required for graduation, or whether an alternative assessment is more appropriate. STAAR Alternate 2 is the alternative assessment currently allowed by the state. [See **Standardized Testing** for additional information.]

ARD committees for students with disabilities who receive special education services and who are subject to the foundation graduation program will make instructional and assessment decisions for these students in accordance with state law and rules. In order to earn an endorsement under the foundation program, a student must perform satisfactorily on the EOC assessments and receive no modified curriculum in the student's chosen endorsement area. A student may still be awarded an endorsement when the student fails to perform satisfactorily on no more than two EOC assessments but meets the other requirements for graduation under state law.

### **Graduation Activities**

Graduation activities will include:

- Commencement rehearsal at Cougar Stadium on June 23, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.
- Commencement at Cougar Stadium on June 2, 2017, at 8:00 p.m.

#### **RAIN**

- In the event of inclement weather, graduation will be moved indoors to the Brazos High School Gym. Students will be issued 8 rain tickets during graduation practice. Only persons with a rain ticket will be admitted to the gym. Please note that graduation announcements are not graduation tickets.

Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on end-of-course assessments and have not been declared eligible to graduate by an individual graduation committee, if applicable, will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and

ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

The following students and student groups shall be recognized at graduation ceremonies:

- Valedictorian
- Salutatorian
- Honor Graduates
- Students enlisted in the United States Armed Forces
- Students with perfect attendance
- Members of the National Honor Society
- Members of the National Art Honor Society
- Students participating in UIL athletic, music, or academic competitions
- Honor cord recipients

### **Graduation Speakers**

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies.

A student must meet local eligibility criteria, which may include requirements related to student conduct, to have a speaking role. Students eligible for speaking roles will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

[See FNA(LOCAL) and the Student Code of Conduct. For student speakers at other school events, see **Student Speakers** on page 82.]

### **Graduation Expenses**

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Student Fees** on page 46.]

### **Scholarships and Grants**

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended Program or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, for as long as those programs are in place, or who complete the foundation graduation program, may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions.

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

## **HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34.]

### **HAZING (All Grade Levels)**

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated to, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students.

Hazing will not be tolerated by the district. If an incident of hazing occurs, disciplinary consequences will be handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent.

[Also see **Bullying** on page 22 and policies FFI and FNCC.]

## **HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS**

### **Student Illness (All Grade Levels)**

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she won't be attending that day. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods of time as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. In addition, students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. If the nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is also required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from TDSHS on these notifiable conditions.

Contact the school nurse if you have questions or if you are concerned about whether or not your child should stay home.

### **Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)**

State law requires the district to provide information about bacterial meningitis:

#### **What is meningitis?**

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is common and most people recover fully. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management.

### What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 2 years old) and adults with bacterial meningitis commonly have a severe headache, high fever, and neck stiffness. Other symptoms might include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

### How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

### How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. They are spread when people exchange respiratory or throat secretions (such as by kissing, coughing, or sneezing).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

### How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest, can help prevent infection. Using good health practices such as covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing and washing your hands frequently with soap and water can also help stop the spread of the bacteria. It's a good idea not to share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

There are vaccines available to offer protection from some of the bacteria that can cause bacterial meningitis. The vaccines are safe and effective (85–90 percent). They can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

### What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

### Where can you get more information?

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Department of State Health Services office to ask about a

meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [Department of State Health Services](#).

**Note:** DSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination on or after the student's 11th birthday, unless the student received the vaccine at age 10. Also note that entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[See **Immunization Error! Bookmark not defined.** for more information.]

### **Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)**

The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net), in each campus office, the nurse's office, or the food service director's office.

[Also see policy FFAF and **Celebrations** on page 24.]

### **Head Lice (All Grade Levels)**

Brazos ISD Lice Prevention, Control and Treatment Policy

Based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2015, Brazos ISD has updated its Lice Prevention, Control, and Treatment Policy to reflect the most current guidelines in the control of lice.

Students should not be excluded from school due to head lice. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) support that there is little evidence that exclusion from school reduces the transmission of head lice. Head lice are common for children ages 3-12 years of age. Head lice are not a health hazard and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. The goal of lice prevention and control is to limit the spread of lice from one student to another student through early detection, consistent communication, and education. To meet this challenge, lice control take teamwork between home and school.

#### **Initial Identification of Infestation**

- Screening will be done on an individual basis for students reporting or demonstrating symptoms (i.e. lice visible in hair, scratching scalp). According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost effectiveness of classroom or school wide screening for decreasing the incidence of head lice among school children. Students will be sent to the nurse's office for inspection.

- All staff members will be familiar with the signs and symptoms of lice infestation. Detection or suspicion of lice or nits should be promptly reported to the School Nurse.
- Teaching Staff should survey the classroom environment regularly for students displaying signs of lice or items in the classroom that could be contributing to the spread of lice.
  - Cases of lice should be confirmed by the School Nurse or other trained personnel.

#### Live Lice

- All students initially identified with live lice will be sent home at the end of the school day after contacting parent/guardian by phone. They should not be excluded from school activities.

Parents/Guardians will be advised to treat their child for head lice. Educational materials about treatment and prevention will be given and explained.

- Should excessive lice be seen crawling through a student's hair, the parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up their child from school to prevent embarrassment to the student.
- Parents/Guardians need to make lice screening a part of their family routine. Parents should be encouraged to check their children's head at least weekly. Individuals with whom the family has close contact should be notified by the parent/guardians to ensure proper precautions are taken.
- Alert letters will be sent home, in the event 3 or more students the same week in a given classroom are infested, and only to the parents of children within that specific classroom.

#### Nits

- Students identified with nits ¼ inch or less from the scalp will have their parent/guardian contacted by the school nurse to see if treatment has taken place within the last seven days.
- Education about nit removal and prevention of lice will be provided to the parent/guardian.

#### Absenteeism for Lice

- Students with head lice who are absent from school may be excused for one (1) school day during treatment; however, any additional absences will be considered unexcused. Upon returning to school, the parent must submit a written excuse indicating lice treatment as reason for the absenteeism.

#### Requirements for Readmission to School

- Only FDA approved medicated shampoo or cream rinses are approved for treatment and the parent/guardian must present the bottle of the product used for student readmission. The product bottle will be returned to the parent/guardian.
  - A parent/guardian and the student must report to the nurse's office before going to class. The student will be checked for live lice upon returning to school by the school nurse or other

trained personnel. If live lice are found at re-check, the school nurse will assess for adequacy or understanding of treatment, check for any problems or barriers that may prevent live lice removal, and counsel the family on the recommended

- treatment options. The student will be sent home with the parent/guardian for lice removal.
- - The School Nurse will provide health teaching to students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding prevention, detection and treatment of lice as needed.
  - Classroom Lice Control
    - Sweaters, backpack, and coats should be hung separately on hooks and not touching.
  - Students' personal items (combs, brushes, hats, scarves, sweaters, coats, etc.) are not to be shared.
  - Carpet is vacuumed after live lice confirmation. Carpet should be vacuumed daily and floors should be swept daily.
  - Students should be observed carefully for symptoms of head lice infestation (i.e. lice visible in hair, scratching of head and neck). Do NOT indicate that a student may have lice/nits in the presence of other students. Early detection of cases will limit the spread.
  - Encourage health and hygiene by stressing the importance of each student only using his or her own hair care items and not sharing other student's hats, scarves, and headphones.
- Resources/References:
  - Center for Disease Control (CDC)
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
  - Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

## **Physical Activity Requirements**

### ***Junior High/Middle School***

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA, the district will ensure that students in middle or junior high school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters OR at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters.

For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding junior high and middle school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

### **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)**

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held 4 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's SHAC is available from the Brazos Independent School District nurse, Kim Fischer, at (979) 478-6610 or [kfischer@brazosisd.net](mailto:kfischer@brazosisd.net)

The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, improving student fitness, mental health concerns, and employee wellness.

[See policies at BDF and EHAA. See **Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 7 for additional information.]

#### **Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)**

Brazos Independent School District is committed to encouraging healthy students and therefore has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement the policy. You are encouraged to contact Kim Fischer, at (979) 478-6610 or [kfischer@brazosisd.net](mailto:kfischer@brazosisd.net) with questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan.

#### **Other Health-Related Matters**

##### ***Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3–12)***

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to Brazos Independent School District Athletic Director, Ned Barrier, at (979) 478-6832 or [nbarrier@brazosisd.net](mailto:nbarrier@brazosisd.net) to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

##### ***Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)***

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies and guidelines for food service, including the guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, see the principal. [See policies at CO and FFA.]

##### ***Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited (All Grade Levels and All Others on School Property)***

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device, by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies at FNCD and GKA.]

##### ***Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)***

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent's office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan



in more detail, please contact Bradley Reinecker, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at (979) 478-7174 or [breinecker@brazosisd.net](mailto:breinecker@brazosisd.net).

### ***Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)***

The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, pesticide use is sometimes necessary to maintain adequate pest control and ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who have further questions or who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Bradley Reinecker, the district's IPM coordinator, at (979) 478-7174 or [breinecker@brazosisd.net](mailto:breinecker@brazosisd.net).

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS (All Grade Levels)**

You are encouraged to inform the district if you or your child are experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources with you that may be able to assist you and your family.

*Delete if the campuses within the district are not required to post information on the campus website:* Please also check the campus website for information related to services available in the area that can help families who are homeless.

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's homeless education liaison, Teresa Ressler, at (979) 478-6000 or [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net).

