



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2018 – 2019

Black River Public School
Montessori Elementary
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www.blackriverpublicschool.org
<https://www.facebook.com/blackriverpublicschool>

Black River Twitter Handle: [@blackriverrats](https://twitter.com/blackriverrats)

This planner belongs to:

NAME: _____

TEACHER: _____

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. Black River Public School admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, athletic programs and other school-administered programs. If any person believes that Black River Public School or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of 1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 2) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or 3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, he or she may bring forward a complaint to Shannon Brunink, Head of School, who is the local coordinator for Title VI, Title IX or Dr. John Woods, who is the local coordinator for Section 504.

ELEMENTARY (K-5th Grade) SCHOOL HOURS
Academic Curricular Year 8:00 A.M. – 3:10 P.M.
PROJECT TERM 8:00 A.M. – 2:40 P.M.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-2019

FIRST SEMESTER

Wed,	Aug 22	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - Grades K-12
Fri,	Aug 31	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Labor Day Vacation
Mon,	Sep 3	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Labor Day Vacation
Wed,	Oct 3	Student Count Day
Thurs,	Oct 4	Student Count Day (for classes not meeting on Wed.)
Fri,	Oct 12	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Midterm Grading Day
Thurs,	Oct 25	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Parent-Teacher Conf., 1 pm - 8 pm
Fri,	Oct 26	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Parent-Teacher Conf., 8 am - 3:30 pm
Tues,	Nov 20	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Teacher In-service
Wed,	Nov 21	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Thanksgiving Vacation
Thurs,	Nov 22	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Thanksgiving Vacation
Fri,	Nov 23	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Thanksgiving Vacation
Mon,	Dec 17	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (A and B)
Tues,	Dec 18	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (C and D)
Wed,	Dec 19	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (E and F) WINTER BREAK BEGINS

SECOND SEMESTER

Thurs,	Jan 3	Classes Resume
Wed,	Feb 13	Student Count Day
Thurs,	Feb 14	Student Count Day (for classes not meeting on Wed.)
Thurs,	Feb 21	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Teacher In-service
Fri,	Feb 22	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12, Mid-Winter Break
Wed,	Feb 27	Open Enrollment Ends at 4:00 pm
Fri,	Mar 1	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Midterm Grading Day
Thurs,	Mar 14	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Parent-Teacher Conf., 1 pm - 8 pm
Fri,	Mar 15	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Parent-Teacher Conf., 8 am - 3:30 pm
Fri,	Mar 29	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Spring Break Begins
Mon,	Apr 8	Classes resume
Fri,	Apr 19	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Teacher In-service
Wed,	May 8	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (A and B)
Thurs,	May 9	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (C and D)
Fri,	May 10	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - Final Exams (E and F)
Mon,	May 13	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Semester Break

PROJECT TERM

Tues	May 14	Project Term begins
Thurs,	May 23	Senior Capstone Showcase 6:30 - 8:00pm <i>*Required for 12th grade students</i>
Mon,	May 27	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-12 - Memorial Day
Fri,	May 31	High School Graduation, 7 pm
Thurs,	Jun 6	Project Term concludes, Open House 6:30 - 8:00 pm <i>*Required for students in grades 1-11</i>
Fri,	Jun 7	1/2 DAY SCHOOL K-12 - LAST DAY

K-5=180 days/1158.61 hours; 6-12=180 days/1132.94

Board approved on March 19, 2018

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to prepare each student for college and for life through a challenging curriculum that accommodates individual learning styles. We want to have our students discover responsibility for their own lives as well as empathy for all people and cultures. Through a deep respect for independent thinking, we strive to guide our students in their personal growth toward a genuine self-knowledge so that they can achieve their full human potential.

<p style="text-align: center;">BELIEFS</p> <p>We believe the school's responsibility in education is to bring curiosity, challenge, pleasure and a sense of accomplishment into our students' lives.</p> <p>We believe it is through commitment and determination that students stretch the limits of their minds in the joy and celebration of learning.</p> <p>We believe education must not be a race for the accumulation of facts, but should provide the basic tools and ideas for learning so that education will be an enriching end in itself.</p> <p>We believe certain skills to be essential for all of our graduates: To read well, to write clearly and coherently, to study effectively, to reason soundly, and to question thoughtfully and creatively.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">METHODS</p> <p>Our faculty members are academic coaches, providing academic leadership as well as guidance toward learning and personal growth. We embrace the Socratic method and experiential learning as primary pedagogical tools.</p> <p>Students will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to make personal decisions leading toward physical and emotional well being.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There is a clear disciplinary code for all students.</p> <p>Everything taught at our school endeavors to be a lifelong skill, whether it be literary, linguistic, athletic, artistic, scientific, mathematical or historical.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CURRICULUM</p> <p>Our Core Curriculum will be English, foreign language, mathematics, history and politics, natural sciences, the arts and applied technology. All courses will be taught within an integrated curriculum, demonstrating relationships among the fields of study.</p> <p>Students will experience a progression of learning based not on chronological age, but on understanding.</p> <p>Our students will be provided with non-language-based processes for intuitive insight and the development of meaning, in addition to rational academic processes.</p> <p>Our curriculum includes involvement with the local community and concern for worldwide issues, which aid in discovering an ability and a responsibility to make a difference in the world. Our students will participate in service and extra-curricular projects within the Greater Holland communities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CULTURE</p> <p>To succeed in our mission we need the students' and parents' active partnership and agreement with the School Mission, which includes a personal commitment to serious academic challenge.</p> <p>The atmosphere of the school is that of a safe place in which students feel free to develop individual ideas and styles. Our faculty stresses un-anxious expectations; making errors is a necessary part of the learning process.</p> <p>The culture of our school is one of mutually respectful interaction between adults and students; we recognize the need of living enlightened and humane lives.</p> <p>We encourage a student population of social, economic and racial diversity.</p> <p>We will be an Elementary School, a Middle School and a High School and strive for a small population of students with small class sizes.</p>

