

# School Handbook



**2025 - 2026**

*Rigorous Academics in an Atmosphere of Faith*

***2 Timothy 3:16, 17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

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# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

## Introduction to Brice Christian Academy

Since 1995, Brice Christian Academy (BCA) has been committed to serving families in the Southeast Columbus area. BCA was founded as an outreach ministry of Brice United Methodist Church. Now going into our 29th year, we are excited about the opportunity to serve your family.

BCA is a K - 8 chartered non-public school with teaching and administrative staff who are licensed by the state of Ohio. We follow the state guidelines for chartered schools (See [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)) and we are active members of the Central Ohio Christian School Consortium. The first floor of our educational wing houses grades K – 3, and the second floor houses grades 4 – 8. We thank God for providing a wonderful facility that enhances the quality of your child's education.

We are pleased that your family has chosen to educate your child(ren) with us this year. Our prayer is that we serve your family with excellence, and to the glory of God.

### **Purpose And Mission Statement**

- ❖ **Purpose**
  - To train young champions to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ
- ❖ **Mission Statement**
  - Rigorous Academics in an Atmosphere of Faith

### **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

- ❖ The BCA School Board has adopted the following non-discriminatory policy
  - Brice Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, tuition assistance, and educational programs. Brice Christian Academy will not discriminate on the basis of color or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnels.

### **Philosophy Of Education**

- ❖ In the Christ-centered learning environment at Brice Christian Academy, each child is recognized as a unique creation of God. Because the basis for teaching and learning at BCA is founded upon that principle, the school culture and practice reflects the school's purpose, *Training young champions for Christ*. Intentional efforts are made to recognize individual needs and implement approaches designed to meet the holistic needs of each student. The cognitive, social, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of a BCA student are supported and nurtured through innovative and research-based teaching methods and curriculum. The heart of BCA's mission is to create a solid, rigorous academic focus in an atmosphere of faith.

### **Statement Of Faith**

- ❖ Jesus Christ is the focal point of everything we believe at Brice Christian Academy. Even though we have students and staff from many denominational backgrounds, with many different churches represented, we all serve the same Lord and Savior.
- ❖ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14
- ❖ Believing in these words of Christ, our desire at Brice Christian Academy is to allow the children to know God as stated in our Affirmation of Faith and the scriptures that follow:
  - ◆ We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all His works, and whose will is ever directed to His children's good.
  - ◆ We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.
  - ◆ We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.
  - ◆ We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end, that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

### **The Bible**

- ❖ "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **Salvation**

- ❖ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

### **End Times**

- ❖ "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." Rev. 22:12.

### **School Verse**

- ❖ "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16,17

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## School Board Role & Representation

- ❖ The role of the School Board at Brice Christian Academy is to:
  - Help set and revise school policies
  - Help cast the vision for growth and expansion
  - Offer solid Christian guidance and wisdom for the administration and teachers in decision making
- ❖ It is not the board's role to manage the day-to-day operations of the school. This is the responsibility of the administrative team.
- ❖ The School Board meets five times a year, the calendar is set each June, and its members are: Senior Pastor of Brice United Methodist Church, BCA School Administrator, Brice Church Representative, two teacher representatives, two parent representatives and four At-Large church or school member representatives.
- ❖ Individuals who wish to bring items before the board must bring these requests in writing to the school office no later than one week before the next scheduled meeting. The school office personnel will then forward these requests to the board chair for review, and if deemed appropriate, placement on the meeting agenda.
- ❖ At the board meetings, each person who has an approved agenda item will have 10 minutes to address the board. The board will then have three options:
  - To address the issue at that meeting
  - To refer the issue to committee for further study
  - To take no action
- ❖ The BCA school board reserves the right to enter into executive session at any time to discuss relevant issues. The School Board Chair decides who is allowed in the executive sessions.

## Staff Qualifications

- ❖ We boldly ask our staff to make sure they are called by God for ministry at Brice Christian Academy. This is of the utmost importance.
- ❖ We believe in continuous improvement and lifelong learning. For this reason we strive to attend professional conferences, review our test scores annually, attend staff planning and development sessions, and continuously work on improving our curriculum.
- ❖ We meet in teams to have professional dialogue about the latest research in education while sharing how we might apply this research in a practical way in our classrooms.
- ❖ Information on professional qualifications of your child's teacher may be discussed with administration.
- ❖ Our teachers write yearly professional development plans that align with the school goals.
- ❖ Most importantly, we strive to create an atmosphere of learning that is engaging!
- ❖ All staff members have undergone background checks.

## Enrollment Age

- ❖ It is the policy of Brice Christian Academy to accept students for enrollment in Kindergarten through eighth grade.
- ❖ Students applying for Kindergarten enrollment must be 5 years of age by August 1st and pass a Kindergarten readiness assessment. Students turning 5 years of age after August 1<sup>st</sup> and up to October 31<sup>st</sup> may be assessed, but must be deemed ready for Kindergarten by the BCA accessor. Most will need to wait until the next academic year for enrollment in Kindergarten at Brice Christian Academy.

## School Hours

- ❖ Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades
  - 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

## SCHOOL DAY START

- ❖ Our doors open at **8:15 AM** for all grades.
- ❖ Students need to be in their seats, ready to learn by 8:30 am.
- ❖ Students may arrive by bus or be dropped off in front of the school.

## Visitor Badges and BCA ID Badges

- ❖ For the safety of students and staff, **EVERY PERSON WHO WALKS THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE EDUCATION WING MUST FIRST SIGN IN AND WEAR A VISITOR ID BADGE.**
- ❖ All BCA staff members will wear a picture ID every day and will be trained to stop anyone who is not displaying an ID/Visitor badge and direct him or her back to the school office.
- ❖ After 3:30 pm, the education wing will be locked. Students will not be permitted back to get forgotten items. If a parent or guardian has an appointment with someone after those hours, they should make arrangements to be let into the building.

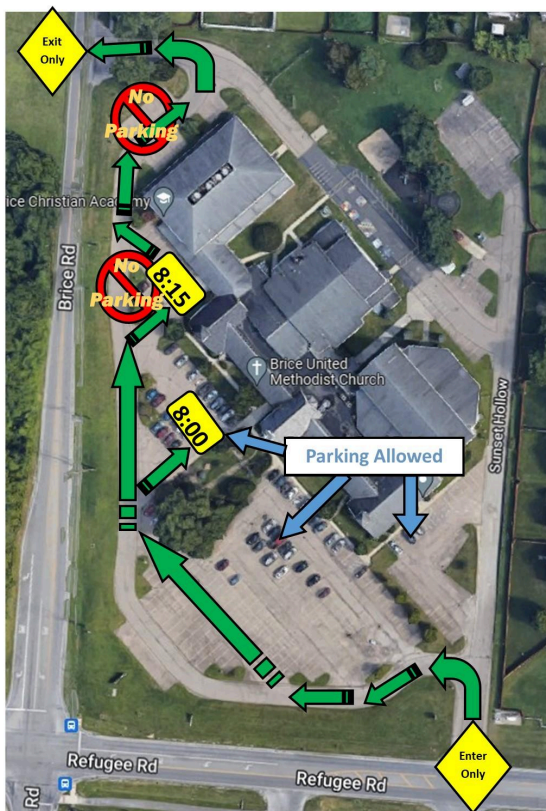
## Drop-Off Procedures K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- ❖ Parents who use the drop off areas **must** enter at Refugee Road and pull up to one of the drop-off points, or park in either of the parking lots and **WALK** your students up to the building.
- ❖ Students may only be dropped off at the school front entrance or the church front entrance. Students will exit your vehicle and walk to class.
- ❖ All Parents then need to **EXIT on to BRICE RD. DO NOT EXIT VIA REFUGEE ROAD!**

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## Bus/Daycare Drop-Off Procedures

- ❖ Please note that buses will enter school grounds via Refugee Road, unload at the rear of the building and exit via Brice Road. Under no circumstances should students be dropped off or picked up at the rear of the building.