[See also **Students Who Are Homeless** on page 14.]

### **HOMEWORK (All Grade Levels)**

Homework may be assigned on a regular basis. Homework should be used primarily to extend and practice concepts and skills learned in class, although advanced reading for class discussion and other similar pre-class preparation is a legitimate function of homework. Further, certain TEKS, such as but not limited to written compositions, may require extensive homework

- Students are expected to meet their due dates on all assignments.
  - 1 day late = 85% credit
  - 2 days late = 70% credit
  - More than 2 days late = 50% credit
  - These guidelines maybe adjusted for special education and 504 students with the extended time accommodation.
  - These guidelines do not apply to dual credit classes, grading guidelines for dual credit classes are set by the professors and are not subject to BISD guidelines

For further information, contact the Brazos High School principal, Eric P. Cormier, at (979) 478-6832 or [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net)

## **ILLNESS**

[See **Student Illness** under **Health-Related Matters** on page 58.]

### **IMMUNIZATION (All Grade Levels)**

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at [Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization](#). The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; rubeola (measles), mumps, and rubella; polio; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; varicella (chicken pox); and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by TDSHS. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong condition.

As noted at **Bacterial Meningitis**, entering college students must also, with limited exception, furnish evidence of having received a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five years prior to enrolling in and attending classes at an institution of higher education. A student wanting to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus may be subject to this requirement.

[For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the DSHS website at [Texas School & Child-Care Facility Immunization Requirements](#).]

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (All Grade Levels)**

#### **Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances:

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.

### **Students Taken Into Custody**

State law requires the district to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student's release to a law enforcement officer, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

### **Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who is thought to have committed certain offenses or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

- All appropriate district personnel in regards to a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[For further information, see policies FL(LEGAL) and GRAA(LEGAL).]

### **LEAVING CAMPUS (All Grade Levels)**

Please remember that student attendance is crucial to learning. We ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours as much as reasonably possible. Also note that picking up a child early on a regular basis results in missed opportunities for learning. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

State rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

- For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.
- For students in high school, the same process will be followed. If the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day. If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may produce a note on his or her own behalf. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.
- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student's parent, or if the student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a child in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

### **During Lunch**

Brazos Independent School District campuses are closed campuses. Students may not leave campus for lunch unless signed out and accompanied by a parent.

### **At Any Other Time During the School Day**

Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **LOST AND FOUND (All Grade Levels)**

A “lost and found” collection box is located in the campus office. If your child has lost an item, please encourage him or her to check the lost and found box. The district discourages students from bringing to school personal items of high monetary value, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.

### **MAKEUP WORK**

#### **Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)**

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold in regards to the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” [See also **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 19.]

A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

Upon return from an absence, a student has one day for every absence to make up the assignment for which they missed.

## **DAEP Makeup Work**

### ***Grades 9–12***

A high school student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

### **In-School Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)**

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL).]

### **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

Medication that must be administered to a student during school hours must be provided by the student's parent. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee, unless the student is authorized to possess his or her own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student. District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, with the following exceptions:

Only authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:

- Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
- Nonprescription medication, in the original, factory-sealed, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

Students whose schedules provide for regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

For students at the elementary level, the student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to a student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and requests assistance with the application of the sunscreen. Nothing prohibits a student at this level from applying his or her own sunscreen if the student is capable of doing so.

For students at the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student will need assistance with this application, please address the need for assistance with the school nurse.

Whether a student is at the elementary or secondary level, if sunscreen needs to be administered to treat any type of medical condition, this should be handled through communication with the school nurse so that the district is made aware of any safety and medical issues.

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

If the student has been prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication for use during the school day, the student and parents should discuss this with the school nurse or principal.

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse or principal for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL).]

### **Psychotropic Drugs**

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policy FFAC.]

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT (All Grade Levels)**

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Brazos Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment or gender-based harassment: Brian Thompson,

Superintendent, Brazos Independent School District P.O. Box 819 227 Educator Lane Wallis, Texas 77485 (979) 478-6551 [bthompson@brazosisd.net](mailto:bthompson@brazosisd.net)

- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Teresa Ressler P.O. Box 819 227 Educator Lane Wallis, Texas 77485 (979) 478-6020 [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net)
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Brian Thompson, Superintendent, Brazos Independent School District P.O. Box 819 227 Educator Lane Wallis, Texas 77485 (979) 478-6551 [bthompson@brazosisd.net](mailto:bthompson@brazosisd.net)
- [See policies FB, FFH, and GKD.]

## **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (All Grade Levels)**

### **Working Together**

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. Your involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 32.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 979-478-6832 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 74.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and **Volunteers** on page 87.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Band Boosters and Brazos Athletic Boosters.



- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. [For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact Brazos High School principal, Eric P. Cormier, at (979) 478-6832 or [mmccarthy@brazosisd.net](mailto:mmccarthy@brazosisd.net)
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** on page 61.]
- Serving on a committee to determine criteria to be used to evaluate the overall performance of the district and each campus in community and student engagement. For further information, please contact the campus principal.
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

#### **Parent Involvement Coordinator**

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is Theresa Ressler and may be contacted at (979) 478-6551 or [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net)

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/HEALTH SCREENINGS**

#### **Athletics' Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student who wishes to participate in, or continue participation in, the district's athletics program governed by the UIL must submit certification from a health-care provider authorized under UIL rules that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program.

This examination is required to be submitted annually to the district.

#### **Other Exams and Screenings (All Grade Levels)**

Students are required to undergo a risk assessment for Type 2 diabetes at the same time the district screens students for hearing and vision issues, or for abnormal spinal curvatures.

[Also see policy FFAA.]

#### **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE (All Grade Levels)**

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse

their child from reciting a pledge. [See **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 8.]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

[See policy EC for more information.]

### **PRAYER (All Grade Levels)**

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

### **PROM**

- Junior and Senior fees must be paid in full in order to attend the prom. Fees must be paid in full before purchasing a ticket - no exceptions.
- All prom attendees must have a ticket for themselves and their guest. Guests who are not Brazos students will be asked to show photo ID (school ID or driver's license) at event.
- Guests who are not Brazos students must fill out the Brazos Student Guest Form prior to purchasing ticket. Brazos High School principal, Mrs. McCarthy, will approve all guest forms.
- The prom will begin at 8:00 p.m. There will be no admittance to prom after 9:30 p.m. Once students and guests exit the prom, they will not be allowed to re-enter. The prom will end promptly at 12 a.m.
- All prom attendees should conduct themselves in an orderly manner. All school rules apply for Brazos students and guests. Anyone not conducting him/herself in an orderly and appropriate manner will be asked to leave the prom and their parent will be notified immediately. Appropriate discipline procedures will follow in accordance with the student handbook. Violations will result in consequences deemed appropriate by school officials (e.g., suspensions, expulsions, notification of law enforcement, etc).
- Smoking, alcohol or drug use is not permitted by anyone attending prom. Anyone suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be reported to campus administration and the police officers on duty.
- Guests over the age of 20 are not allowed to attend.
- Middle School/Jr. High/or any students younger than 15 are not allowed to attend as a guest.
- Guests must be in good standing at their school and have no record of serious misconduct.

- Students in an alternative (DAEP/JJAEP) school setting in any school district are not allowed to attend.

## **PROM DRESS CODE**

- Parents are expected to monitor and approve clothing according to the following guidelines. Failure to adhere to the guidelines will result in being denied entry to the prom and forfeiture of prom ticket.
- Dress is formal as Junior/Senior Prom is a formal occasion
- Proper and formal grooming is expected. No unusual hairstyles or hair color will be allowed.
- Footwear should be formal. No athletic shoes, work boots, flip-flops etc.
- Dress code guidelines apply to accessories and jewelry. Nose piercings or facial piercings are not allowed.

## **GIRLS**

- Dresses must be not shorter than mid-thigh.
- Proper under garments must be worn.
- Dresses must have necklines that ensure appropriate coverage of the bust area. Dresses with low-cut or plunging necklines that expose too much are not allowed.
- Dresses must have backlines that sufficiently cover appropriate areas.
- See through dresses are not permitted.
- Dresses that show bare stomachs and/or sides of the torso are not permitted.
- Dresses with side, front, or back slits that extend above mid-thigh (more than 2 inches above knee) are not permitted.
- A dress that may be acceptable on one person may expose too much on another one, depending on body shape and size.
- If you are concerned your prom dress might not meet guidelines, take a picture of yourself in the dress and see Mrs. McCarthy to have the dress approved. If the dress does not meet guidelines and you wait until prom night, you will be denied entrance and will forfeit your ticket.

## **BOYS**

- Tuxedos, suits, or a combination of dress shirt, dress pants and tie are allowed. Jeans are not allowed.
  - Cowboy hats, top hats, and other formal dress hats may be worn.
  - No caps or canes.

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student's teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the STAAR.

Certain students—some with disabilities and some classified as English language learners—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

Parents of a student at or above grade level 3 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year. Failure of a student to attend these programs may result in violations of required school attendance as well as the student not being promoted to the next grade level.

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student at the middle school or junior high level who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment or is determined by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in grade 9. The PGP will be designed and implemented by a school counselor, teacher, or other staff member designated by the principal. The plan will, among other items, identify the student's educational goals, address the parent's educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [For additional information, see the school counselor, Nanette Kubena, and policy EIF(LEGAL).] For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[For information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students, see **Personal Graduation Plans for Students Under the Foundation Graduation Program** on page 55.]