The foregoing Mission Statement, together with its "Beliefs," "Culture," "Curriculum," and "Methods," is not merely an idealistic philosophy of Black River Public School. It is the school's basic foundation, and everything we do in the day-to-day operation of the school must implement the Mission Statement. The Board of Trustees formally adopted the Mission Statement in the planning of the school in January 1996, with the intention that it be the fundamental document of Black River Public School. This handbook will cover the curriculum and disciplinary aspects of the school, as well as any other relevant school information.

MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY: GRADES K-5

The elementary grades at Black River Public School follow the Montessori Method of instruction, with accommodation made for standardized testing requirements. This method differs from the style of instruction to which most parents and students are accustomed. In making a school choice for your child, parents are invited to carefully read the following information, ask questions and visit our classrooms to inform yourselves fully about what you should expect from the Black River elementary program.

What is the Montessori Philosophy?

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that a truly educated individual continues learning long after the hours and years spent in a classroom because he or she is motivated from within by a natural curiosity and love for knowledge. Because Montessori education is successful in developing concentration, self-discipline, a love of learning and social skills with varying age groups, the child is better equipped to enter new situations and to easily adjust to new environments. This creates the perfect foundation for Black River's educational mission and teaching philosophy. Already we have seen that students who came through the fourth and fifth grade Montessori classrooms are excelling in our middle school program. The addition of the kindergarten through third grade program has fostered further student achievement.

What is Different Inside a Montessori Classroom?

Mixed Ages: Classes are grouped according to the Montessori philosophy of mixed ages, in rooms of first through third graders, and rooms of fourth through fifth graders. Social and intellectual development is enhanced by this method of age grouping. Learning with these groups stimulates greater interest and encourages cooperation. The younger children learn through observation of the older children. In addition, the older student has the opportunity to become a leader and reinforce their knowledge as they help their younger friends. The legacy of responsibility and helping others is passed down in class.

Independence: The Montessori Method stresses that children learn and progress at their own pace so that fast learners are not held back, and slow learners are not frustrated by their inability to keep up. The program is designed to allow development at the student's own pace. It provides for a wide range of developmental needs of the student. Our Montessori-trained teachers present the curriculum in a manner that best fits the student, rather than making the student fit the curriculum. While core benchmarks and proficiencies in Language, Reading, Mathematics, History and Science are required to advance through the grade levels, students are encouraged to stretch beyond these basic competencies toward higher cognitive levels of learning.

Freedom and Responsibility: The Montessori environment strikes a fine balance between structure and freedom. The concept of freedom associated with responsibility is gradually introduced from the first day. Montessori students have a wide variety of constructive paths to choose. They gain the skills and tools to accomplish their choices and they are taught the social values that enable them to make enlightened choices. Dr. Montessori believed that freedom does not involve simply being able to do what you want to do. It does involve being able to distinguish what is constructive and beneficial and being able to carry that out.

Curriculum

The Montessori curriculum is a sequential program designed for independent learning, and meshes seamlessly with Black River's rigorous middle and high school academic program. Reading, writing, mathematics and science are part of the daily focus. Students also receive instruction in Spanish language, music, art, and physical education. Community Service: Community service was established as a part of the school's founding Mission Statement and is required of all Black River students in grades 1-12. Further information about volunteer opportunities and how service-based learning is incorporated into our curriculum can be found in the registration materials packet available in the main office. The 1-3 graders are responsible for 10 hours of community service; 4-5 graders are responsible for 15 hours, which is generally handled as a class through a variety of service based opportunities throughout the surrounding community. Fulfillment of this requirement will vary by classroom.

Evaluations

Students will receive narrative statements at the end of each semester. Please review this student progress report paying special attention to the evaluation key. Evaluations are made on an individual basis. Each student is evaluated relative to his/her own capabilities. Please remember that Satisfactory means the student is doing what is expected of him/her at a level of quality appropriate to the specific student. It is only when a student goes above and beyond expectations that he/she receives a Good or an Outstanding.

Midway into each semester term and before receiving narrative statements, you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during conferences to discuss student progress.

As a general rule, our teaching staff will contact you directly and early on if they have any concerns about a student's academic performance.

Additionally, if you have questions about your child's progress in the course of the school year, you are encouraged to direct them to the classroom teacher.