## Pick-Up Policy

- ❖ The pick up policy will be discussed at Back to School Night.
- ❖ All bus riders will be placed on their regularly scheduled bus unless a **written notice** of change is sent to school or the school office is contacted **BEFORE 2:00**. Please let homeroom teachers know, **in writing**, when there will be a change to your child's schedule of departure.
- ❖ **It is imperative that messages regarding a change in student pick up or transportation home NOT be left on the school's voicemail or email. The school office does not have the opportunity to check these until after students have been dismissed. If there is to be a change in a student's dismissal procedure, make certain that a written note is sent, or voice contact is made with a member of the office staff before 2pm.**
- ❖ **Unless an emergency arises or a pre-arranged medical appointment is made, students will not be allowed early dismissal after 2:30PM.**
- ❖ If a different person is picking up your child who is not recognizable to dismissal personnel, please send a note to your child's teacher or contact the school office **BEFORE 1:00** and make sure the person picking up your child has identification with them.
- ❖ **Parents / Guardians who wish to walk to the school to pick-up may come directly to the main office at 3:45-4:00. No parents / guardians may walk to the chapel entrance or car line.**
- ❖ **Picking up students after 2:00pm (without a doctor's note) is an unexcused early dismissal. 3 unexcused tardies or dismissals equal one absence.**

**\*\*Please Note: Pick up and drop off are a valuable privilege of attending BCA; however, they are designed for the loving exchange of students, not an opportunity for an impromptu parent-teacher conference. Conversations about grades, classroom situations, etc. should be scheduled as a parent-teacher conference at another time or via a phone or email conversation. Teachers that get drawn into sidebar conversations with parents are unable to give arriving and departing students their full attention, which can jeopardize classroom management and student safety.**

## Late Pick-Up Policy

- ❖ A late fee of \$10.00 per half hour will be charged to your account for pickup after 4:00 pm.

## Bus Policy

- ❖ In Ohio, students who live within 30 miles or 30 minutes of the chartered school they attend have the right to either:
  - Transportation by bus through their residential public school district **or**

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- Reimbursement from their school district.
- The school district makes the choice. Transportation or reimbursement procedures are as follows:
  - Columbus — Must Apply Online at <https://www.ccsch.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4818>
  - Groveport — Obtain transportation form in the school office
- Students may not eat food or consume drinks on the school bus.

## **Attendance Policy**

- ❖ Section 3321.04 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that every parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child of compulsory school age must send such child to a school which conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education for the full time the school attended is in session. The statutes governing school attendance are very specific and leave little option for school authorities to excuse children from school. For an absence to be excused, it must meet the below criteria **and be accompanied by a written note from the parent or medical professional**. The Ohio Revised Code classifies absence from school as excused or unexcused. The following explains the difference between excused and unexcused absences.
- ❖ **Excused Absence – Per Ohio Department of Education**
  - **Illness or injury of the child.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school. Any absence for illness or injury of the child which exceeds three days absent from school must be certified in writing by a physician or appropriate health professional.
  - **Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school stating the nature of the illness and the circumstances which require the presence of the child. Any such absence which exceeds three days absent from school must be certified in writing by a physician or appropriate health professional.
  - **Quarantine of the home.** The absence of a child from school under this condition is limited to the length of quarantine as determined and certified in writing by the proper health professionals.
  - **Death of a relative.** The absence arising from this event is limited to a period of three days for in state, five days for out of state and 2 weeks for out of country, This must be documented in writing by the parent/guardian of the student. Any absence for this reason in excess of the above guidelines must be approved by the Chief Program Officer of the Ohio Educational Choice Scholarship Program.
  - **Medical or dental appointment.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school. BCA requires a written statement from the physician or dentist upon return, and the absence is excused for the amount of time needed for the appointment plus travel only.
  - **Observance of religious holidays.** A child shall be excused for absences for the purpose of observing a religious holiday consistent with his/her truly held religious beliefs. The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school detailing dates of all absences for religious holidays.
  - **High School visitation.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation from the high school verifying the date and time of the visitation.
  - **Emergency or other set of circumstances.** The parent or guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school detailing the emergency circumstances. Any absence for this reason in excess of three days must be approved by the Chief Program Officer of the Ohio Educational Choice Scholarship Program.
- ❖ **Out-of-state enrichment activities or extracurricular activities**
  - A student, who is absent from school for the sole purpose of traveling out of state to participate in an enrichment activity, must have it approved by the district or school governing body. If approved they can have up to four days per school year excused. The parent/guardian must submit documentation to the school detailing the dates and reasons for these absences at least four weeks prior to the activity for approval.
- ❖ **Unexcused Absence**
  - Absence for any reason not listed as excused.
- ❖ **Excessive Tardies and Absences**
  - When a student reaches seven (7) excused or unexcused absences a reminder letter will be sent home to the parent reviewing the absence policy.
  - When a student has reached twelve (12) excused or unexcused absences, they will be required to provide a physician's note for medical verification for each absence to be excused. Medical verification means that a physician has treated an illness or injury and has verified to the school that because of the illness or injury, the student was unable to attend school. This written verification must be submitted to the school upon the student's return to school, within two (2) days following the absence. If a note has not been turned in within a week, it will be turned into a permanent unexcused absence.
  - After 15 days absent (or the equivalent) the family will have to meet with the Administration.
- ❖ **Tardies**
  - **Students are tardy at 8:30.**
  - Students must be in their classroom ready to begin their day at 8:30am.
  - Students who arrive after 8:30 or are not in their classroom ready to begin their day, **must** sign in at the school office.
  - Please do not schedule lessons or other regular commitments at the end of the school day.
  - We will ask for a written excuse for early dismissals.

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- **Grades 6-8, the classroom doors will be shut and locked at 8:30. The students will only be admitted if they have a slip from the office or the Dean of Students.**
- **The consequence for an unexcused tardy to class is an after school detention for grades 6-8.**
- **Please note that three (3) tardies are equal to one (1) unexcused absence.** Please be aware that ed-choice only allows 20 unexcused absences per year.

## ❖ **Partial Day Attendance**

- Students arriving after 10:00 am or leaving prior to 1:00 pm are considered absent one-half day.

## ❖ **Truancy**

- The Ohio Revised Code requires reporting of truant students to law enforcement.
- Once a student has accumulated seven (7) consecutive unexcused absences, ten (10) unexcused absences in a month, or fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences in one year, charges may be filed with the legal system for chronic truancy.

## ❖ **Students on the Ohio EDChoice Scholarship**

- It is important to note that students on Ohio EDChoice Scholarship are limited to 20 unexcused absences a year.
- After 20 unexcused absences, the scholarship is in danger of ineligibility and may be revoked by the EdChoice program.
- Three unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence, so excessive tardies that accumulate to 20 or greater unexcused absences may result in the loss of scholarship.

## ❖ **Attendance: Reporting Procedure**

- If your child is absent, please call our Attendance Secretary at (614) 866-6789, by 9:00am to report his/her absence. A written note must be sent with the student when they return for the absence to be excused.
- This written verification must be submitted to the school upon the student's return to school, within two (2) days following the absence. If a note has not been turned in within a week, it will be turned into a permanent unexcused absence.
- Those with access to email can email the absence and any homework requests to:  
**[attendance@bricechristianacademy.com](mailto:attendance@bricechristianacademy.com)**.
- Class work requested before 11:00 can be picked up after school between 3:30 – 4:00 on regular school days. Class work needs to be picked up **AFTER** school so that the student's teacher has time to get the work together.
- **NQ classwork can be picked up in the middle of the school day.**

## ❖ **Attendance/Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Students who are not present in school at least ½ of the school day may not participate in extracurricular activities after school.
- Students who have left the school due to illness for any portion of the day may not participate in extracurricular activities for that day.