### **High School Grade Levels**

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

A student in grades 9–12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [Also see **Grade Level Classification** on page 48.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 51 and **Standardized Testing** on page 81 for more information about EOC assessments.]

## **RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

[See **Leaving Campus** on page 65.]

## **REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES (All Grade Levels)**

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every six weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Working Together** on page 69 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal and superintendent pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL) and **Grading Guidelines** on page 48.]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within three days. The district may use an electronic program to communicate academic information about your child, including for report card and progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature of the parent will be accepted by the district, but you are entitled to request the option to provide a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

## **RETALIATION**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34.]

## **SAFETY (All Grade Levels)**

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and on district vehicles is a high priority of the district. Although the district has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, campus behavior coordinator, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.

- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

### **Accident Insurance**

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

### **Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies**

From time to time, students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

There are four specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders.

- Lockout is followed by the Directive: "Secure the Perimeter" and is the protocol used to safeguard students and staff within the building.
- Lockdown is followed by "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place.
- Evacuate is always followed by a location, and is used to move students and staff from one location to a different location in or out of the building.
- Shelter is always followed by a type and a method and is the protocol for group and self-protection.

### **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may have to rely on previously provided written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

### **Emergency School-Closing Information**

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that school is dismissed early or opening is delayed because of severe weather or another emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways:

- School Messenger- School Notification Systems for Parent Communications
- Remind
- [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net)
- Brazos High School Facebook page
- Local TV Stations: KPRC Channel 2, KHOU Channel 11, KTRK Channel 13, KRIV Channel 26

## **SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS**

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 81.]

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)**

For schedule changes, please contact the BHS counselor, Nanette Kubena. A student cannot change his/her schedule without parental consent. A student's schedule may be changed by school personnel if there is a need for academic remediation.

Although a request for schedule change(s) may be presented, it is not a guarantee that the change(s) will occur.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

- BHS Commons
- BHS Library

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless a student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult, or unless students are granted permission to remain on campus in accordance with policy FNAB, students must leave campus immediately.

**Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

**Use of Hallways During Class Time (All Grade Levels)**

Loitering or standing in the halls during class is not permitted. During class time, a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

**Cafeteria Services (All Grade Levels)**

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need or household situation. Information about a student's participation is confidential; however, disclosure of a student's eligibility may be made without prior notice or consent to programs, activities, and individuals that are specifically authorized access under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), which is the law that sets forth the disclosure limits for the district's child nutrition programs. A student's name, eligibility status, and other information may be disclosed to certain agencies as authorized under the NSLA to facilitate the enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent notifies the district that a student's information should not be disclosed. A parent's decision will not affect the child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk. See Georgina Matula-Director of Child Nutrition or the BISD Registration Packet to apply for free or reduced price meal services.

Parents are strongly encouraged to continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student will be allowed to continue purchasing meals for up to 5 days or up to \$6.00, whichever occurs first, and the district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance. If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the student's meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive an alternate meal.



**Brazos ISD**  
**Child Nutrition**  
**Charge Policy**

For school year 2017/2018, Brazos ISD charge policy has been updated.

Beginning August 17, 2017, students at all campus levels will be allowed to charge two meals with a maximum dollar amount of \$6.00 will be allowed. Students with an unpaid negative account balance will continue to receive regular meals and student will be charged for the meals. The child nutrition department will notify parents in a letter stating their child's account is at a low dollar amount and funds need to be posted to the account. The child nutrition department will also notify parents in a letter stating their child has charged meals and a negative dollar amount will reflect in this notification. Once notification of meal account balances are sent home, families will have 14 business days to pay off the negative balance. After the 14 business days, further action from the child nutrition department will follow via phone call and or certified notification to family with outstanding unpaid debt. The Child Nutrition office can set up payment plans in an effort to assist families that may need more time to pay outstanding debts. Parents can make payments online through the district website via Lunch Money Now. Brazos ISD encourages all families who may qualify for free/reduced benefits to fill out the free/reduced lunch applications which are available at all campuses. For applications contact your child's campus or contact Gina Matula, Child Nutrition Director at 979-478-6006, ext. 106.

If a student has a negative amount on their account, they will not be allowed to purchase extras or ala carte items until the meal charges are paid in full. If student presents money for these items with a negative amount on their account, the money presented will go towards the charged amount already incurred on said account.

Parents may limit the extra purchases on their children's accounts by filling out the Snack and Ala Carte permission slips sent home from the Child Nutrition Department. Student's accounts will be flagged in computer system stating limitations to accounts. Please fill the form out and send to Brazos ISD Child Nutrition Department.

Sincerely,

Gina Matula

Brazos ISD Child Nutrition Director

**Library (All Grade Levels)**

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during the following times with a teacher permit:

- Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 PM.
- Any other time coordinated with the BISD librarian, Jill Hutchins

**Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Student-organized, student-led non-curriculum-related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy FNAB(LOCAL).

A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

**SEARCHES**

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, district officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

**Backpacks/Garment Bags**

Students will be allowed to carry backpacks from class to class, but they will be stored in an assigned area by the teacher. Students are responsible for the contents of their backpacks.

**Students' Desks and Lockers (All Grade Levels)**

Students are fully responsible for the contents of their assigned desks and lockers.

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of their assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that their lockers are locked, and that the combinations are not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable suspicion to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by policy, whether or not a student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

**Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)**

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. [See policy CQ for more information.]

Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See policy FNF(LEGAL) and **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 42 for more information.]

### **Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Students are fully responsible for the contents of their vehicles

A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle parked on district property and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

Vehicles parked on district property are under the jurisdiction of the district. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable suspicion to do so, with or without the permission of the student. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the student's parent will be contacted. If a search is also refused by the student's parent, the district will turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may, in certain circumstances, contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

### **Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)**

Students are fully responsible for the contents of their vehicles, assigned desks, and lockers

The district will use trained dogs to alert school officials to the presence of prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. At any time, trained dogs may be used around lockers and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. Searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings may also be conducted by trained dogs when students are not present. An item in a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle to which a trained dog alerts may be searched by school officials.

### **Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)**

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL).]

### **Drug Testing (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL). Also see **Steroids** on page 82.]

## **SEX OFFENDER PROCEDURE**

### ***Brazos Independent School District Parent/Sex Offender Procedure***

The following procedures apply to any parent or legal guardian of a student who has been identified as a "child sex offender"<sup>1</sup> Any parent or legal guardian of a student will be required to comply with the following procedures upon visitation to campus or attendance at a school-sponsored activity.<sup>2</sup> These procedures will be followed without exception. Failure of a parent or

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this procedure, "child sex offender" means any person who has been convicted, placed on deferred adjudication, or adjudicated delinquent for any type of sexual offense whatsoever against a child younger than 17 years of age or a student enrolled in a public or private secondary school, regardless of when the offense took place.

<sup>2</sup> Any other person who has been identified as a child sex offender will be prohibited from coming on any BISD campus or from attending any school-sponsored activity, notwithstanding these procedures.

legal guardian of a student who has been identified as a “child sex offender” to comply with these procedures may result in that person losing the privilege to visit any of the BISD campuses or attend any school- sponsored activity at any location.

**For a parent or administrative conference the person will;**

- a) call the campus principal and schedule a meeting prior to coming to school;
- b) report immediately to the office upon arriving at school;
- c) be escorted by a school employee the entire time he/she is on campus;
- d) have no access to any commons area of the building;
- e) have no access to any classroom where students other than his/her child are present; and
- f) be escorted back to their vehicle by a school employee at the conclusion of the visit.

**When dropping off or picking up a child to or from school the person will;**

- a) call the campus principal and schedule the time of drop off or pick up;
- b) pick up or drop off the child in the presence of the campus administrator or designee; and
- c) be escorted back to their vehicle by a school employee after the child has been picked up or dropped off.

**Prior to attending an after school or extra-curricular event the person will;**

- a) call the campus principal and state his/her intent to attend the event, no later than twenty-four hours prior to the start of the event;
- b) sign in at a place designated by the campus principal upon arrival at the event;
- c) sign out at a place designated by the campus principal prior to departing the event; and
- d) be escorted to his/her vehicle by a school employee at the time of the departure from the event.

**As an additional safety precaution, BISD may choose to post a picture of the “child sex offender” at the gate or entrance area of the extra-curricular event.**

**When picking up or dropping off a student at an extra-curricular activity, on or off school property, the person will;**

- a) contact the campus administrator and make arrangements for picking up or dropping off the student; and
- b) remain in the vehicle while waiting on the student.

**A parent/legal guardian who has been identified as a “child sex offender” is prohibited from transporting any student or child (other than his/her own) to or from any BISD campus or school-sponsored activity without express written permission from the parent or guardian of the student. Any person who has been identified as a “child sex offender” is also prohibited from working as a volunteer for the school district, including but not limited to volunteering for school-related activities such as booster clubs and class fund raisers.**

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 34.]

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, English language learners, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Teresa Ressler (979) 478-6000 or [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net)

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

### **Secondary Grade Levels**

#### ***SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)***

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; these exams are usually taken at the end of the junior year. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT, and more information can be obtained on these assessments from the school counselor.

Note that participation in these assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on his or her transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances. A student's performance at a certain level on the SAT or ACT also makes the student eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public institution of higher education.

#### ***TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment***

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district as well. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment for college readiness may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

### **STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)**

#### ***High School Courses—End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments***

STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I
- English I and English II

- Biology
- U.S. History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation, unless otherwise waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

There are three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have additional opportunities to retake the assessment.