Students receive a Pass/Fail grade for Project Term courses completed.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Our curriculum includes: *“involvement with the local community and concern for worldwide issues, which aid in discovering ability and a responsibility to make a difference in the world. Our students will participate in service and extra-curricular projects within the Greater Holland communities.” ~ BRPS Mission Statement*

Student Requirements for Community Service

Requirements by Grade:

Grades 1-3 ~ 10 hours

Grades 4-5 ~ 15 hours

Grades 6-8 ~ 20 hours

Grades 9-12 ~ 60 hours

- *All hours need to be completed prior to completing grade 3, 5, 8 or 12
- To make sure your time is recorded, please fill out a Community Service slip available in the Elementary Main Office or printable form from our forms page. You can also verify your hours on Infinite Campus.
- **Community Service Fulfillment**
- Students are required to fulfill hours in one of two ways:
 - 1. Independently. They work directly with an organization and fulfill their hours, fill out a CS slip from the CS box near room 214, and continue finding ways to volunteer, based on their interest.
 - 2. School-organized. Students may also complete hours through approved class activities.
- A maximum of 20 CS hours is given for any given volunteer experience.
- ****Transfer students will have adjusted requirements; depending on which year they start at Black River.**
- As a Black River student you may:
 - 1. Volunteer for anyone where you do NOT get paid.
 - 2. Volunteer with any organization where they are NOT requiring you to volunteer (examples of: Boy Scouts, National Honor Society, Juvenile Court, etc.) You may volunteer for them either individually or through the school-organized events, but you cannot use the hours for both organizations.
 - 3. Independent studies during project term with approval, and/or service learning within the classroom or CAP and receive CS hours.
- BE CREATIVE!
 - 1. Organize your own experience
 - 2. Volunteer with organizations that interest you
 - 3. Make a difference in your Community

A student that does not complete the required course of study, including the community service component, may not walk at graduation at the discretion of the Black River administration

CLUBS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Clubs and co-curricular activities will be made available depending on student interest.

While not financially supported by the school, these activities have been offered in the past for elementary students:

Dutch Dance, Odyssey of the Mind, Ski Club, FIRST Lego League, FIRST Lego League, Jr., TECH Club, Noetics Math Competition, Girls on the Run, and Total Trek Quest.

ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

Hedy Nai-Lin Chang's research shows that regular attendance is critical in the development and learning of all students. We now realize it is not only those students who fit the traditional definition of truancy, but those who are chronically absent as well who have lower grades and are more likely to drop out than students with better attendance. Truancy, or unexcused absences, has been linked to serious delinquent activity in youth and to significant negative behavior in characteristics in adults (Bell, A.J., Rosen, L.A., and Dynlacht, D. 1994). Left unaddressed, truancy can have significant negative effects on the student, school, and community.

PHILOSOPHY

Regular attendance is the single most important factor affecting student achievement. Results of study after study demonstrate that students who attend school regularly do better than those who are frequently absent. Good attendance increases student achievement. Poor or irregular attendance diminishes learning and lowers student achievement.

Time missed from class cannot truly be compensated for in any adequate way. A stimulating, thoughtful classroom discussion or analysis cannot be made up: the absent student misses the opportunity for give and take, for questioning and being questioned. Classroom learning is a communal endeavor: teachers and students learn by being able to share ideas in an open forum. Absent students miss the learning that comes from participation in the group process.

Black River's goals for student learning emphasize the importance of communication skills, social responsibility, and respect for the ideas of others. Students cannot achieve these goals if they are not in class. Class time missed is learning lost. There is no substitute for attending class and parents are urged to stress the importance of regular attendance and punctuality.

In an effort to better service the schools of the OAISD, visit the link below for common language and coding that is recommended for each school to use in regards to attendance.

<http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/userfiles/36/my%20files/combinedattendance.pdf?id=2472>

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DISMISSAL (PARENTS AND STUDENTS)

8:01-8:10 *The student will be marked **TARDY/LATE ARRIVAL***

*****After 8:10, all students will be counted as absent*****

3:00-3:10 *The student will be marked **EARLY DISMISSAL** (if the student is checked out **BEFORE 3:00pm**, it will be coded as an absence as directed by the new guidelines from Ottawa County).*

Medical and dental appointments should be made on days or times when school is not in session. When appointments are unavoidable or an emergency arises, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Parents must call the Attendance Line at Ext. 328 before 9:00am to inform the school secretary of a late arrival or early dismissal.
2. Before leaving the building, the person providing transportation must sign the student out at the Main Office.
3. If/When the student returns to school, he/she must report to the office to sign in and receive an admit slip to re-enter the class currently in session. If the sign out is discovered to be unexcused, it will be reviewed by the Dean of Students to determine appropriate disciplinary consequences.
4. Early dismissals for sports practices or music lessons will be marked as unexcused absences.
5. Medical documentation may be requested for repeated early dismissals or late arrivals.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. **According to Black River Public School Policy, students have a limit of five absences per semester.** Those allow for sporadic illness, family emergency, medical treatment, court, and family business, etc. Teachers will allow students to make up work upon their return in the above instances. Please see the breakdown of the schedule below:
2. Should a student exceed the 5-day limit for the semester, this may greatly affect that student's academic success since work missed due to excessive absence from school or class may not be made up without penalty.
 - a. Any absence that a student incurs as an approved representative of Black River does not count toward the 5-day absence limit.
 - b. Absences from class because of approved in-school activities and meetings with counselors or other school personnel do not count toward the absence limit.
 - c. Absences beyond 5 excused school days require administrative approval.