## **PROBATION PERIOD FOR NEW STUDENTS**

- It is the policy of Brice Christian Academy that **all new students begin school on a 9-week probation period.**
- Each new student will be evaluated during their probation period for academic achievement, potential, behavior issues and social adjustment.
- Continued enrollment will be based on the outcome of this evaluation.
- At the end of this period a student will be asked to either: continue with BCA, remain on probation for another period of time or withdraw from BCA.

## **SPECIAL CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS**

- It is the goal of Brice Christian Academy to support all families regardless of marital circumstance.
- In the event court-ordered custody arrangements are in place, a copy of that custody order must be submitted to BCA to place in the student's record. This should be updated with the school as the order changes.
- If a student has more than one custodian, BCA will ask both custodians to check the school website for any information they may need. In addition, the school is able to add the second custodian to its email blast list.
- This request is good only for the school year in which it is submitted, and must be updated annually.

## **School Closing Policy**

- Please check television station Channel 10 for information regarding delays or cancellations.
- Delays and cancellations will also be sent by an e-mail or text blast through Gradelink, Class Dojo, text, and BCA's Facebook page.
- If school is closed due to inclement weather, then all after-school activities are automatically canceled.
- This includes early dismissal because of weather.

## **The Recitation Of The Pledges**

It is the policy of Brice Christian Academy that all students and staff present shall rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the Pledge to the Christian Flag, as well as the Pledge to the Holy Bible, every day that school is in session.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

- ❖ At BCA we believe frequent and effective communication between teachers, staff and families, fosters our students' academic success. Parents, teachers and staff need to be able to communicate well to act as the support team for our students.
- ❖ The school website, [www.BriceChristianAcademy.com](http://www.BriceChristianAcademy.com) is a wealth of current information for BCA families.
- ❖ Included in Gradelink are individual teacher web pages. These pages are updated weekly and include information such as topics of study for that week, homework assignments, spelling lists, and upcoming class events.
- ❖ If a parent has a question for a teacher, they may use one of two methods of communication:
  - E-mail: Teachers check their emails as they can on breaks during the day, and after school. Please allow 1 school day for a response to an email. Weekends and days off school are excluded.
  - All parents will be given a sign in code for Classroom DOJO. You can message your student's teacher through DOJO.

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- ❖ School-wide parent-teacher conferences will be held two times a year.
  - We consider any parent-teacher conference a valuable two-way exchange of information about our students.
  - The weeks of parent-teacher conferences are published at the beginning of the school year on the academic calendar. As these weeks approach, parents will be notified to schedule conferences.
  - However, it is not necessary to wait for a scheduled conference if parents have a concern. Concerned parents may schedule a conference at the teacher's earliest convenience by sending a written note, calling or emailing the teacher.
  - It is important to remember that pick-up and drop off times are not the time for extended inquiries.
- ❖ During The Parent-Teacher Conference:
  - Please arrive on time and wait outside the classroom door until invited in by the teacher.
  - Share important information, but be an active listener as well.
  - If time does not allow for an adequate resolution to your concerns, out of consideration for the next conference and the teacher, please reschedule to continue at another time.

## BCA DRESS CODE

	Girls K-3			Girls 4-8			Boys K-8	
<b>Chapel Attire</b> <b>Tuesday</b> * Special Events Field Trips	<b>Plaid</b> (drop waist) <b>jumper</b> (not shorter than 2" above knee) <b>White</b> (round collar) <b>blouse</b> or oxford (short or long sleeve) <b>White or Navy</b> (knee high) <b>socks or tights</b>			<b>Plaid</b> (box pleat) <b>skirt</b> (not shorter than 2" above knee) <b>White oxford or polo</b> (short or long sleeve) <b>White or Navy</b> (knee high) <b>socks or tights</b>			<b>Navy</b> Uniform Pants <b>White oxford or polo</b> (short or long sleeve)	
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>T-shirt:</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black mesh shorts</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black sweatpants</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> (down the leg) <b>Sweatshirt</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b>			<b>T-shirt:</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black mesh shorts</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black sweatpants</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> (down the leg) <b>Sweatshirt</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b>			<b>T-shirt:</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black mesh shorts</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> <b>Black sweatpants</b> with <b>BCA logo</b> (down the leg) <b>Sweatshirt</b> ash gray with <b>BCA logo</b>	
<b>Uniform</b> for the rest of the week	<b>Skirts / Dresses</b> (not shorter than 2" above knee)	<b>Shirts</b> <b>Short or long sleeve</b>	<b>Uniform Pants/Shorts</b>	<b>Skirts / Dresses</b> (not shorter than 2" above knee)	<b>Shirts</b> <b>Short or long sleeve</b>	<b>Uniform Pants/Shorts</b>	<b>Shirts</b> <b>Short or long sleeve</b>	<b>Uniform Pants/Shorts</b>
	<b>Plaid</b> drop waist <b>jumper</b>  <b>Jumper or box pleat skirt:</b> Khaki or Navy  <b>Plaid</b> box pleat <b>skirt</b>	<b>Button Down Oxford:</b> white or yellow  <b>Polo Shirt:</b> red, white, navy, yellow  <b>Round collar blouse:</b> white or yellow	<b>*Khaki or Navy</b> <b>*No Cargo, Leggings, Skinny pants or Stretch Pants</b>  <b>Shorts</b> (cannot be shorter than 2" above the knee.)	<b>Plaid</b> drop waist <b>jumper</b>  <b>Jumper or box pleat skirt:</b> Khaki or Navy  <b>Plaid</b> box pleat <b>skirt</b>	<b>Button Down Oxford:</b> white or yellow  <b>Polo Shirt:</b> red, white, navy, yellow  <b>Round collar blouse:</b> white or yellow	<b>*Khaki or Navy</b> <b>*No Cargo, Leggings, Skinny pants or Stretch Pants</b> <b>*Shorts</b> (cannot be shorter than 2" above the knee.)	<b>Button Down Oxford:</b> white or yellow  <b>Polo Shirt:</b> red, white, navy, yellow	<b>Khaki or Navy</b> (cannot be shorter than 2" above the knee.)
<b>Socks and Tights:</b> Navy, Red or White							<b>Socks:</b> Navy, Khaki or White	
<b>Navy Sports Ram Logo Jacket</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These jackets can be worn any day but Tuesday.</li> </ul>						<b>Red Sports Team Ram Logo Jacket</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red is <b>ONLY</b> for sports teams.</li> <li>• These jackets can be worn any day but Tuesday.</li> </ul>		

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<b>Sweaters and Sweatshirts:</b> All students are the same.	<b>**All items in this box must have the BCA Embroidered Logo.:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Navy or Red V-Neck Vest Navy</li><li>• Sweatshirt</li><li>• V-Neck Cardigan</li><li>• Fleece- Navy Full Zip</li><li>• Crew V-Neck Pullover</li><li>• Red or black Rams hoodie can be worn any day except Tuesdays.</li></ul>
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## Requirements

- For boys and girls, no more than two (2) earrings may be worn in each ear. Spacers or gauging is not permitted.
- No tattoos or other body piercings are permitted for students.
- Jewelry that is distracting or unsafe (chains, spikes, etc.) are not permitted.
- Extreme hairstyles, makeup or nail polish which are deemed to be a distraction, are not permitted.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- Hats, bandanas, etc., are not to be worn at school unless for medical reasons.
- Open-toed sandals, Crocs, flip flops, clogs or clog slippers may not be worn by students.
- Long sleeves worn under a polo shirt must be solid red, white, navy, or yellow.