STAAR A will be available for an eligible student with a Section 504 accommodation plan who has been identified with dyslexia or a related disorder, as well as for a student receiving special education services, if the student meets state-established criteria and requires certain instructional and assessment accommodations on a routine basis.

STAAR Alternate 2, for students receiving special education services who meet certain criteria established by the state, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

An ARD committee for a student receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan.

STAAR L, which is a linguistically accommodated assessment, will be available for English language learners who require this type of testing accommodation.

[Also see **Graduation** on page 51 for additional information.]

### **STEROIDS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

### **STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE (All Grade Levels)**

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district strives to assist any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care) with the enrollment and registration process, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment in the district.

Please contact Teresa Ressler, who has been designated as the district's foster care liaison, at (979) 478/6000 or [tressler@brazosisd.net](mailto:tressler@brazosisd.net) with any questions.

[See also **Students in the Conservatorship of the State** on page 14 for more information.]

### **STUDENT SPEAKERS (All Grade Levels)**

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events:

Brazos High School athletic competitions, school announcements, school greetings, organization meetings, banquets, and award ceremonies

If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA(LOCAL).

[See policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities and **Graduation** on page 57 for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies.]

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (All Grade Levels)**

If you are worried that your child may be using or is in danger of experimenting, using, or abusing illegal drugs or other prohibited substances, please contact the school counselor. The school counselor can provide you with a list of community resources that may be of assistance to you. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) maintains information regarding children's mental health and substance abuse intervention services on its website: [Services for Children and Adolescents](#).

### **SUICIDE AWARENESS (All Grade Levels)**

The district is committed to partnering with parents to support the healthy mental, emotional, and behavioral development of its students. If you are concerned about your child, please access [Texas Suicide Prevention](#) or contact the school counselor for more information related to suicide prevention services available in your area.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

Brazos High School will provide a Summer School Program for students that are in need of academic remediation. To qualify the student may have not met the following minimum requirements:

- In attendance less than 90%
- Not passing STAAR End-of-Course exams.
- Failing to meet passing standards in the core academic classes.

### **TARDIES (All Grade Levels)**

A student who is tardy to class is subject to the discipline outlined in the Brazos ISD Student Code of Conduct.

### **TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (All Grade Levels)**

Textbooks and other district-approved instructional materials are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Any books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives. A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an item in

acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

### **TRANSFERS (All Grade Levels)**

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments Error! Bookmark not defined.**, **Bullying Error! Bookmark not defined.**, and **Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services Error! Bookmark not defined.**, for other transfer options.]

### **TRANSFERS (Out of District)**

Brazos ISD accepts applications for transfer students living outside of the boundaries of the school district without fees or tuition being charged in accordance with policy FDA(LOCAL). Applicants must apply to the principal of their prospective campus. Application must be submitted annually. Even if applications are not submitted all transfer students will be reviewed annually by campus administration. They do not automatically renew annually. It is the responsibility of each campus administrator to review each application, check prior school history, and make annual recommendations on the acceptance or denial of the transfer request. It is also campus administration's responsibility to inform parents or guardians of their decision. Once approved, a transfer student will become a Brazos ISD student for that school year and will be subject to all district policy, rules, and regulations. The following criteria are reviewed to determine acceptance or denial of a transfer application.

- Academic history- state testing, subject, and course grades;
- Discipline history- detentions, ISS, Suspensions, and DAEP placements,
- Attendance history- poor attendance or truancy levels,
- Criminal history- any pending legal or criminal proceedings- felony charges are an automatic disqualifier,
- Special program needs- the district is not required to establish nor restructure any program nor bear any additional expense that they do not currently furnish under state and federal law to meet the needs of resident students for a transfer student,
- Class size limits- if a transfer student would put the district over the state class size limits, then applicants would be denied. If an application is approved and class size enrollments increase to exceed state class size requirements then residents of the district and/or students of employees of the district will have precedence over other transfers. Transfers may be revoked at any time during the school year for this reason.
- False, incomplete, or misleading information-the district reserves the right to deny or revoke any transfer where information has been false, incomplete, or misleading from parents, guardians, law enforcement, juvenile authorities, school of residence, and/or any previous school districts where the student has resided during their school history;
- In addition as stated in the Brazos ISD Student Code of Conduct a transfer student may have their revoked for violation of the student code of conduct.



Appeals of campus administrative recommendations and/or denials of transfer applications can be made to the superintendent's office. The superintendent will only grant an appeal if the above policy and procedures have not been followed. Determining whether to accept or deny a transfer request is primarily a campus administrator's decision. Appeals to the Board from the superintendent's office may be made after a formal grievance procedure has been filed by the parent or guardian. Paperwork to initiate the formal grievance process can be acquired from each campus administrator or online at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net) or at the Brazos ISD administration office.

## **TRANSPORTATION (All Grade Levels)**

### **School-Sponsored Trips**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity may establish procedures related to making an exception to this requirement when a parent requests that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.

### **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually, and any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the operator of the vehicle and all passengers, students must board buses or other vehicles only at authorized stops, and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Bradley Reinecker, at (979) 478-6026 or [breinecker@brazosisd.net](mailto:breinecker@brazosisd.net).

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, including buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.

- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.

### **VANDALISM (All Grade Levels)**

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and for years to come—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **VIDEO CAMERAS (All Grade Levels)**

For safety purposes, video and audio recording equipment is used to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video and audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Upon request of a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member, or a board member, state law requires the district to place video and audio recording equipment in a classroom in which the student spends at least 50 percent of his or her instructional day, referred to in the law as a self-contained classroom. The majority of students in this type of classroom must also be students who receive special education services. Before the district places a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which your child receives special education services, the district will provide notice to you. Please speak directly with the principal for further information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment.

[See EHBAF(LOCAL).]

### **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

#### **General Visitors**

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and

must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor's arrival, the individual must check in at the main office first.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

#### **Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students**

The district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

#### **VOLUNTEERS (All Grade Levels)**

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Brazos High School principal, Eric P. Cormier, at (979) 478-6832 or [ecormier@brazosisd.net](mailto:ecormier@brazosisd.net) for more information and to complete an application.

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

#### **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)**

A student under age 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book and equipment clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the school counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

A student who is age 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

## Glossary

**Accelerated instruction** is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level and/or as a result of a student not meeting the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

**ACT-Aspire** refers to an assessment that took the place of ACT-Plan and is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

**ACT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ARD** is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parents are members of the committee.

**Attendance review committee** is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

**EOC assessments** are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments are required for graduation. These exams will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

**ESSA** is the Every Student Succeeds Act passed by the federal government in December 2015.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** is the written record of the individualized education program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or districtwide tests; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.

**IGC** is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

**ISS** refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

**PGP** stands for Personal Graduation Plan, which is required for high school students beginning with ninth graders in the 2014–15 school year, and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

**PSAT** is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT.

**SAT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

**SHAC** stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, along with providing assistance with other student and employee wellness issues.

**Section 504** is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

**STAAR** is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments, effective beginning with certain students for the 2011–2012 school year.

**STAAR A** is an accommodated version of the STAAR that is available for certain students who receive special education services or students who have been identified as dyslexic.

**STAAR Alternate 2** is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

**STAAR Linguistically Accommodated (STAAR L)** is an alternative state-mandated assessment with linguistic accommodations designed for certain recent immigrant English language learners.

**State-mandated assessments** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the STAAR EOC assessments is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests if necessary for promotion or graduation.

**Student Code of Conduct** is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

**TELPAS** stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that English language learners make in learning the English language, and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten–grade 12.

**TSI assessment** is the Texas Success Initiative assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

**TxVSN** is the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors, and courses are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

**UIL** refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

## APPENDIX

## I:

### Freedom from Bullying Policy

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/145?filter=FFI>

Below is the text of Brazos Independent School District's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date that this handbook was finalized for this school year.

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI(LOCAL)

Adopted on 2/20/2012

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**Note:** This policy addresses bullying of District students. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

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#### BULLYING PROHIBITED

The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

#### DEFINITION

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying if it:

1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and
2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

#### EXAMPLES

Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property,

	theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.
RETALIATION	The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.
EXAMPLES	Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.
FALSE CLAIM	A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
TIMELY REPORTING	Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.
REPORTING PROCEDURES	To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.
STUDENT REPORT	
EMPLOYEE REPORT	Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.
REPORT FORMAT	A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.
PROHIBITED CONDUCT	The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.
INVESTIGATION OF REPORT	The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.
CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION	Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.



	<p>The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.</p>
NOTICE TO PARENTS	<p>If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.</p>
DISTRICT ACTION BULLYING	<p>If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p>
DISCIPLINE	<p>A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
CORRECTIVE ACTION	<p>Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.</p>
TRANSFERS	<p>The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.</p>
COUNSELING	<p>The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.</p>
IMPROPER CONDUCT	<p>If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.</p>
CONFIDENTIALITY	<p>To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.</p>
APPEAL	<p>A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.</p>
RECORDS RETENTION	<p>Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).</p>

ACCESS TO POLICY  
AND PROCEDURES

This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's Web site, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

**APPENDIX**

**II:**

**Acknowledgment Form—Amendment**

*Note to handbook developer: You might keep this form on hand throughout the school year to assist in documenting communication of Student Handbook amendments made during the year.*

My child and I have received a copy of the Brazos High School Student Handbook Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_.