3. **On the third consecutive day of absence** while under a doctor's care, a note from the doctor with the inclusive dates of treatment should be submitted to the Main Office so that an **extended illness absence** ruling can be determined. Teachers will allow students returning to school from an extended illness to make up missed work.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, TRUANCY AND CHRONICALLY ABSENT

1. **A student is considered truant/chronically absent when absent from school 10% of the enrolled school days without the consent of parents or the school.**
Students who are truant cannot make up work missed and will be reported to the truancy officer as required by law.
2. **Students with five or more unexcused absences in a given academic semester will receive disciplinary consequences.**
3. **A formal attendance plan may be developed and shared with the Ottawa County Truancy Officer.**

Additional guidelines available at the Ottawa Area ISD web site:

<http://www.oaisd.org/oaisd/departments/specialneedseducation/programsservices/truancy/>

DEFINITIONS OF EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Excused absence means the following:
 - Student illness/injury/residential treatment (with doctor's note or verified by parent)
 - Medical appointments (with doctor's note)
 - Religious holidays
 - Lice (3 days)
 - Funeral/death in family
 - Mandated court appearances (documented-only if children are required per subpoena).
 - Placement by Juvenile Court in detention.
 - Educational opportunities approved by school officials
 - Travel (5 days with school official approval)
- Unexcused absence is any absence not accounted for above, examples of unexcused absences include, but not limited to:
 - Staying home to baby-sit
 - Overslept
 - Travel (more than 5 days in school calendar or any travel days without prior approval)
 - Needed at home
 - Weather
 - Missed bus
 - Child is not immunized
 - Sickness (not documented or verified by parent)
 - Chronic lice (over 5 days, CPS referral may be suggested/should be considered).
 - Willful truancy (skipping/student refuses to attend school per parent/guardian, or reported as a runaway).
 - Failure to notify school

TARDINESS

1. School begins at 8:00 a.m. A student who arrives late to school must report to the office and must be signed-in by a parent/guardian. The student will receive an admit slip and report to class immediately.
2. Excessive tardiness, regardless of reason, is unacceptable. Students who are chronically late to school will receive disciplinary consequences (see Black River Elementary Tardy Policy). This includes both excused and unexcused tardies.
3. Students who are consistently late for class and demonstrate a disregard for the value of the time of their teacher and classmates will receive disciplinary consequences. If chronic tardiness continues to be a problem the offending student will have additional disciplinary consequences as determined by the administration of the school.
4. After 10 unexcused/excused tardies, a student will receive a detention to be served with Elementary Administrator, Jim Levering. Continued tardiness may warrant further investigation and development of a formal attendance plan.

TARDY INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS

7:30 AM: Breakfast is served in the Lyceum. Students may be dropped off at the Lyceum at 7:15am. Supervision will be provided and the students will be walked over to the Elementary Building at 7:45

7:45 AM: Elementary doors open

8:00 AM: Doors are locked; carline closes/school begins; students are expected to be in the classroom ready to learn. Teachers start marking students tardy if they are not in their classrooms.

After 8:00 AM, parents must bring their student into the Elementary Main Office for a tardy pass.

3:10 PM (2:40 during Project Term): Dismissal (please pick up your child promptly)

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCEEDING PERMISSIBLE TARDIES (Per Semester):

6th Tardy: Parents will be contacted by the Administrative Staff regarding future consequences for accumulating more tardies.

10th Tardy: Parents will receive an email from the school notifying them of the consequences.

ALL STUDENTS will receive a discipline referral to document the attendance pattern and a before school detention with Mr. Jim. After 10 tardies, the number of tardies will be reset back to zero.

Detentions will be served on Thursdays from 7:15am-7:45am in the Elementary Conference room. Doors will open at 7:05. If there is a valid reason that your son or daughter cannot make the assigned detention, it must be made up on the following Thursday with Mr. Jim in the Elementary Conference Room.

If a student misses his or her assigned detention without a valid reason, a detention will be assigned for the next offered detention with Mr. John Donnelly in Room 209 at 7:00am sharp. Doors will be open by 6:50am. Further consequences will be explored for noncompliance of consequences which may result in a parent meeting with a truancy officer from Ottawa County or suspension. Thank you for the guidance you give as your child sets lifelong attendance habits.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

REPORTING ILLNESS OR NECESSARY ABSENCE

The method for reporting absence is as follows:

1. **DAY OF THE ABSENCE**, the parent should telephone the Attendance Line **355-0055 Ext. 328** to report the absence and give the reason for the absence. The call should be made before 9:00 a.m. each day during the period of the absence.
2. The student is responsible for any classroom work missed during any excused absence.
3. **On the third consecutive day of absence due to illness** a note from the primary care physician of the student should be provided for documentation of an extended illness.
4. In reference to communicable illness, Black River follows the guidelines of the Michigan Department of Community Health.

ILLNESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

1. If a student becomes ill while at school, the student should get a pass from his/her teacher and go to the Main Office.
2. At the office, the student will get their temperature taken and be able to wait for 5-10 minutes to determine if he/she is able to return to class.
3. If the student is unable to return to class, the parent will be notified and expected to pick him/her up at school.
4. In the case of a medical emergency the school will call 911 as appropriate.
5. The person providing the transportation must sign the student out in the Main Office before leaving school.

LUNCH

Parents may take their children out for lunch; however, they must return on time before class resumes. Also, this should be communicated in advance to the teacher and administration. *Please make sure you sign your child in and out when they leave campus for any reason.*

EXTENDED ABSENCES (vacations, trips)

1. **Black River strongly discourages extended absences during the school term.** Vacation days count toward the 5-day excused absence limit each semester. The decision for the absence is the responsibility of the parent and the student and should be made with consideration given to the student's current status in school, with serious thought given to the impact of the absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete any work missed.
2. Absences for vacation, family trips, etc. over 5 days will be marked unexcused per the Ottawa County Attendance Policy.