## Dress Down Days

- ❖ On occasion, the school may have a “dress down” day. These may be themed (Ohio State Day, Crazy Sock Day, Christmas Sweater Day, etc.) or just a general dress down day. On these days, students may wear the “theme” item, with uniform bottoms, as long as the following guidelines are followed:
  - Tops must have shoulders and stomach covered, and be in good taste.
  - Pants may not be too tight, and must be in good repair.
  - Pants must be neat and clean with no holes or frayed ends.
  - No distressed or ripped jeans are permitted.
  - **At no time are jeggings or leggings without an appropriate length skirt or shorts permitted. They must be black when worn with gym shorts. They must be red, white, or navy when worn with skirts.**

## ❖ Dress Code Violations

- When a student is in violation of dress code, parents will be called to bring in appropriate garments.
- If habitual violations of the dress code occur, disciplinary action will be taken.
- **Parental support of this policy is critical for success. If there are any questions regarding the appropriateness of a piece of clothing, please check with the BCA office before allowing your child to wear it to school. School Administration will make the final decision concerning appropriateness of a student's dress and appearance.**

## Problem Resolution

- ❖ Brice Christian Academy asks that all parents and students abide by the Matthew 18 principle. “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But, if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”
- ❖ If a parent has a problem that is unresolved regarding his/her student, the parent needs to first approach the student's teacher to make a resolution. If the parent and teacher are unable to resolve the problem, a meeting with the parent, the teacher, and a School Administrator will be scheduled. If this meeting also proves to be unsatisfactory, then the parent may request a meeting with the teacher, school administrator and school board representative.

## Financial Policy

- ❖ As Christians, the Brice Christian Academy School Board is called to be good stewards of God's gifts, financial and otherwise.
- ❖ There are certain financial obligations in enrolling in BCA. If at any time, you find yourself falling behind in your financial commitments please contact our Business Manager, Sarah Ewashinka, to arrange a payment plan.
- ❖ Brice Christian Academy accepts checks or money orders in the school office. We do not accept cash.
- ❖ Payments can be made from credit or debit cards on Gradelink. There is a processing fee of 2.5% when paying online.
- ❖ Field Trips
  - All field trips must be paid before the student can participate.
  - Class field trips are part of the learning experience.
  - The balance of all school and field trip fees must be paid before a student may participate in multi-day trips. Fees are due two weeks prior to the field trip.
  - Payment plans are available for DC and Outdoor Ed trips, but the balance must be paid before the trip.
  - Additional field trip information is located on page 10.
- ❖ REPORT CARDS
  - A student's report card will be held at the end of every quarter for unpaid fees. Upon payment in full of fees owed, the report card will be released to the family.
- ❖ Graduation
  - A zero balance is required for graduating students (both K and 8th graders)
- ❖ Release of Information
  - School records will not be released if there is a fee balance.

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

## ❖ **Meal Information**

- Hot lunches are available every day.
- The school lunch menu is available on the school website.
- Lunch menus are subject to change in case of unforeseen situations.
- The cost for lunch/breakfast \$4.50/\$3.00.
- No outside food may be brought into the gym for breakfast.
- Parents should check their student's gradelink account weekly.
- Payments can be made on Gradelink or in the school office.
- Brice Christian Academy participates in the National School Lunch Program. Through this program BCA can offer free or reduced cost breakfasts and lunches for qualifying families. Applications for Free/Reduced lunches are sent home with initial paperwork at the beginning of the school year, and after are available in the school office. Families can apply at any time during the school year.

## ❖ **Tuition**

- Tuition information and your signed financial contract is available on Gradelink

## ❖ **Other Fees**

- Sports fees are due before the start of official practice.
- The family facility fee is due before the first day of school.
- There is a \$50 fee for returned checks.

## **School Supplies**

- ❖ Students should bring a plastic or stainless steel water bottle to school each day. Glass water bottles are not permitted due to a safety concern with shattering glass.

## **Birthdays/Party Invitation Policy**

- ❖ **Birthdays** – If parents would like to bring a special treat to celebrate a birthday, the classroom teacher should be contacted at least 48 hours in advance. \*For the safety of those with known or unknown allergies, we ask that treats do not include any nuts or nut products. Parents are encouraged to discuss any other known class food allergies with the classroom teacher. BCA's wellness policy states that treats sent for birthdays need to be healthy, not contain large amounts of sugar and be individually packaged to go home.
- ❖ **Party Invitations** - Unless the entire class is invited, no party invitations should be passed out during school hours or on the bus. We feel this is common courtesy and the cost of stamps is worth the price of avoiding hurt feelings.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS/SOLICITING ON SCHOOL OR CHURCH PROPERTY**

- ❖ Any printed material to be distributed on school or church property must first be approved by the school administrator or senior pastor.
- ❖ There is to be no solicitation beyond school-sponsored fundraisers on school property without the consent of the administrator.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

- ❖ The lost and found is located in the hallway at the start of the elementary hallway.
- ❖ The contents of the lost and found bin will be put on display during the Christmas and Spring Musicals.
- ❖ Items not claimed after each of these events will be donated to a local charity.
- ❖ We encourage parents to label ALL jackets, backpacks and lunchboxes for easy identification.

## **Academic Information**

- ❖ As a chartered, non-public school, accredited by the state of Ohio, BCA not only meets the minimum standards as outlined by the state, but also exceeds these standards in its instructional program. Individual achievement and mastery of fundamental skills have high priority. Students successfully completing their studies at BCA are well equipped to meet challenges they encounter in the future.
- ❖ The curriculum guides our academic program. The term "curriculum" includes a planned course of study, textbooks, and teachers. BCA aligns its curriculum to meet the Academic Content Standards set forth by the Ohio Department of Education for its public schools. The faculty and Administrative Team revises courses of study as needed for each subject to ensure that the academic program reflects current teaching practices and educational research.
- ❖ BCA uses textbooks and supplemental materials from a variety of publishers. Periodically textbooks are updated after a thorough search for the best texts available that meet planned educational objectives.
- ❖ Our teachers are responsible to integrate all educational material with a Christian worldview, and to assist the students in learning to think critically with a Biblical viewpoint.

## **Homework Policy**

### ❖ **Rationale for Homework**

We believe homework is a valuable aid in helping students make the most of their experience in school. Homework can accomplish the following:

- reinforce what has been learned in class
- prepare students for upcoming lessons
- teach students to work independently
- teach students to assume responsibility for their own work
- teach students organizational and time-management skills
- aid in evaluating student progress

### ❖ **Frequency and Amount of Homework**

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

The amount of homework per night is based on the average student. Students can be expected to spend *approximately* the following amounts of time per night on homework:

- Grades 1-2 10-20 minutes
- Grades 3-4 30-40 minutes
- Grades 5-8 50-60 minutes
- Note: This amount of time does not include additional reading that may be required.
- Additional time may be required for any of these reasons
  - preparation for unit test
  - completion of long-term projects
  - poor use of class work time
  - need for additional work in a difficult subject area

## ❖ **Guidelines for Completing Homework**

- All assignments must be completed and turned in on time for full credit.
- Teachers for grades K-4 will determine their own late work policy.
- 5th-8th grade, work turned in on time will receive full credit.
  - 1 day late = 75% (i.e. Students will receive 75% of what he/she earned for that assignment.)
  - 2 days late = 50%
  - 3 days late = 25%
  - After 3 days the assignment will receive a 0%.

## ❖ **Support of Parents**

Research consistently shows that **parents are a key factor in children's achievement in school**. Therefore, parents must play an important role in the homework process. We ask for the support of parents in the following ways:

- Establish homework as a top priority for your children.
- Provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment.
- Establish a daily homework time.

## **Music Grade Affected by Musical/Concert Participation**

A significant portion of a student's musical grade will be based on participation in a school concert or musical. For a student to be excused from a concert or musical, one of two criteria must be met:

- ❖ An excused absence due to illness or injury that is verified by a note from a physician
- ❖ A conflict resulting in absence that has been authorized by the music teacher and principal prior to the event.

## **Standardized Testing**

- ❖ BCA follows the Ohio Department of Education Guidelines in assessing all of our students.
- ❖ **Third Grade Reading Guarantee (as of June 2023), BCA will no longer be participating in the state AIR testing. We will only be using the STAR Assessment. It will no longer be a requirement that a student must pass a standardized test to be advanced to the next grade. See our retention policy on page 10.**
  - **BCA will develop a plan to support students in every grade when they test and perform below benchmarks.**

## **REPORT CARDS**

- ❖ Report Cards are issued every nine weeks, four times per academic year.