Print name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Brazos High School Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is an essential element to the Brazos High School's philosophy and practice of promoting academic excellence. For an academic institution to be successful, an honor code and consequences for violating the honor code must be established. Indeed, once the student is in a university, college, or workplace, any form of dishonesty will result in serious penalties, including automatic course failure and expulsion, losing your job, etc. Cheating, dishonesty, and plagiarism will not be tolerated in Brazos High School.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

- Taking, stealing, and/or using an assignment from someone else and submitting it as one's own.
- Allowing another to take and/or use an assignment to submit as his/her own.
- Looking at another's test or essay with or without his consent for the purpose of duplicating that work and submitting it as one's own.
- Representing as one's own the work or words of a parent, sibling, friend, or anyone else.
- Discussing or revealing the contents of a test or quiz with students who have not completed the assignment.
- Unauthorized use of teacher test materials, answer sheets, computer files, or grading programs.
- Receiving answers for assignments or exams from any unauthorized source.
- Working on assignments with others when not authorized by the instructor.
- Copying from other students during an exam.
- Giving answers to another student for an assignment or exam.

Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

- Agreeing with other students to commit academic dishonesty.
- Falsification of results from research or laboratory experiments.
- Written or oral presentation of results from research which was never performed.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following examples:

- Directly quoting or paraphrasing all or part of another's written or spoken words without notes or documentation within the body of a work.
- Presenting an idea, theory, or formula originated by another person as the original work or the person submitting that work.
- Purchasing or receiving in any other manner a term paper or other assignment that is the work of another person and submitting that assignment as the student's own work.
- Repeating information, such as statistics or demographics, which is not common knowledge and which was originally compiled by another person.

# AWARDS

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Awards to District students shall be made at all District schools in compliance with UIL regulations. These awards may include:

1. Major award (jacket, sweater, or blanket)
2. Symbolic award (medal, patch, trophy, or certificate)
3. Awards may be earned in academic, athletic, band, cheerleading, UIL academic, literary, and FFA areas.

## LETTERING

The following provisions for letter jackets shall apply:

### ACADEMIC LETTER JACKET

Each year shall stand on its own. Students in all grade levels must have an average of 90 percent or above in every class for both semesters. An academic letter jacket shall not be issued prior to a student's junior year even if the student qualifies before the junior year.

### ATHLETIC LETTER JACKET

An athletic letter jacket shall not be issued prior to a student's junior year even if the student qualifies before the junior year.

High school non-varsity athletes shall be eligible for symbolic awards only.

Criteria for a major award shall require that a student has:

1. Been on the varsity team a majority of the season and participated in the sport all season.
2. Completed two years at the District high school.
3. Been recommended by the head coach of the sport.

## BAND

Students who have completed three years of band at the high school level shall be eligible for a major award.

All awards shall be subject to the recommendation of the band director.

## CHEERLEADING

Students who have completed three years as cheerleaders at the high school level shall be eligible for a major award.

Any student who has completed two years as a varsity cheerleader and has been selected for the squad for the coming year, or has concluded high school eligibility, shall be eligible for a major award.

All awards shall be subject to the recommendation of the cheer-leader sponsor.

## UIL ACADEMIC COMPETITION

Any student who has competed for three years in the UIL-district Academic Meet shall be eligible for a major award.

Any student who has competed for two years in the UIL-district Academic Meet and has advanced to regional competition in at least one of the two years shall be eligible for a major award.

Any student who advances to state competition shall be eligible to receive a major award; however, the award shall not be issued prior to the student's junior year even if the student qualifies before the junior year.

All awards shall be subject to the recommendation of the event sponsor and the UIL coordinator.

#### LITERARY

High school speech and drama award criteria shall require that a student has:

1. Participated in UIL and UIL-type invitational tournament events for a minimum of two years (major award).
2. Attended at least four of the scheduled tournaments (or at least one-half of those scheduled if fewer than six were scheduled) in each of the two years (major award).
3. Participated in at least two contest one-act plays as a cast or crew member (major award).
4. Participated in one event for two years or two different events for one year each (major award).
5. Attended all tournaments scheduled (when only two or three are available) (major award).

#### ALL ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC, BAND, AND LITERARY AWARDS

The student must be recommended for the award by the director of the event, who shall maintain adequate evidence of participation.

Fulfillment of one-half of any of the above criteria qualifies a student for a symbolic award.

#### EXCEPTIONS

A committee chaired by the high school principal and including the athletic director, band director, and two literary sponsors may make exceptions to required criteria for students who move out of the District.

Minutes of the committee actions shall be filed in the office of the high school principal.

#### FFA AWARDS

Only juniors and seniors shall be eligible to receive letter jackets for FFA. A jacket shall be awarded only when a junior or senior has accumulated the required number of points.

#### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

A Special Olympics letter jacket shall not be issued prior to a student's junior year even if the student qualifies before the junior year.

Students who have participated in Special Olympics for three years at the high school level shall be eligible for a major award.

All awards shall be subject to the recommendation of the event sponsor

# CONSTITUTION

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## *NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY | FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS*

### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Brazos High School (NC-953) Chapter of the National Art Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of the chapter shall be to:

- A. Inspire and recognize those students who have shown outstanding ability in art;
- B. Foster excellence and a dedicated spirit to the pursuit of art;
- C. Further creative abilities and talents of the Society's members, as well as the school's entire student art enrollment;
- D. Aid members in working toward the attainment of their highest potential in an art area;
- E. Bring art to the attention of the school and community;
- F. Increase an awareness of art in relation to other areas of the school curriculum; and
- G. Further aesthetic awareness in all aspects of the school's total program.

### **Article II: Local Chapters**

Section 1. Public, charter, private and virtual schools, home school networks, and community based non-profit art organizations are eligible to apply for charter through the National Art Education Association (NAEA).

### **Article III: Membership**

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be based upon art scholarship, service, and character.

Section 2. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must be a high school student enrolled in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 in this school, and have completed a period equivalent to one semester of art in this school.

Section 3. An eligible candidate shall have a minimum art scholarship average of B, or this school's equivalent. This is the national minimum standard of achievement required for eligibility and shall remain fixed.

Section 4. Members may remain active during such time when there is no art on their class schedule. Section 5. Students enrolled in home-school on a full-time basis and who meet all other eligibility requirements may be considered for NAHS membership.

### **Article IV: Selection of Members**

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter of the National Art Honor Society shall be by recommendation from the art faculty of this school who are members in good standing of the National Art Education Association (NAEA). Criteria used to determine membership selection beyond faculty recommendation shall be set forth in this chapter's bylaws.

Section 2. Any member who falls below the standards that are the basis for selection shall be promptly warned. If during the next regular marking period of the school, the member fails to meet the standards used as basis for selection to the Society, the case shall be passed upon by the chapter council.

Section 3. When a member is dismissed, he/she must be notified and the membership card returned to the Society sponsor.

Section 4. An active member of the National Art Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership, signed by the sponsor and principal.

Section 5. An active member of the National Art Honor Society who transfers to this school will be accepted for membership in this chapter.

Section 6. NAEA does not participate in matters of member non-selection or dismissal.

#### **Article V: Officers**

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer (these could be combined), historian/parliamentarian, chair for awards and ceremonies, chair for public relations, and chair for activities.

Section 2. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of this chapter.

Section 4. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and serve as the chapter's program chair.

Section 5. The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, a record of all business, and all records on file.

Section 6. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

Section 7. A chapter council shall consist of the chapter president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and the chapter sponsor.

#### **Article VI: Supervision**

Section 1. An art faculty member [sponsor] shall be designated to supervise and provide guidance for this chapter on a daily basis.

Section 2. The sponsor shall be a member of the art faculty employed by the school.

Section 3. The post of sponsor shall be voluntary.

Section 4. The sponsors must be National Art Education Association members in good standing.

Section 5. The activities of this chapter will be subject to the approval of the sponsor and the principal. The principal shall have the final right to approve all activities and decisions of this chapter.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1. The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held during the school year on days designated by the chapter council and approved by the principal.

Section 2. The officers of the chapter shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the year.

Section 3. Special meetings, approved by the chapter council, may be called by the president.



Section 4. All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the supervision of the sponsor.

Section 5. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in all points not expressly provided for in the constitution of this chapter.

#### **Article VIII: Membership Fees**

Section 1. A yearly NAHS membership fee of \$3.00 per student shall be forwarded to the National Art Honor Society at the NAEA National Office.

Section 2. A yearly chapter registration fee is required for each NAHS chapter and entitles the Chapter Sponsor to all the rights and privileges of one active membership including all NAEA member and NAHS chapter benefits. The chapter registration fee is waived for Sponsors who are already active members. Co-sponsors must be active NAEA members.

Section 3. Chapter fees and student membership fees may be paid by the individual or school, community group/agency. Fees and registration forms must be submitted to NAEA by the chapter sponsor.

Section 4. Chapter and student membership fees are non-refundable and nontransferable.

Section 5. Local chapters may establish and collect annual dues at their discretion for local operating expenses.

#### **Article IX: Bylaws**

Section 1. A chapter may wish to include bylaws to amplify sections of its constitution. Bylaws do not need to be approved by the National Council if they are consistent with regulations outlined in the constitution.

Section 2. A current copy of local chapter bylaws must be filed with the NAEA Office.

#### **Article X: The National Council**

Section 1. The National Council shall be: The Secondary Division Director, the Middle-Level Division Director and two members-at-large from the general Secondary and Middle-Level membership of NAEA. Members-at-large shall be appointed by the NAEA President. The NAEA Executive Director shall be an Ex-Officio member.