3. **If an extended absence is required, students and parents must fill out an extended absence form available in the front office prior to the absence and receive written approval from an appropriate administration.**
4. The school staff assumes no responsibility for work missed on extended absences (other than those caused by illness and documented by a physician), and teachers may elect not to provide makeup opportunities for tests and projects missed due to an extended absence that does not directly involve a medical procedure or condition.

COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILOSOPHY

The creation of community is an essential part of any school. Community means honest interaction, genuine freedom from intimidation, harassment, insult, or even distress. That kind of family or community means a constant sense of trust. Community cannot exist without trust and respect for others. Sensitivity and respect for ourselves and for others are thus mandatory for the Black River Public School Community. Any student, who fails to live in our community in compliance with our standards, whether or not a specific action is covered by a particular school regulation, may be subject to disciplinary action. Thus, certain guidelines are paramount.

One operating principle guides our entire code of conduct.

“Disrespect or violence occurs whenever anyone harms or threatens to harm a person’s body, feeling, or possessions.”

Carol Remboldt and Richard Zimman from The Johnson Institute

Thus, our expectation of every student, parent, teacher and staff member is that we respect the body, feelings, and possessions of others. Only in this way can we create and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect where learning can take place.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students are expected to follow classroom rules, be polite, and treat everyone with respect. Students who demonstrate repeated inappropriate classroom behavior, including insubordination, may be issued discipline referrals and face disciplinary consequences. Any behavior which disrupts others’ learning will not be tolerated and the student will be removed from the classroom immediately and may be suspended for the remainder of the school day.

HALLWAY CONDUCT

Running, shouting, or any other kind of boisterous conduct is not permitted in the school halls. Please refer to the PBIS rubric for Hall Expectations located on page 13 for more information.

APPROPRIATE USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Students are not to be in the school building or on school property at any time other than during school-sponsored activities or with permission from a member of the faculty/staff. This includes school-scheduled breaks and vacations. If students are found to be in the school building or on school property at any time other than during school-sponsored activities or without permission from a member of the faculty/staff, they are considered to be trespassing and any of the following may occur:

1. Notification of the parents.
2. Immediate suspension during which time the student may not have the opportunity to make up work missed without penalty nor attend extracurricular activities.
3. Social probation during which the student’s time on campus will be strictly regulated and participation and or attendance at extracurricular activities will be denied.
4. Notification of law enforcement and charges being filed.
5. Discipline hearing.
6. Expulsion.

PARKING LOT AND SCHOOL GROUNDS CONDUCT

Students may not use skateboards, rollerblades, or bicycles in the parking lots or on landscaped areas of school property. Damage or destruction of property as a result of misconduct or misuse of these or other recreational items may result in disciplinary consequences including a period of suspension. Skateboarding in front of school between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. is also prohibited. Skateboarding on the sidewalk by the lyceum and driveway/gulch areas is forbidden for safety reasons. After 3:30 p.m. on school days students should not be on the playground unless supervised by an adult.

OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT

Students participating in off-campus projects and/or extra-curricular activities connected with the school are considered representatives of the school. Students are expected to follow the guidelines set forth in this handbook.

CROSSWALKS

Between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. students are to use the crosswalks when crossing Columbia Avenue and other streets adjoining campus. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary measures.

SHADOWS

Students who would like to invite a non-Black River student to shadow them for a day must fill out a Student Visitor form and have it approved by the Dean of Students or Black River Public School administrator at least 48 hours prior to the day of the visit. These forms are available in the main office. All guests must follow Black River's code of conduct. Students who have already attended BRPS or have been suspended or expelled from BRPS may not shadow at BRPS.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students and parents are responsible for a student's style of dress. The dress code allows you to make many personal decisions about your clothing, but there are some rules that will help you stay focused in your learning at BRPS. Please use these rules as a guideline and note that deviation from our dress code will result in disciplinary consequences. Appropriate footwear is required in all buildings.

CLOTHING

- Clothing that reveals undergarments when sitting, walking, or bending is unacceptable. Undergarments are not to be displayed at any time. This includes boxer shorts.
- Clothing that is overly revealing is inappropriate, this may include clothing that is ripped, torn, or cut.
- Clothing with offensive language, demeaning words, gang affiliation, drug/alcohol advertisements or any obvious bad taste is not acceptable.
- Any clothing item depicting an illegal activity or direct expression of violence is not acceptable.
- Clothing that is worn with the express purpose of intimidating other students by implicating gang involvement or association is not acceptable.
- **Shirts and tops are to be appropriately sized to the individual.**
 - Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti tops, muscle shirts cannot be worn alone, they are to be covered by a shirt.
- **Shorts and skorts must meet the "fingertip" rule.**
 - Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be long enough to touch the end of the fingertips when the arm is fully extended.
- **Skirts and dresses must not reveal anything above the top of the knee.**
 - If the bottom of your dress or skirt is higher than the top of your knees, it is too short and unacceptable.
 - If you choose to wear shorts under your skirt or dress, you may follow the "fingertip" rule outlined for shorts and skirts, BUT your shorts must be the same length as your skirt or dress, or longer. If the shorts you are wearing under your skirt or dress are determined to be too short, you will be considered in violation of the dress code.