## **Class Field Trips**

- ❖ Students will be transported either by bus (school or chartered) or by (pre approved and background checked) parents and staff for field trips. **Chaperones for field trips will be required to complete a background check.** The cost of the bus will be included in the student's field trip cost. Please remember that **only BCA students and staff may ride chartered buses unless it is for special field trips.**
- ❖ If a parent should choose to decline to send a student on a planned class field trip, a written note must be sent to the office. The student must stay at home the day of the field trip. The sponsoring teacher will come up with an alternate assignment that must be completed and turned in the next day. Otherwise, the child will receive an unexcused absence.
- ❖ Siblings are not permitted to attend field trips.
- ❖ Attending a field trip is a privilege. Students are representing our school and must be trustworthy, responsible, and on their best behavior. As a result, students with multiple suspensions, excessive absences, or a low DOJO level may be denied permission to participate in a field trip.

## **PEP RALLIES**

- ❖ Periodically throughout the year, pep rallies will be held during the school day. If students wish to wear face paint for a pep rally, they must come to school wearing it. They may also wear face tattoos on these pep rally designated days. The face paint may not cover a large portion of their face. Students will not be given school time to apply face paint or tattoos.

## **Retention Policy**

- ❖ It is the mission of Brice Christian Academy to partner with families to educate our students in rigorous academics. BCA is intentional about offering academic accommodations to enable each student to reach their fullest potential. On occasion a student may be deemed by the staff as not ready to move on to the next grade. As a result, retention may be recommended to allow the student the opportunity to fill in learning gaps and build a stronger foundation for further academic growth and progression. In following the steps outlined below, by the time a recommendation for retention is

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

made, it should come as no surprise to teachers, parents, administration, and where appropriate, the student. Below is an outline of the steps taken to support students with academic difficulties and for whom retention is ultimately recommended.

1. All students who are below benchmark on Beginning of the Year assessments are brought to the attention of the RTI (Response to Intervention) Team by the classroom teacher. A watch list is created by the RTI team of all deficient students, both those carried over from the prior year, as well as those demonstrating below level work for the current year. Where necessary, appropriate Tier II and III interventions are devised and implemented for these students.
2. At the first parent-teacher conference in October, the parents of students below grade level are notified that that student did not meet benchmark, and will be presented with appropriate supporting documentation including but not limited to: Star Reading/Math scores, OAA scores, DRA/DIBELS scores, and classroom performance. In addition, parents/guardians will be presented with any interventions that are being utilized or are being proposed by the classroom teacher and the RTI Team.
3. If, at midyear testing, students are still below benchmark, the RTI Team will advise the classroom teacher that the February parent-teacher conference should include a conversation about the possibility of retention. When retention is an option being considered, the February parent-teacher conference is mandatory, and must include: the classroom teacher(s), Reading Specialist, Dean of Students and / or Principal.
4. In the last two weeks of April, all final recommendations for retention should be made. If the recommendation for retention is made, a retention conference must be held two weeks prior to the last day of school. The retention conference should include: at least one, but preferably both parents/guardians; the classroom teacher(s). At this meeting the parents/guardians are given a "Recommendation for Retention" report, that must include: multiple data points that demonstrate the need for retention, a plan for accommodations/support if retained, and signatures of the classroom teacher, Dean of Students, and Principal.
5. If parents/guardians do not accept the recommendation for retention, the administration reserves the right to inform the family that BCA can no longer support the student and that alternate arrangements should be made to further the student's education elsewhere.

## **Special Services**

On site at BCA throughout the week:

- ❖ Dean of Students
- ❖ Title I Tutor
- ❖ Speech & Language Therapist
- ❖ Response to Intervention Team (RTI)

The Response to Intervention Team is to determine if students need additional resources or testing to be successful in their academics. This team will build upon the previous year's team to continue to pursue best practice in working with students who need additional support, or have additional challenges in the classroom. The purpose of the team is to provide information and support to teachers and parents when dealing with the individual needs of students.

## **Specials Classes**

- ❖ Special area classes include: Art, Music, Physical Education, and Technology. Specialized teachers instruct in these areas.

## **TRANSFER/WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS**

- ❖ At BCA, curriculum is driven by the Academic Content Standards as set by the Ohio Department of Education. Students transferring from BCA should find their work readily accepted by other schools.
- ❖ A request to withdraw / transfer must be made in writing by the parent/guardian to the school office.
- ❖ Tuition, lunch money and fees must be paid in full on a prorated basis at the time of withdrawal. Student records will not be released or letters of recommendation sent until all accounts are paid in full and all school property including technology and textbooks are returned.
- ❖ It is important to know that Ohio Law allows for the exchange of information between schools for the purpose of student placement. If contacted, BCA has the right to share requested information regarding academic progress, attendance, behavior and financial history with other schools. Any class supplies that are brought in for class use (facial tissues, hand sanitizer, paper, markers, etc.) will not be able to be returned upon withdrawal/transfer.

## **Discipline Policy**

Teachers & staff will be using the A.C.T.S. (Accountability, Character, Teamwork, and Safety) school wide behavior guidelines along with SW-PBIS (School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions). See guidelines table at the end of the handbook.

## **School Rules:**

- ❖ Be kind to others – No put-downs.
- ❖ Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- ❖ In Building – inside voice and inside speed.
- ❖ Help keep our building clean.

## **Lunchroom Rules:**

- ❖ Keep your hands to yourself.
- ❖ Use quiet voices.
- ❖ Do not trade food with others and do not touch food that does not belong to you.
- ❖ Do not throw food.
- ❖ No sodas permitted.

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

- ❖ No fast food deliveries.
- ❖ Remain seated until you are excused.
- ❖ PACK any necessary silverware and/or napkins; however, knives are not allowed at BCA.
- ❖ If you need special assistance, raise your hand.

## Playground Rules

- ❖ No pushing, shoving, or name-calling.
- ❖ Slide
  - Go down the slide SEATED only.
  - Do not walk up or down the slide
  - Wait until others have cleared away from the bottom of the slide.
  - (No bumping or stacking of students on the slide).
  - No objects of any kind (i.e. stones, tire chips, toys, etc.) are to be carried onto the slide
- ❖ After recess, students should line up, by grade, on the blacktop in designated areas and quietly wait to be dismissed.
- ❖ Children may not enter the school without permission from the duty teacher/volunteer and must have a buddy to accompany them.
- ❖ Always play within sight of the duty teacher/volunteer.
- ❖ Do not throw objects that may cause damage to people or property.
- ❖ INFRINGEMENT OF THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN CONSEQUENCES PER THE SCHOOL BEHAVIOR PLAN
- ❖ For children to remain inside due to illness a doctor's excuse will be needed for the child to remain inside.
- ❖ No eating on the playground.

## School Bus Behavior

- ❖ Many of our students utilize the public school busing system. While on the bus, the behavior of a student is monitored by the bus driver.
- ❖ The driver has the authority to "write up" a student.
- ❖ The bus garage has the authority to temporarily or permanently revoke a student's privilege of riding the bus.
- ❖ If an issue arises on the bus, it is the responsibility of the student to report it to the bus driver and the bus garage to take care of the situation. However, most of the bus garages like to work with the student's school in dealing with disciplinary issues and there are times when the school will get involved.
- ❖ If necessary, the school will impose disciplinary action against a student. Please remember that BCA students are expected to behave in a Christ-like and respectful manner at all times, including while on the school bus.

## Classroom Discipline Policies

- ❖ Each classroom teacher will establish a discipline plan for his/her classroom. These will be explained and enforced by each teacher when school begins.
- ❖ Teachers will consistently enforce classroom, lunchroom, playground, recess, and general building rules by using the consequences stated in each set of guidelines.
- ❖ Parents are made aware of a student's behavior choices by Class DOJO. DOJO offers parents the opportunity to see in real time their student's behavior choices throughout the day.