Section 2. Terms of office for members of the National Council shall be two-years.

#### **Article XI: Constitution**

Section 1. NAEA reserves the right to amend this constitution based on input from the NAEA staff and the National Council.

# NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY BYLAWS

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## *BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER NC-953*

**Section 1.** A chapter should include bylaws to amplify sections of its constitution. Bylaws do not need to be approved by the National Council if they are consistent with regulations outlined in the constitution. A current copy of the local chapter bylaws must be filed with NAEA.

**Section 2.** To remain a member in good standing, a member must pay dues and complete three (3) service hours in the visual arts each year.

**Section 3.** Annual dues of \$ 5.00 will be collected from each member.

**Section 4.** Attendance is required at meetings to maintain membership and privileges.

**Section 5.** All members must participate in 75% of our projects, activities, contests, and fundraisers. (Activities and contests include the Austin County Fair, Fort Bend County Fair, Downey Publishing Contests, and the Attwater Prairie Chicken Contest.)

**Section 6.** For the NAHS and NJAHS officers, attendance is also required at any executive meetings called outside of the regularly scheduled meetings.

**Section 7.** To graduate with NAHS honors and earn the right to wear a cord, pin, or tassel at graduation, a member must remain in good standing until the graduation date.

**Section 8.** Members must retain a 94 average in honors or AP class or a 93 average in a regular class.

**Section 9.** Members must have and maintain an 85 cumulative average in all other subjects.

**Section 10.** Members may remain active during such time when there are no visual arts on their class schedules as long as they fulfill all of the other requirements each year.

**Section 11.** In the event of an infraction of rules, a review by the officers and sponsors will be conducted. If the individual in question is an officer, he/she will not participate in the decision-making process. This applies to all community laws as well as school and chapter rules.

**Section 12.** Members shall also be placed on two months' probation if more than two (2) disciplinary referrals are made against the member within one school calendar year. If the member has another referral during the time of probation, then a meeting of the officers shall be called to determine dismissal proceedings.

**Section 13.** Member nominations will be made by members in good standing and must be presented to the officers and sponsors for review by the last Monday in September and the first Monday in January. Nominees will be notified by letter if they have met the requirements listed in previous sections. The Review Board will consist of all officers, sponsors, and at least two (2) other members who are not officers.

**Section 14.** Officers shall be elected from the membership. Officers must be members with at least one year experience in the society, met all requirements for continued membership, and be in good standing. Elections will be held at the beginning of the school year. Officer nominations will be made by the membership through a secret ballot vote and the winner will be from a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, a review of the members past performance and GPA will determine a winner.

**BYLAWS OF THE BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER  
OF THE  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**  
*Revised 2015*

Bylaw I  
Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Brazos High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary schools.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to encourage the development of character in all students of Brazos High School.

Bylaw II  
Selection of Members

Section 1. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at Brazos High School for at least one semester.

Section 2. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 94.0 with no rounding. Once selected, a student must maintain this average. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. Candidates shall have at most one discipline referral for a minor offense.

Section 3. The selection of the members to the Brazos High School Chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Advisory committee, which is chosen by the NHS advisor.

Section 4. The Faculty Council shall require the completion of the Student Activity Information form. The Faculty Council shall assume that a candidate who does not return the form by the due date is not interested in being considered for membership. The parent or guardian of the student must sign the activity information form for it to be accepted.

Section 5. To be eligible, the candidate must be enrolled in the recommended or distinguished diploma.

### Bylaw III Dismissal of Members

Section 1. The faculty advisory committee in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society will determine the procedure for dismissal.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards, which were the basis for their selection, shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor except in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civic laws when a member does not have to be warned. Members shall be promptly warned for the following offenses:

- Failure to maintain by semester a 94 grade point average of academic grades. The member will have six weeks to correct this.
- Failure to participate in at least one academic UIL event per year. Participation means actively practicing for an event. This is determined by the advisor and the academic coach.
- Failure to participate in the monthly meetings. After two unexcused absences the student will be dismissed.
- Failure to maintain the high ideals of leadership, service, and character.
- Failure to abide by school rules as stated in the handbook. Students are allowed one minor discipline referral before receiving a written warning. Any additional referrals will result in automatic dismissal.
- Placement in In-School suspension will result in a written warning. If it is for a major offense, student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. A member is allowed only one written warning during his/her membership.

Section 4 – Cheating is not tolerated. Any cheating will be grounds for automatic dismissal from the chapter.

- Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:
  - Taking, stealing, and/or using an assignment from someone else and submitting it as one's own.
  - Allowing another to take and/or use an assignment to submit as his/her own.
  - Looking at another's test or essay with or without his consent for the purpose of duplicating that work and submitting it as one's own.
  - Representing as one's own the work of a parent, sibling, friend, or anyone else.
  - Discussing or revealing the contents of a test or quiz with students who have not completed the assignment.
  - Unauthorized use of teacher test materials, answer sheets, computer files, or grading programs.
  - Receiving answer for assignments or exams from any unauthorized source.

- Working on assignments with others when not authorized by the instructor.
- Copy from other students during an exam.
- Giving answers to another student for an assignment or exam.

Section 5 – Placement in DAEP for any reason will result in automatic dismissal from the chapter.

Section 6. In all cases of impending dismissal, with the exception of dismissal for grades, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the Faculty Advisory committee.

Section 7. For the purpose of dismissal, majority vote of the Faculty Advisory committee is required.

Section 8. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Section 9. A first year member who does not complete his five hours of service at the end of the year will not be a member next year. A second year member who does not complete his/her 10 service hours by the designated date of their senior year will not graduate as a NHS member. Second year members will complete at least 5 service hours in the fall semester and 5 service hours in the spring semester.

#### Bylaw IV Chapter Officers

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and reporter.

Section 2. The officers will be selected by a majority vote at the April meeting. Graduating seniors may not vote.

Section 3. The president shall plan the agenda and preside at the meetings of the chapter. He/She will always represent the chapter in any outside activities.

Section 4. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president, and will be the coordinator of the fundraisers.

Section 5. The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business, and an accurate count of attendance. He /she will be responsible for the Induction ceremony and keeping track of service hours.

Section 6. The treasurer will be responsible for the collection of all money due and received by the chapter, and will give such funds to the chapter advisor for deposit in the school activity fund.

Section 7. The parliamentarian shall act as an advisor to the president, officers, and others in matters pertaining to parliamentary procedure and the provision of the bylaws. He/she will also help the vice-president oversee the fundraising activities.

Section 8. The duties of the reporter shall be to report all activities of the chapter, when appropriate, to the local news media or to the school.

#### Bylaw V Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held as needed during the school year on days designated by the advisor and approved by the principal. This includes all Mid Coast Association of National Honor Society Meetings. All members are required to come to meetings unless illness or an unavoidable circumstance excuses them. A parent or guardian must write a note detailing the circumstances.

Section 2. The chapter shall meet once a month on the third Wednesday unless otherwise designated.

Section 3. The president or advisor may call special meetings when necessary.

**Brazos High School**  
**Speech and Debate Handbook**  
**Mrs. Rachel Divin, Sponsor**

**PHILOSOPHY OF THE BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM**

**ETHICS AND STANDARDS** – Students on the Brazos Speech Team are to uphold the highest ethical standards, in the classroom, in the community and in competition. Unethical behavior by one person reflects upon the entire group. An ethical reputation is difficult to earn and easy to lose. Good character is the most important thing we teach. Both attitude and behavior reflect good character. Members of the Brazos Speech Team are to conduct themselves in a professional, mature manner at all times. This attitude should be reflected in case construction, as well (Example: All cards must be properly documented). Members of the Speech Team will adhere to the BHS Code of Conduct. Any problems which arise should be taken directly to the coaches.

**SELF-DISCIPLINE** – Hard work and self-discipline are essential to success. *Talent is no substitute for dedication to the task.* The only way to reach your potential is to continually strive to do your best. You will be asked to give more than your best. Talented individuals who fail to maximize their potential are wasting everyone's time and resources. Speech and Debate require individual motivation and attention to tasks.

**GRADES AND ATTITUDE** – Your work outside of the Speech Team is extremely important. Team members should strive to maintain high grades and demonstrate a good attitude in other classes. You are responsible for any work missed when you attend a tournament. It is best to make arrangements with your teachers in advance. Students should be aware of state and local guidelines regarding grades, attendance and eligibility. Schoolwork comes before Speech. At the same time, students should not compromise their work with the team because they are behind in their studies. We have the top students in the school – let's keep it that way!

**TEAM UNITY** – Team unity is an essential part of the Brazos Speech Team. We will become like a family. In order to function as a member of the team, you must accept and work with other members. We “squad” evidence, critique interpretations and help other members of the team as much as possible. Materials (supplies, label makers, research, etc.) should not be used without the permission of the owner (This includes coaches' possessions!). *Arrogance, selfishness, ingratitude and other boorish behaviors have no place on our team and will not be tolerated.* Varsity members should be willing to share their expertise with the novice team members and will frequently be asked to take the role of mentor. Novices should be willing to assist varsity members as needed. You should ALWAYS cheer for BHS teams, as well as other district schools.



**EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE** – Speech & Debate tournaments are designed to be educational experiences. Winning is fun, but it is not the only goal. Students who are interested in winning at all costs should find another activity. We WILL win because we are prepared, have worked hard, and have learned from our mistakes. Students should continue to work on improving their own skills no matter what their record is. All research material and argument construction must meet guidelines established by the coaches.