ACCESSORIES AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Hats, caps, hoods, bandanas or head coverings are not to be worn inside any BRPS building during school hours.
- Masks, sunglasses or novelty glasses may not be worn inside any BRPS building. If sunglasses are worn for a medical purpose, the student must obtain a doctor's note and have it on file in the main office.
- Jewelry or accessories with spikes or studs are unacceptable.
- On the first offense the above listed accessory may be confiscated and held until the end of the school day. On the second offense of wearing a similar item (not necessarily the exact same item) the item will be held at school for one week and then returned to a parent or to the student with parent's permission. On the third offense the item may be held until the end of the semester.

Students who are in violation of the dress code will be required to dress appropriately prior to attending or returning to class. Chronic violation of the dress code and/or repeated referrals for dress code violations may result in a period of suspension and/or other disciplinary consequences.

THE FINAL JUDGE OF APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM.

POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED ITEMS

- **CELLULAR PHONES** and other electronic communication devices may not be used by students during the academic school day unless under the direct supervision of a staff member and adhering to the school's acceptable use policy. This includes passing time and lunchtime. If a student is seen using a cell phone in any capacity during the school day, a member of the faculty may confiscate the device and turn it in to an administrator. The administrator will return it to the student at the end of the school day on the first offense, but on the second offense the phone/communication device will be returned to a parent or legal guardian. On the third offense the phone may be kept until the end of the academic year at the discretion of the administration. *The school will not be held liable for the loss or theft of cellular phones or other electronic communication devices.*
- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** including, but not limited to, laser devices, iPods, or handheld video games are not to be used during the school day. This includes games programmed into any electronic devices. If a student is seen using a prohibited electronic device in any capacity during class or during passing time a member of the faculty may confiscate the device and turn it in to the administrator. The administrator will return the device to the student at the end of the school day on the first offense, but on the second offense the device will be returned to a parent or legal guardian. On the third offense the device may be kept until the end of the academic year at the discretion of the administration. *The school will not be held liable for the loss or theft of cellular phones or other electronic communication devices.*
- **COLLECTIBLE CARD GAMES** will not be allowed in the classroom. Collectible cards may be used before/after school. The school will not be held responsible for the loss or theft of these items. If a student is seen using collectible cards in any capacity during the school day a member of the faculty may confiscate the cards and turn it in to an administrator. The administrator will return the cards to the student at the end of the school day on the first offense, but on the second offense the cards will be returned to a parent or legal guardian. On the third offense the cards may be kept until the end of the academic year at the discretion of the administration. *The school will not be held liable for the loss or theft of collectible cards.*
- **DISTRACTING TOYS:** Unless your child has a Special Ed or Health Impairment 504 plan that allows for fidget items, please do not send them to school with your student, this includes Fidget Spinners. Any distracting toy that causes a disruption will be confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian in the Elementary Main Office.
- **TOBACCO** Black River Public School is a tobacco-free campus. No possession or use of tobacco is allowed before, during or after school on school property or at school-sponsored events. This includes students who are 18 years of age and/or any adult found smoking or in possession of tobacco on campus or at school functions. As of Fall 2000, we are required to call 911 and report any students smoking on campus or during school events. Students are also prohibited from bringing incendiary devices to school. **Repeat Offenders:** Ordinarily a second offense results in police involvement, administrative review, and termination of the student's enrollment at Black River Public School. The State of Michigan may impose a fine and assign a 16-hour community service penalty, as well as tobacco cessation classes pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 722. 642.
- **Vaporizing Devices/E-cigarettes**
Alternative to tobacco vaporizing products are further prohibited in a similar manner. This includes students who are 18- years of age and older.
- **ALCOHOL** Black River Public School is an alcohol-free campus. No possession or use of alcohol is allowed before, during or after school on school property or at school sponsored events. This includes students who are 21 years of age and/or any adult on campus or at school functions. A first offense will result in police involvement, administrative review, and may result in the termination of the student's enrollment at Black River Public School.
- **DRUGS** Black River Public School is a drug-free campus. Possession, use or purchase of any drugs (illegal, prescription or over-the-counter), or intoxicants during school, or at any school-related activity, will not be tolerated, and will be promptly met with severe disciplinary action. A controlled substance possession offense results in police involvement, administrative review, and disciplinary hearing that may result in the termination of the student's enrollment at Black River Public School. Schedule I through V substances are included- for a comprehensive list please consult <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html>.

WEAPONS AND WEAPON accessories will not be allowed on school property at any time. A weapon is defined as any item or object that is deemed threatening to the learning environment. In certain weapons circumstances, the state of Michigan requires mandatory expulsion for possession of a weapon, including knives of certain lengths and firearms. Any student in possession of a weapon may be subject to a disciplinary hearing and may face long-term suspension and possible expulsion, depending on the circumstances of the given situation.

DISCIPLINE

At Black River Public School, the Elementary Team encourages students to develop behaviors that create opportunities for academic and social growth. When problems occur, our goal is to help students identify behaviors that are not helpful to their academic and social growth and to assist students as they develop beneficial behavioral change over time. We believe that this type of change and growth is a process best supported by the interaction of the student, the parents, and the teacher.

Significant change occurs when students begin to independently recognize improper or non-helpful behaviors and substitute new patterns with increasing consistency. This deep change often takes time, patience, and persistent repetition. A student's understanding of the consequences of their actions is an important part of this learning process.

Parents are to be contacted at all stages and increasingly included in efforts to redirect behavior and set consequences. Additional staff support will be used as needed throughout the entire process.