## School Violence And Student Safety

- ❖ Senate Bill 55 Section 3313.534 requires that school boards adopt a policy of zero tolerance for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior.
- ❖ BCA has a zero tolerance policy concerning inappropriate physical contact, verbal or emotional harassing, gender-based intimidation, sexual comments and racial intimidation conduct among students. ***This includes but is not limited to hitting, kicking, throwing objects, threatening language, bullying behavior, vulgar acts and language, etc.***
- ❖ In addition, Brice Christian Academy has a zero tolerance for any threats, harassment, intimidation and bullying against students, staff, families or guests. This includes threats, harassment, intimidation and bullying in written, verbal or electronic form. Electronic form includes cell phones (texting or social media), computers, tablets (messaging and social media) or any other electronic device. Zero tolerance means that no verbal warnings will be given prior to severe consequences being given. Severe consequences will be given even if the threats, harassment, intimidation and bullying occur outside of school hours or off premises. Please report any incidents immediately to your student's teacher, the Dean of Students or the BCA Administrator. Any staff member can guide you in our reporting procedure.
- ❖ In addition, BCA has a zero tolerance for weapons of any kind, including look-alikes, toy swords, guns (including squirt guns), and knives, should not be brought to school.
- ❖ Administrative discretion may be used in the enforcement of these policies on a non-discriminatory basis.
- ❖ While we want to discipline students with love and grace, we have a God-mandated obligation to set strict guidelines for the safety and well-being of all of our students. We will not tolerate the behavior of students that will compromise that safety and well-being.
- ❖ **Students and parents/guardians will be required to sign a statement of conduct that includes behavior expectations and consequences for behaviors both in and out of school. This statement of conduct must be returned within 30 days from the first day of school.**
- Expulsion:
  - At any time, depending on the severity and/or frequency of the offense(s), expulsion may be warranted.

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

- The Dean of Students, Principal and Operations Manager have the authority to use his or her discretion in disciplinary matters.
- In the matter of expulsion, the Principal, Dean of Students, Operations Manager, and the Senior Pastor of Brice Church will confer.
- It should be noted that previous school years' behavior records will be considered when deciding all consequences including expulsion.
- When parents/guardians are called to pick up their child from school as the result of a discipline issue, it is expected that that parent or their designee will come right away.
- ❖ **Social media / Internet / Texting / Messaging (Including Skype and Facetime or other video chat formats) Policy:**
  - This pertains to any behavior deemed inappropriate by administration when using any of these mediums during and after school time.
  - This includes any kind of bullying, shaming, harassing, threatening, sending/receiving inappropriate sexual comments, pictures, videos or real time interactions.
  - When an incident comes to the attention of administration; it will be investigated and corrective action will be taken which can include notification of local law enforcement and/or expulsion from school.
  - Students and parents should remember that even when something is deleted, it is not ever really deleted.
  - Students and families are advised to use good judgment and Christian moral guidelines when interacting with anyone at school, at home, and in the community, which includes all cyber communities.
- ❖ When a parent signs the Wrong Choices Form, or is called on the phone regarding student behavior and consequences, this notification is for communication purposes only. **The signature on the form does not indicate that a parent/guardian agrees with the information, but confirms that they were in fact notified of the events and consequences. The consequences will occur regardless of parental agreement.**
- ❖ Brice Christian Academy does not employ any form of corporal punishment.
- ❖ Brice Christian Academy does not use seclusion as a behavior management technique. Seclusion is defined as the involuntary isolation of a student in a room, enclosure, or space from which the student is prevented from leaving by physical restraint or by a closed door or other physical barrier.
- ❖ Brice Christian Academy does not employ the use of physical restraint, except in instances of brief, but necessary physical contact to: break up a fight, knock a weapon away from a student's possession, calm or comfort, assist in completing a task if the student does not resist the contact; or to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car).

## **Responsible Internet and Computer Use Policy**

- ❖ Technology is viewed as a tool to enhance quality instruction and learning experience for every student. Brice Christian Academy will make every effort to protect students from illegal, obscene, offensive and inaccurate materials by educating students in the proper use of the Internet and by providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of student use of the computers. The students will be educated in the responsible use of technology with respect for self and others.
- ❖ **Educational Purpose:**
  - Activities that are acceptable on the Brice Christian Academy network include classroom activities and high-quality educational research.Computers are not to be used for:
  - Public access service or a public forum
  - Commercial purposes (this means that no individual at Brice Christian Academy may offer, provide, or purchase products or services using Brice Christian Academy computers).
  - The school retains the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material accessed or posted through the system. All students and staff are expected to follow the rules established by the school and published, both in the parent/student handbook and notices from the principal.
- ❖ **Student Internet Access:**
  - The Web is a global database system providing access to information from around the world. Students may have access to Internet information resources through the classroom, library, or school computer lab
- ❖ **Unacceptable Uses**

The following uses of Brice Christian Academy computers are considered unacceptable:

  - **Personal Safety and Personal Privacy**

No personal contact information about students may be placed on Brice Christian Academy computers or web pages. Personal contact information includes home address, telephone, school address, etc. This information may not be provided to an individual, organization, or company, including websites that solicit personal information. No one may agree to meet with someone you have met online through "chat rooms" using Brice

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Christian Academy computers. Students must promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employees any messages they receive that are inappropriate or make them feel uncomfortable.

## ➤ **Illegal Activities**

No student or staff member may attempt to gain unauthorized access to the Brice Christian Academy network, to any other computer system through a school computer, or go beyond their authorized access within the Brice Christian Academy network.

This includes:

- Attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files.
- Deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means will result in immediate disciplinary action.
- Computers may not be used to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of a person, etc.

## ➤ **Artificial Intelligence Policy**

➤ The use of any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to chat bots or assistants, will not be acceptable at Brice Christian Academy. Work that is found to be generated or copied from AI sources, even if cited or sourced properly, will be considered academic misconduct.

➤ All student work submitted must be original and student created. Any violation that includes acts of plagiarism, cheating, or falsifying work will be dealt with according to the severity of the misconduct. Dishonesty in any form may result in a failing grade in a course and/or suspension.

## ➤ **System Security**

Students should immediately notify a teacher or the system administrator if you have identified a possible security problem or potential computer virus. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access. In order to avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses, no software may be downloaded from the Internet without prior faculty or administration consent.

## ➤ **Inappropriate Language**

No inappropriate language should be applied to public messages, private messages, and material posted on web pages. This includes use of obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language. No one may engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks. Harassing another person is also not permitted. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending him/her messages, you must stop. The computers may not be used to knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

## ➤ **Respect for Privacy**

No individual may post private information, including personal contact information, about another person.

## ➤ **Respecting Resource Limits**

Brice Christian Academy computers must be used only for educational activities and are limited to high-quality, self-discovery activities that have been approved by a teacher. Students will not download large files unless absolutely necessary, and only with the approval of the teacher. If necessary, they may download the file at a time when the system is not being heavily used and immediately remove the file from the system computer once the research project in question is completed.

## ➤ **Plagiarism**

No individual may plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.

## ➤ **Copyright**

The rights of copyright owners will be respected. Copyright infringement occurs when you inappropriately reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, you should follow expressed requirements to cite those sources. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work or have questions, ask a teacher.

## ➤ **Inappropriate Access to Material**

At no time may any Brice Christian Academy computer be used to access material that is designated for adults only or is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature). If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher. This will protect you against a claim that you have intentionally violated this Policy. Parents are expected to participate in guiding students through material that may be inappropriate for their child to access.

## ❖ **Disciplinary Actions:**

- Any student violating these policies could lose the privilege of using the school computers and all school Internet access.
- Further disciplinary action may result if deemed necessary by the School Principal and/or Dean of Students.