**EVENTS** – The skills you learn in one event will often enhance your work in another event. ALL events are worthwhile. We want our team to have a reputation for being successful in EVERY event.

**GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – The purpose of speech and debate is to promote education. Winning is desirable; however, losing is beneficial also. The student should learn from mistakes made in a round. BHS team members are NOT to argue with a judge. EVER! Good sportsmanship is to be demonstrated at all times. If the student is unable to be a good sport, the student's status on the team will be reevaluated.

**NOVICE/SENIOR AND VARSITY DESIGNATIONS** – All members of the Brazos Speech Team are important. However, certain designations become necessary when determining tournament participation. If a student competes in an event in which they have competed in a previous year of high school, they will no longer be in the Novice division in that event or a similar event. For example, if you compete in Prose your freshman year and then decide to do Poetry your sophomore year, you will not do Novice Poetry. If you do only Poetry and Extemp your freshman year and then decide to do CX Debate your sophomore year, you may be Novice. Please understand that students may be moved to the Senior division in the spring even if it is still their first year in order to prepare for District. There are no Novice and Senior divisions at District and beyond. Varsity distinction is at the coach's discretion and depends on factors such as participation in previous years as well as performance at tournaments and the level of work and commitment shown by the student in and out of class. Classification is not necessarily a determining factor and students may lose varsity designation based on the above considerations. Competing in Senior divisions does not automatically mean that a student is considered to be Varsity.

**TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION** – All members of the Brazos Speech Team are expected to participate in tournaments. Although you may participate in all tournaments we attend, students will be required to participate in at least 2 per year during the competition season. Failure to attend these tournaments will result in a forfeit on the UIL Competition Team. Additionally, if a student is not dressed according to the standards (see guidelines), he/she will not be allowed to participate at that tournament and will be responsible for reimbursing any drop fees, food money, etc. for that tournament. Ranking upon tournament entry will be at the coach's discretion. Students who sign up for a tournament and then drop after the drop deadline will be responsible for paying the fees associated with that drop!

**BRAZOS SPEECH TEAM 2017-2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the Philosophy and Expectations, Student/Parent Agreement, Tournament and Travel Rules and Dress Code of the Brazos Speech Team and we understand and accept the requirements for being on the team. We also understand that failure to fulfill these requirements may result in forfeiture of tournament slots and/or suspension/dismissal from the team. We will complete and return a BHS permission slip.

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SPEECH DRESS CODE FOR TOURNAMENTS**

### **LADIES:**

1. Dress suits or pant suits are preferred. (*Dress suits should be knee length skirt, matching jacket, and solid nice shirt*)
2. Hair should be pulled out of the face.
3. No excessive make-up.
4. Clothing should be modest (*no cleavage, avoid tight clothing and high skirts – knee length is about the highest your skirt should go*)
5. If you are in CX try to coordinate outfits with partner. You don't have to be twinkies, but don't clash.
6. If a skirt is worn, you MUST wear pantyhose. They must be neutral (*close to skin tone*).
7. Shoes must match the hem of your skirt or pants or be a neutral color.
8. Close toed shoes are required.
9. No excessive jewelry including piercings other than ears should be seen.
10. ALWAYS wear appropriate underclothing but we should not see it.

### **GENTLEMEN:**

1. Suits are preferred. (*Required for district competition and beyond*)
2. Khakis, button up shirt, tie, and jacket is acceptable for beginning competitors prior to district, but not recommended.
3. Dress shoes are a must – This does not include new black tennis shoes. Dress boots are acceptable.
4. Hair should not EVER be in your face (*eyes*)! This includes facial hair (*i.e. clean-shaven*).
5. Wear an undershirt and any other appropriate undergarments.
6. Socks should match your pants.
7. Ties should not have anything on them other than a VERY mild print or pattern (*not pictures*).

Remember, the key is to look professional but not distracting. The judges need to be listening to you not studying your clothes.

When in doubt, run it by me. Pictures are helpful. I would suggest that if you are shopping and come across an outfit that you are unsure about, text me with a picture.

TIP: Goodwill and resale shops often have excellent choices.

## BRAZOS HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH/DEBATE STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

The Brazos High School Speech team is an honor organization created to give students the opportunity to build communication, responsibility, argumentation, and persuasion skills while in high school. As part of this objective, students will be required to attend tournaments out of town during the course of the semester. These tournaments will primarily be held on Saturday. Your inclusion on the district team is determined by your performance at these invitational meets so the more you attend, the better your chances are likely to be. Parents and their student should look at the schedule now to determine which tournaments the student will attend.

Parents should understand that whether at Brazos High School or at another school for a tournament, students are bound by the BHS Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook. In addition, students will be held to a high standard of moral and ethical behavior consistent with any representative of Brazos High School. Also refer to the BHS Speech Team Philosophy for additional guidelines. While at tournaments, students will be speaking, interpreting, debating or observing while instructors and other adult chaperones will be judging in other parts of the school. While the students and adults will be at one central location, students will not be constantly supervised while on tournaments. Any violation of the school code of conduct, leaving the premises without permission, damage to own or others' property, or behavior not consistent with an ethical representative of Brazos High School may result in immediate dismissal from the team (*which includes having a parent come and pick them up from the tournament*) and school punishment.

While we are pleased with the honor that our students have shown to our school and other schools while on trips, we must inform students and parents of the expectation the team and the school has for their behavior at and away from school. Please assist us by reinforcing these expectations at home.

If you believe that your student should have the privilege of participating in speech trips and possesses the moral, ethical, and responsible character required on these trips, please sign below to indicate your understanding of the requirements in participation. There is also a line for the student to sign indicating understanding and an agreement to abide by these rules and behavior guidelines.

I will send home a permission slip for each trip with information about the trip. Please read this with your student as it often contains important information on times, locations, etc.

Also, we often get back rather late from tournaments (*midnight – 1:00 A.M.*) which are usually late fall, early spring. I give students an estimate of when we will be home; however, since I am not running the tournament that is ONLY an estimate. Most students have cell phones and all have access to my cell phone. Many parents would rather not be called when their child has their own vehicle to transport them back home; however, if you would like for your child to contact you when we leave the tournament or get close to home, please make sure that they know this. Each trip I will do an "All Call" before we leave and as we get close to home to call. Many call voluntarily but I don't MAKE children call.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [rdivin@brazosisd.net](mailto:rdivin@brazosisd.net).

Thank you for your assistance,

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parent signature

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student signature

We are sending 2 copies home. Please keep one so that you have a copy of the agreement as well as our contact information.

# **Brazos High School Student Council**

## **Article One:** *Name of Organization*

The name of this organization shall be the Brazos High School Student Council, herein after called the Council, in this constitution.

## **Article Two:** *Purpose*

The purpose of the Council shall be to:

1. Strive for good citizenship.
2. Strive for academic excellence.
3. Respect all individuals in the school and community.
4. Involve all students in sharing ideas to make our school the best it can be.
5. Help all students work together in our school.
6. Give all students practice in democracy in action.
7. Help other citizens and groups in our community.

## **Article Three:** *Membership*

**Section 1:** All students from grades 9-12 shall have the opportunity to apply, to vote, and to offer ideas to the for Council action.

**Section 2:** The members of the Student Council shall be the students from Grades 9-12 who are elected by their peers, the advisor, and the Principal.

**Section 3:** The officers shall be elected from grades 9-12. The officers shall be defined as the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, Parliamentarian, and the Treasurer.

President: can only be elected as a senior

Vice President: can only be elected as a Junior or a Senior

Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Secretary: can be elected as a Sophomore, Junior, Senior

All officers shall be in required grade by the next school year, ex. 2015-2016 you are a Junior, if you are running for President, you should be a senior in the 2017-2018 school year

**Section 4:** Each grade will elect three representatives; these are not included in the officers elected.

Freshmen representatives will be elected at the same time as the 10-12 representatives, but at the Junior High during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, the semester before they come to High School

**Section 5:** The principal of Brazos High School shall be the final authority over all actions of the Student Council.

#### **Article Four: Qualifications**

**Section 1:** Any student who wishes to be a member of the Council, either an officer or a class representative shall:

1. Maintain grades of 80% or higher on the report card at the end of each six weeks.
2. Strive to be well organized.
3. Have the ability to work well with others.
4. Maintain 97% attendance at school.
5. Be punctual to school, (no more than three tardies) to class, and to Council meetings.
6. Cannot have more than one write up

**Section 2:** Meetings will be held with all Council students during the second and fourth week of the month, all meetings will start at 7:30am, in a designation decided by the advisor or the principal. During the meeting, students will be informed of the standards for membership on the Council as an officer or a class representative

#### **Article Five: Officers**

**Section 1:** The officers shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, and Parliamentarian

**Section 2:** Process

1. The Student Leader Evaluation Form will be used as the criteria to become an officer or class representative on the Brazos High School Student Council.
2. Any student who wishes to be considered for the Council, should request two copies of the Student Leader Evaluation Form from the Student Council Advisor.
3. Both copies of the Student Leader Evaluation Form will be given to a teacher of the student's choice..
4. The forms will be due back to the Council sponsor the last Friday in April.
5. The Council Advisor and the principal will review the Student Leader Evaluation Forms. All students who qualify to seek membership on the Council will attend a meeting during the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in May to discuss the election process and the guidelines for campaigning.