Staff members will file appropriate documentation, a referral, to clarify both the behavior to be changed and behavior that is desired, as well as the immediate action taken by the teacher. This documentation will also provide accountability for the student, parents and staff members. All referrals will be forwarded to the Dean of Students as a part of the student's school record.

Critically important to the task of establishing new behaviors is the student's ability to identify behaviors that are not helpful, and to discuss, model and practice behaviors that increase opportunities for success in the classroom. To this end, conversations between students, teachers and parents are an important part of the documentation process as well.

As a teaching staff, our aim is not to be punitive in our approach. Rather, we strive to support and teach new behavioral skills that will create positive outcomes for every student in the school environment both academically and socially.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support at Black River Public School

An Overview

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, or PBIS, is an approach to behavior management that focuses on increasing appropriate behavior and decreasing problematic behavior for all students. PBIS addresses the behavioral needs of all students with proven, easy to implement strategies, and fosters an overall improved school atmosphere for students and teachers.

School Expectations Matrix

	Classroom	Bathroom	Recess
Be Respectful	Follow all adult directions first time given Listen when others are speaking Use kind words and actions Take care of personal and school property Disagree politely with peers and adults	Keep bathrooms clean Give privacy Use a quiet voice	Follow all adult directions first time given Use kind words and actions Include all who want to play Take turns and share Create win/win solutions if differences arise
Be Accountable	Use your best effort to produce quality work Complete assignments on time Take responsibility for ALL of your own work Keep work organized and in its proper place Complete all required elements on all work	Always flush the toilet Clean up after yourself Get in and out as quickly as possible Wash hands with soap	Follow game rules Take care of equipment/use appropriately Do not enter building w/o staff permission
Be Teachable	Be prepared for lessons Be ready for discussion and deeper thinking Be open to new ideas/ready to learn Sit up with full attention Be a positive leader	Be a positive leader Follow all bathroom procedures	Comply with all staff directions Be a positive leader Be willing to discuss problems
Be Safe	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Use peaceful solutions Walk carefully around work spaces Use supplies and materials appropriately	Keep water in sink/toilet Use soap appropriately No climbing or going under stalls Report problems to staff when appropriate	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Stay in school boundaries Snow, wood chips, and rocks stay on ground Wear coat when temperature is 45 degrees or below Report problems to staff when appropriate

	Hallway	Lyceum	Arrival/Dismissal
Be Respectful	Follow all adult directions the first time given Quiet voice during common passing times Whisper voice if other classrooms are working Keep hands off student work Wait patiently for turn at locker	Follow all adult directions the first time given Wait patiently in line Use your conversational voice Use good manners Once seated raise hand to get up	Use appropriate/positive school language Wait patiently to enter/exit building
Be Accountable	Walk directly to your destination Keep belongings in designated location	Have lunch card ready Eat food only, not play with it Hands on own food/beverage only Clean up after yourself	Be in the classroom at 8:00AM Put personal items in appropriate place Take needed schoolwork home at end of day Take needed personal items home at end of day
Be Teachable	Be a positive leader Be willing to discuss problems that come up	Be a positive leader Be willing to discuss problems that come up	Be a positive leader Be ready with materials/in seat by 8:00AM
Be Safe	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Walk carefully to destination Keep water in drinking fountains Report problems to staff when appropriate	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Consume own food only Walk carefully Exit lyceum only with adult permission	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Walk carefully to destination Enter/exit building without pushing Enter/exit building only with adult permission

	Computer Lab	Specials
Be Respectful	Follow all adult directions the first time given Use whisper voice Enter, work, and exit quietly Exit-out/open only your own work on computer	Follow all adult directions the first time given Listen when others are speaking Use kind words and actions Take care of personal and school property
Be Accountable	Go directly back to classroom when work is finished Use computer only for school work Save all work in appropriate folder Leave with all materials you came with Use printer only with staff permission	Take care of any supplies/equipment Give your best effort Complete all work given on time
Be Teachable	Learn and pay attention to all adult help Apply keyboarding skills to classroom work Be a positive leader	Follow teacher's classroom procedures Be a positive leader Be open to new ideas Do what is asked right away Be a willing and positive participant
Be Safe	Sit correctly on chairs Keep hands, feet and objects to self No food/drinks	Keep hands, feet, and objects to self Do not leave room without staff permission Stay in physical boundaries given by teacher

PBIS methods are research-based and have been proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors. The three key components of a PBIS system involve:

- Clearly defining and teaching a set of behavioral expectations for all school areas (classroom, hallway, recess, etc.)
- Consistently acknowledging and rewarding appropriate behavior
- Consistently and constructively addressing problematic behavior

The purpose of this overview is to inform you, as parents, about how these components will be utilized at Black River Public School. The ultimate goal of implementing PBIS is to increase student academic performance, increase safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school climate through these research-based strategies and systems.

Key Component #1: Behavioral Expectations

The purpose of clearly defining and displaying behavioral expectations is to conscientiously promote core values and ensure that all students know exactly how they are expected to behave in all areas of the school. Additionally, it allows all staff to be knowledgeable and consistent regarding the expected behaviors of students. By developing and identifying universal positive behavior expectations, the school is creating a common language for all students and staff. This common language serves to greatly reduce confusion, discrepancies, and uncertainty for students and staff concerning behavioral expectations.