❖ **BCA reserves the right to search the student, the belongings and lockers at any time for anything deemed harmful or violates BCA policy. This includes searching through the content of phones, Chromebooks or any electronic device.**

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

## SCHOOL HEALTH, PROTECTION & STUDENT SAFETY POLICIES

### ❖ FIRE, LOCKDOWN & TORNADO DRILLS

A written evacuation plan is posted in every classroom and Fire Drills will be held monthly.

- Tornado Drills will be held in that season – March to May.
- Lockdown drills will be practiced according to state requirements.

### ❖ School Medication, Sick Student & Health Policy

- If during the school day a student is ill, the school First Aid person will determine whether or not the student should remain at school or go home.
- Staff will consider low-grade fevers below 100°. All students with fevers over 100° or with vomiting, \*diarrhea within 24 hours of the start of the school day or a potentially contagious ailment will be sent home immediately.
- **It is important students are not sent to school if they have experienced a fever (100.4°F or above), vomiting, diarrhea, and/or a persistent cough within the last 24 hours. It is necessary to keep a child at home until the child is symptom-free for 24 hours without benefit of any medication. If a student comes to school and reports having had vomiting/diarrhea within the last 24 hours they will be sent home even if they are symptom free at that time. If you and the other people on your emergency contact list are unavailable, and therefore unable to be reached, please designate a person we can call temporarily in the event of an illness or accident and notify the office of this change in writing.**
- Students with a persistent cough may be asked to stay home if they are unable to concentrate, or their cough is a disruption to themselves and/or the classroom. Cough drops can be administered by the nurse or office staff per package dosing instructions.
- A student with a cough that requires a cough drops more frequently than the package dosage recommends (usually one every two hours) should not be at school.
- BCA will, where appropriate, also send out notification to all BCA families if there is discovered to be a confirmed case of an illness that poses a significant health hazard to the staff and students; or as mandated by the Ohio Board of Health/ CDC. Examples include, but are not limited to: Chicken Pox, H1N1 Virus, MRSA, etc.
- If a student needs to go home, parents will be called and the student will remain in a waiting area until the necessary arrangements are made for his/her release. No student is to leave school premises for illness without first reporting to the school office. In addition, when a parent is called to pick up a student who is ill, it is expected that the parent or their designee will come as soon as possible.
- In a medical emergency, we will notify the child's adult. If we are unsure about a child's medical situation and an adult has not arrived after 30 minutes to pick up the child, we will call the EMS.
- **If a student calls their parent from the student's cell phone due to illness before going to the Health Aide, there will be a consequence for cell phone use during the school day.** All students must go to the Health Aide or office to call their parents/guardians.
- The state of Ohio has developed guidelines for administering prescription medications in school.
  - Every student must have a **STUDENT MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION** signed by the Doctor and parents **for each prescription drug**.
  - The prescription must be in its original container – no individual doses.
  - It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to read and understand the terms of the Medication Authorization Form.
  - Student medication forms can be picked up in the school office.
  - **We recommend, when possible, that your doctor prescribe medicine that does not need to be taken at school.**
  - All medications will be locked in the health clinic and should **NEVER** be sent to school with a child. Medications must be delivered by a parent or responsible adult to the school office. The medication must be picked up by an adult.
  - Unless identified by a physician, no medications of any kind including over the counter medications can be sent to school with a child to self-administer or for the staff to administer during the school day.
  - Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen may be dispensed by the nurse or school office staff per standard dosing instructions with written consent from a parent or guardian, and with verbal authorization per dose.
  - Students who require access to medications for potentially emergent treatment, such as asthma inhalers, insulin, or EpiPens, may carry these medications with the permission of the administration and the completion of a Request for Medication Self-Administration Form filled out and signed by a physician and the student's parent or guardian. This medication must be kept in a staff designated area at all times when not in use. A staff member must be informed each time this medication is self-administered, and this use must be documented.
  - BCA will not participate in the transfer of medication from one parent to another i.e., in custody exchange situations.
  - When a class is on a field trip, teachers will sign out any necessary medications to take on the field trip. Medications dispensed on field trips may only be dispensed by a staff member.

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- **Students with Diabetes**
  - By the 1st day of the school year (or after enrollment if mid-year) students with diabetes who receive daily insulin must bring to the school office a completed school menu carb sheet to be kept on file.
- ❖ **Registration /Emergency Medical Information**
  - We request that the Emergency Medical Information be filled out on Gradelink. The information includes any changes of name, address, employment, phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc.
  - Please include any allergies, illnesses, or other pertinent medical information.
  - Parents are responsible to update medical information.
  - It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check their emergency contacts before listing them to make sure that they can pick up the student in the event the parent cannot be reached.
  - If there are **ANY** information changes throughout the school year, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school office in writing **immediately**.
- ❖ **Absence Notification Policy**
  - **If a Student is Sick**
    - Please call the attendance secretary (614-866-6789) by 9:00am to report the absence each day.
  - **NEVER send a student to school**
    - If he/she has even a slight fever. Be sure the student maintains a normal temperature for a full 24 hours (**without being medicated!**) before returning to school. Temperatures of 100° or higher will result in the child being sent home.
    - If a student is under close medical supervision, has had recent surgery, or has been hospitalized recently.
    - If a student has any communicable diseases the student must have a doctor's release form before he/she may return to school.
    - If a student has been prescribed medication for illness, they must not return to school until they have been on the medication for a full 24 hours.
- ❖ **Immunizations**
  - The state law specifies that no pupil shall be admitted to school at the time of his initial entry until he has received the following immunizations:
    - 4 DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), (5 if last DTP was prior to 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday)
    - 3 Polio Vaccines (4 if last Polio vaccine was prior to 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday)
    - 2 MMR (mumps, measles, rubella)
    - 2 Hep B
    - 1 Varicella (chickenpox vaccine -required for Kindergarten students as of Fall, 2006)
    - Exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis.

## Elementary/Middle School Addendum – Grades K - 8

- ❖ **Grading System**
  - In keeping with our desire for excellence our grading standard is as follows:
    - A = 90 - 100
    - B = 80 - 89
    - C = 70 - 79
    - D = 60 - 69
    - F = 50 - 59
- ❖ **Student Activities**
  - As the year progresses, information regarding band, choir, athletics, clubs, etc. will be advertised.
- ❖ **Athletic Programs & Participation**
  - **A BCA Sports Handbook will be provided to students who elect to participate in the sports program.**
  - **All school fees must be paid before a student can participate and pay for a sport or extracurricular activity.**
  - Once the year is underway, more information will be given regarding the sports programs.
  - All students who participate in athletic programs must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average. Also, students can not have a "F" in any core class. Core classes include; Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies.
  - At grade card reporting time, if this is not occurring, the student will sit out of all practices and games until the student has no F's and a cumulative "C" average .
  - See sports handbook for detailed information.

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

## ❖ Electronic Device Policy

- Electronic devices including cell phones, headphones, and handheld gaming devices may be brought to school, but must remain turned off and in lockers and backpacks during the school day. This means that from the time they walk through the doors in the morning until they walk out the doors at the end of the day. This includes cell phone usage during breakfast, bus lines, and parent pickup times.
- Students are not allowed to use their cell phones to call/text their parents for any reason during the school day. If they need to call, they can go to the office or the Dean of Students office to use the phone.
- Students are not permitted to photograph or video any students or staff member during school hours, athletic events, or any other school events.
- **BCA reserves the right to search the student, the belongings and lockers at any time for anything deemed harmful or violates BCA policy. This includes searching through the content of phones, Chromebooks or any electronic device.**
- **All electronic devices outside of lockers/backpacks will be confiscated until picked up by a parent, or returned to the student by our Dean of Students. This includes cell phones during breakfast, bus lines, and parent pickup times.**
  - The first and second time a cell phone is taken from a student they will serve an After School Detention.
  - The third time they will serve an ISS.
  - At four times they will no longer be allowed to bring any electronic device to school.
  - If they are found to have one, they will serve an OSS.