**Section 3: Officer Duties**

President:

- Lead all meetings
- Give assistance, guidance, and praise
- Act as a facilitator during discussion
- Maintain frequent contact with faculty and administration
- Work with advisor on all planning
- Participate in student council sponsored activities/events

Vice President:

- Work closely with President
- Assume President's duties when needed
- Work with President and Treasurer in preparing calendar and budget
- Assist the President in preparing meeting agendas

Treasurer:

- Oversee council expenses and revenues
- Maintain an accurate and detailed financial record
- Give monetary advice to the council
- Authorize payment/deposits
- Work with President and Vice President in preparing calendar and budget

Secretary:

- Keep an account of minutes at every meeting
- Keep an accurate account of attendance at every meeting
- Help maintain student council files
- Maintain contact information for people who work with the council
- Responsible for "Thank You" cards

Parliamentarian

- Attend all student council events.
- Work with President with proper meeting procedures.
- Must learn and teach the student council about Robert's Rules of Order for meetings.

**Section 4:** The term of office will be for the school year for which the officer was elected.

**Section 5:** In the event that the elected officer is unable to fulfill his or her role to which he or she was elected, the student who was first runner-up for the position will fulfill the obligation of that office. If there was no runner-up, the Council will elect one of the class representatives to fill the vacant position.

**Section 6:** An officer may be placed on probation for a period of six weeks when:

- At the end of the six, the officer's grades are not 80% or higher on the report card.
- Have been absent from two or more meetings.
- Has two or more tardies to school and/or meetings.
- Failure to perform requested/required duties such as:
  - having a prepared officer report ready for each Council meeting.
  - having Council supplies at the meeting
  - failure to complete work on a project more than two times.
- Cannot have more than one write up in the semester.
  - The decision to place an officer on probation will be made by the elected officers with final approval by the Advisor and the Principal.

- While the officer is on probation, his or her office will be filled by the first runner-up for that position. At the end of the semester if the officer has met the qualifications to hold an office on the Council, he or she will be reinstated to that position.

**Section 7:** Removal from office

If an officer needs to be placed on probation for the second time, the officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Student Council with final approval by the Advisor and the Principal.

**Article Six:** *Class Representatives*

**Section 1:** Grades 9-12 shall have three representatives for each class. Grades 10-12 will elect on the first week of May, and grade 9 will be elected the second week of the new school year.

**Section 2:** Process

- The Student Leader Evaluation Form will be used as the criteria to become a class representative on the Brazos High School Student Council.
- Any student in grades 9-12 who wishes to be considered for class representative on the Council, will complete the Student Leader Evaluation Form from the Student Council Advisor.
- The forms will be due back to the Council Advisor no later than a date during third week of school.
- The Council Advisor and the Principal will review the Student Leader Evaluation Forms. All students who qualify to seek to be a homeroom representative on the Council will attend a meeting to discuss the election process.

**Section 3:** (Term of office) The term of office will be the school year for which the class representative was elected.

**Section 4:** In the event that the elected representative is unable to fulfill his or her role to which he or she was elected, the student who was the runner-up in the election will fulfill the obligation of that representative.

**Section 5:** A representative may be placed on probation for a period of six weeks when:

- At the end of the six, the representative grades are not 80% or higher on the report card.
- Have been absent from two or more meetings.
- Has two or more tardies to school and/or meetings.
- Failure to perform requested/required duties such as:
  - o having a prepared officer report ready for each Council meeting.
  - o having Council supplies at the meeting
  - o failure to complete work on a project more than two times.



- Cannot have more than one write up in the semester.
  - The decision to place a representative on probation will be made by the elected officers with final approval by the Advisor and the Principal.
  - While the representative is on probation, his or her office will be filled by the first runner-up for that position. At the end of the six weeks if the officer has met the qualifications to hold an office on the Council, he or she will be reinstated to that position.

#### **Article Seven: The Election Process**

- Section 1:** Election of Student Council officers and class representatives shall take place during the first week of April for 10-12 grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be elected in their eighth grade year the semester before they come to the High School, during the same time as the High School elects their representatives.
- Section 2:** The principal and the sponsor will have the right to limit the number of candidates for each position.
- For example: Three students will be permitted to run for each office on the Council. In the event that there are more than three students who wish to run for the office, the three students with the best scores on the Student Leader Evaluation Form will be chosen. The Advisor and the Principal will have the final approval of the candidates.
- Section 3:** Campaigning guidelines for Student Council officers:
- Campaigning will be permitted up to five days before the election.
  - Campaign posters may be displayed in a designated area on campus.
  - Campaigning for officer positions is not to interfere with the instructional day.
  - Each candidate will be permitted to make one poster. No larger than a standard poster size: 18"x24". They will be posted in a place designated by the principal and Council sponsor.
  - No candidate will be permitted to distribute any articles such as candy, gum, or other monetary items.
  - Candidates will be permitted to ask students to support their candidacy by wearing paper campaign tags.
- Section 4:** Campaigning will be done in the last week of April, and the voting will be done during the first week of May. Voting will be done by secret ballot in a central location on the campus. Results will be announced as soon as the voting is complete and the ballots are tallied.
- Section 5:** When determining the winner in any election, there should be at least a 5% margin of the total voter enrollment between the first place candidate and the candidate in second place.

(Example: If the total voter enrollment is 100, there should be at least a margin of 5 votes between the candidate in first place and the candidate in second place.) If a margin of less than 5% occurs, there should be a run-off with the candidate receiving the most votes declared the winner.

#### **Article Eight:** *Meetings*

**Section 1:** Student Council meetings shall take place twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30am. An agenda shall be prepared and handed out to each member of the Council at each meeting. Student Council members may initiate agenda items. All items for the agenda must be submitted to the President, Advisor, or Principal two days before each meeting. Additional agenda items may be added at the beginning of each Council meeting by a majority vote of Council members. If a quorum (half of Council members plus one) is not present for a meeting, no Council action may be voted upon.

#### **Article Nine:** Voting Procedures and Rules

- Section 1:** Each officer and each representative shall have one vote. The President votes only in case of a tie.
- Section 2:** All motions require a second; all motions require a majority vote of the Council members for passage.
- Section 3:** Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition shall be the authority on any question of parliamentary procedure.
- Section 4:** Any and all actions of the Brazos Student Council are not official until approved by the Principal.

#### **Article Ten:** Amending the Constitution

**Section 1:** An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed and discussed at a regular meeting of the Student Council. A 2/3 vote is required to accept the amendment. The proposed amendment will be presented to the faculty and administration for discussion. The proposed announcement will be adequately publicized two weeks before the vote is held. A 2/3 vote is required by the Student Council to carry the amendment. Upon passage, it will be added to the existing constitution.

#### **Article Eleven:** Ratifying the Constitution

**Section 1:** The ratification by a majority of the Student Council in a general vote shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution as the governing instrument for Brazos High School Student Council.

# Yearbook

## **Brazos High School**

Mrs. Rachel Divin

Rm 153

(979) 478-6832 x128

[rdivin@brazosisd.net](mailto:rdivin@brazosisd.net)

Yearbook is an elective course that gives students marketable experience in print media publishing

### ***Staff Responsibilities***

- ❖ Compose, construct, and edit all elements of the digital yearbook layout including text, graphic art, and digital photographs
- ❖ Photograph campus and district events
- ❖ Assist commercial photographers on campus
- ❖ Sell yearbooks
- ❖ Design advertising
- ❖ Disseminate yearbook order forms
- ❖ Clerical operations
- ❖ Make announcements
- ❖ Maintain signs
- ❖ Conduct student polls
- ❖ Meet deadlines
- ❖ Observe and follow copyright law
- ❖ Observe and follow media law

### ***Photography***

- ❖ Students will take digital photos using school equipment
- ❖ Any photos taken while representing yearbook are the property of Brazos ISD
- ❖ Do not take personal pictures while working as a yearbook photographer
- ❖ Students may be responsible for taking photos before or after school

### ***Use of technology*** (digital cameras, computers, software, etc.):

- ❖ Students are expected to use equipment responsibly.
- ❖ No consumption of food or drink will be tolerated around computers.
- ❖ Students are responsible for the camera checked out to them. Camera use agreement is attached

### ***Absences***

Deadlines must be met. Students who are absent are responsible for submitting their work on time regardless of attendance situation.

### *YEARBOOK CONTRACT*

I have read, I understand, and agree to the terms outlined in this syllabus. I agree to meet all deadlines and complete all assigned work to the best of my ability. I understand that at times, I will be required to work outside of class to meet the academic and performance requirements of Yearbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Digital Camera/Technology Usage:**

Students are expected to be responsible for school-owned equipment used in yearbook including digital cameras, lenses, sim cards, flash drive, batteries, scanners, camera bags, computers, and software. I understand that my child will be required to pay for lost or damaged equipment if equipment is lost, broken, or damaged while checked out to your child. Digital cameras are valued from \$300 to \$1,000; lenses are valued at \$450-\$1,000. Camera repairs start at \$400 minimum; these are not minor costs. Computer equipment must be cared for in a businesslike manner and misuse will not be tolerated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **Yearbook Off-Campus Pass:**

Yearbook students at various times are expected to be responsible to go off campus to sell a business ad and or take photos on either BES or BMS campus. The student signing at the bottom agree to comply with all BISD Code of Conduct and Handbook policies while on or off campus. While every effort will be made to let parents know in advance on which days students will be off campus working on yearbook, emergencies may arise and therefore we will try and contact the parent by phone. Thus a parent signature below represents a permission slip that will stay on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian Signature & Cell phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date