## ❖ Supervision During After School Events

- BCA students attending after school events (athletic games, concerts, Harvest Fest, Easter Bunny Brunch, etc.) must have parent/guardian supervision. For school dances, supervision is provided and would not necessitate parent/guardian supervision.

## ❖ Lockers

- Lockers are the property of BCA and are provided for use during the school year to store school related items.
- If the teacher or administrator deems necessary, lockers can be searched without notice.
- Locks for all lockers will be provided by BCA.

## ❖ Opposite Sex Relationships

- There will be no physical display of affection between students at Brice Christian Academy or on any school field trip or school related activities.
- Physical displays of affection include the following: hand holding, inappropriate rough housing, kissing or any other sexual activity.

<b>A.C.T.S. (Accountability, Character, Teamwork and Safety) Behavior Guidelines</b>								
<b>LEVEL I</b>	<b>Support Initiatives</b>			<b>Corrective Measures and Consequences</b>				
<b>Strategies and Consequences</b>	Parent & Student Conference with teacher	School based intervention such as; Dean of students meeting, Behavior Modification Plan	Referral to outside counseling or evaluations	Lunch detention, quiet lunch table, after school detention, time out of class	Community Service or monetary restitution	In School Suspension	Out of School Suspension	Expulsion
<b>Level I: Minor Offenses</b> Violations, potential to negatively impact the safe learning environment. Corrective measures and consequences depends on the individual student including age, grade, history of behaviors and seriousness of any specific offense.								
Public display of affection	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Teasing name calling Instigation	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Bus behavior	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Dress code violation	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Littering in building lunchroom or outside Failure to clean up lunch room table/area	X	X	X	X	X	X		

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Failure to clean up lunch room table/area	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Horseplay Hallway disturbance Inappropriate behavior	X	X	X	X	X	X		
No hall pass	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Refusing to do classwork	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Tardiness Not prepared for class Homework not turned in Eating anything outside of lunchroom	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Disruption of classroom such as excessive talking	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Inappropriate language (not profanity)	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Level II</b>	<b>Support Initiatives</b>			<b>Corrective Measures and Consequences</b>				
<b>Strategies and Consequences</b>	Parent & Student Conference with teacher	School based intervention such as: Dean of students meeting, Behavior Modification Plan	Referral to outside counseling or evaluations	Lunch Detention, Quiet Lunch Table, After School Detention	Community Service or monetary restitution	In School Suspension	Out of School Suspension	Expulsion
<b>Level II: Repeated Level I offenses or serious misconduct</b> Violations that may cause harm or potential harm to person or property. Corrective measures and consequences depends on the individual student including, age, grade, history of behaviors and seriousness of any specific offense.								
Damage to school property (Repairable)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Unauthorized touching: hitting throwing items kicking ushing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Distribution of unauthorized material	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Theft-Minor Offense	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Public display of affection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Profanity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cheating/Plagiarism: on exams, tests and other school work Forgery/Falsification	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Repeated Level I Violations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Possessing over the counter medications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Present in an unauthorized area Class Cuts Unauthorized use of school property	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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Level III	Support Initiatives			Corrective Measures and Consequences				
Strategies and Consequences	Parent & Student Conference with teacher	School based intervention such as; Dean of students meeting, Behavior Modification Plan	Referral to outside counseling or evaluations	Lunch Detention, Quiet Lunch Table, After School Detention	Community Service or monetary restitution	In School Suspension	Out of School Suspension	Expulsion
<b>Level III: Repeated Level I or Level II offenses</b> Violations of serious misconduct, disrespect, arguing and insubordination with staff. Acts that do cause or can result in physical or emotional harm. Corrective measures and consequences depends on the individual student including, age, grade, history of behaviors and seriousness of any specific offense.								
Possession or use of weapons Inducing panic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vandalism/irreparable damage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Physical Aggression: fighting, hitting, kicking, spitting etc. and injurious horseplay.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Theft-major offense	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Violation of Tech or Science Lab guidelines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Defiance disrespect Insubordination Non-Compliance Attitude (this includes arguing, slamming doors, eye rolling and any other behavior deemed disrespectful)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abusive language Harassment Bullying Threat of physical harm Offensive comments Racial comments Sexual comments Personal comments.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Social media/Internet/ iTexting/Messaging Infractions: Including but not limited to; Skype, Facetime or other video chat formats. This includes outside of school time.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spreading rumors and gossip: including but not limited to shaming, relaying hurtful information or personal insults whether true or false. This includes outside of school time.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Cell phone, earbuds, headphones, smart watches or any other electronic device on person whether visible or not visible	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Repeated Level I & II Violations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Progressive Discipline Consequences Middle School

- Initial 10 QLTs (Quiet Lunch Table) = 1 ASD (After School Detention)
  - ❖ After the first 10, every 5 QLTs = 1 ASD
- Every 5 ASDs = 1 ISS (In School Suspension)
- Every 5 ISSs = 1 OSS (Out of School Suspension)
- After 5 OSS → Meeting with Parents / Behavior Contract written/No Field trips

## In School Suspension (ISS) & Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Students must complete all classwork, homework, tests, exams, and quizzes missed. Tests, exams, and quizzes will receive full credit, but classwork and homework will be zeros.

## WELLNESS POLICY

Brice Christian Academy has established a wellness policy that promotes students' health, well-being, and ability to learn. BCA has the responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a wellness policy.

### Requirements and Goals of the BCA Wellness Policy

#### 1) The wellness policy has goals for nutrition education.

- Food is not used as a reward. Classroom parties shall limit unhealthy snacks offered and instead offer low sugar, low fat snacks. Healthy eating and nutrition will be discussed in each grade level.
- Students may not have carbonated pop or soda drinks at school. Water will always be offered at lunch, and water breaks will be offered/encouraged during the school day.
- Snacks will only be sold after 4:00pm for sporting events.
- Snacks brought in for birthday parties may not be heavily frosted cupcakes. We encourage small treats, an individual salty snack bag, and water.

#### 2) The wellness policy has goals for physical activity.

- Physical education is offered weekly.
- Outside recess is offered daily, weather permitting for grades K- 5th grade.
- Brice Christian Academy has a goal that each student has the opportunity for 3.5 hours of physical activity a week.
- Classroom rewards can be physical activities such as an extra recess, basketball parties etc.
- Students from 5th-8th grade are encouraged to participate in afterschool sports at BCA. Current offerings include soccer, basketball, volleyball, and winterguard.

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3) The wellness policy has nutrition guidelines for all foods available on each school campus and the nutrition guidelines promote student health.

- Brice Christian Academy is a participant in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Students are offered a minimum of twice a week, a fruit or vegetable. Our goal is to expose students to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and model good snacking habits.
- The breakfast and lunches served at BCA will follow the NSLP standards for calories, trans fats, sodium, and sugar.

4) BCA has designated the school principal to oversee the wellness policy.

## ADDENDUM

“The governing board of Brice Christian Academy school located at 3160 Brice Road in Brice, Ohio 43109 has adopted the following racial nondiscriminatory policies.”

“The Brice Christian Academy school recruits and admits students of any race, color or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

“The Brice Christian Academy school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.”

The adopted racial nondiscriminatory statement must appear in the school’s advertisement, policies, handbooks and manuals, etc. DEW will verify that the statements are included in handbooks, manuals, and posted at the school during site visits.

## RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICIES

The governing board of the non-public school shall adopt and implement policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin. After the policies are adopted, copies of adopted policies must be sent to Nonpublic Educational Options for approval on school letterhead. The adopted racial nondiscriminatory statement must appear in the school’s advertisement, policies, handbooks and manuals, etc. DEW will verify that the statements are included in handbooks and manuals when they are uploaded into the application. The policies must be sent to DEW at the same time as the Affidavit of Intent Not to Discriminate.

*The purpose of this handbook is to ensure a student’s success at BCA.*

**THIS COMPLETES THE BCA STUDENT HANDBOOK - REVISED JULY 2025**