There are four core values for expected behavior at BRPS. They are:

BE
Respectful
Accountable
Teachable
Safe

Encouraging Students to Embrace Positive Behavior Expectations

1. The first and easiest way to increase student success in following the expected behavior is to have posters in all areas of the school that clearly list all of the positive behavior expectations from the school expectations matrix.
2. Another important element for helping students to embrace the positive behavior expectations is through the direct teaching of the behaviors to all students at the beginning of the school year or semester.
3. The final element for assisting students in fully understanding and embracing the positive behavior expectations is to look for opportunities to affirm positive behavior and to use teaching/corrective responses when errors are observed.

Key Component #2: Acknowledging/Reinforcing—Positive Behavior

Positive acknowledgement and reinforcement systems are concretely established within the school. This helps to ensure that higher percentages of students will more frequently demonstrate behaviors defined and taught through the expectations matrix.

There are ways that the BRPS Elementary will be acknowledging and reinforcing positive behavior:

- 1) Positive Teacher Attention (4:1)
- 2) Written Acknowledgement or phone calls to parents
- 3) RATS Tickets/Fun Friday
- 4) Ratificates

1. Positive teacher attention is probably the simplest, but most powerful form of positive acknowledgement/reinforcement to implement. To create a positive school climate, there should be at least 4 positive interactions for every 1 corrective/negative interaction with students.

2. Written acknowledgement is a great way to share some positive feedback with parents about their child. The written acknowledgement can be done through a 'Positive Note Home' or email to the parent. Or, the parent/s may receive a phone call from the teacher or administrator to communicate the positive choices their child has made in setting a good example for others.

3. *RATS Tickets* are distributed by all staff members (teachers, lunch help, recess, etc.) to students who do an outstanding job of displaying the expected behaviors. Although *RATS Tickets* are given to individual students, they are “redeemed” as a class. Once a class has a total of 101 *RATS Tickets*, the class will celebrate by having a “Fun Friday.”

4. Students who receive zero checks in a given month will receive a Ratificate to acknowledge this achievement.

Key Component #3: Consequences

Having consistent and predictable consequences is a vital factor in helping to reduce problem behavior in students. Having a uniform consequence sequence (“Make It Right” Steps) that will be used by ALL staff (classroom teachers, specials teachers, recess duty, lunchroom, etc.) is a simple and effective way to create a school climate where clear and predictable consequences are the norm.

It is important to note that the consequence sequence does NOT apply to major behavior infractions. Whenever a student displays a major behavior infraction, they will skip numbers 1-4 of the sequence and go right to a Referral to the Dean of Students. Major behavior infractions are Level Two and Level Three Behaviors of the **ELEMENTARY DISCIPLINE POLICY**.

The general education teacher is the only BRPS staff member who will determine privilege loss for the student. If a student gets a sequence #2 or #3 from another BRPS staff member, that person will inform the student what expected behavior was not followed and let the student know what sequence level he/she is now on. When the student gets back to class, the general education teacher will make a decision regarding privilege loss.

“Make It Right” Steps: The consequence sequence for 1st-5th graders at BRPS

Sequence Levels	Consequence/Intervention
1	Warning: The student is given a verbal warning and informed that he/she is now on Sequence Level 1.
2	Privilege Loss: The student is informed of the expected behavior that was not met and will have a loss of privilege. The general education teacher will determine the privilege loss to be given to the student. The student will be informed that he/she is now on Sequence Level 2.
3	Privilege Loss/Think Sheet: The student is informed of the expected behavior that was not met and will have a loss of privilege to be determined by the teacher. They will also reflect on what behavior was not met by filling out a ‘Think Sheet’. The ‘Think Sheet’ should be given to the student to complete immediately by the BRPS staff member that moved the student to sequence #3.
4	Note to Parent: The student is informed of the expected behavior that is not currently being met and a note will be sent home with the child informing the parents of the behavior. This will need to be signed and returned on the next school day. The general education teacher will complete the <i>Parent Contact Form</i> .
5	Referral to Elementary Administrator: The student is informed of the expected behavior that is not currently being met and he/she will visit the Elementary Administrator’s Office to discuss the behaviors and call parents/guardians.

It should be noted that the sequences and consequences shown in the ‘Make it Right’ Matrix above are only for the expected behaviors within PBIS. Aggressive behaviors and other major behaviors described in the Discipline Policy will be treated with different and/or more severe consequences. Please refer to the Aggressive Behavior Rubric and the Discipline Policy Matrix.

Most privilege losses will occur the same day the expected behaviors are not followed. However, depending on the privilege loss assigned or the time of day the expected behavior was not followed, some privilege losses may need to be administered the following school day. Some options for privilege loss are:

• 10-15 minutes on bench at recess	• Extra Assignment
• Silent Lunch	• Time-out in classroom
• Assigned seat in classroom	• Miss part/all of Special
• Assigned seat in Circle Time	• Assigned spot in line-up

If behaviors are of an aggressive nature, the staff will move away from the PBIS Matrix and use the Aggressive Behavior Rubric.

Black River Public School Elementary believes all students should have access to a safe learning environment. Aggressive Behavior will not be tolerated. Behaviors considered aggressive are listed and will be addressed according to the Aggressive Behavior Rubrics listed below:

1st-5th Aggressive Behavior Rubric

	First Time	Second Time	Third Time	Fourth Time
LEVEL I Horseplay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoving ● Grabbing ● Tripping ● Play Fighting ● “Just Kidding” Mean remarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 1 Silent lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 1 Silent lunch/Recess ○ Student call parents ○ Positive Behavior Plan
LEVEL II Teasing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teasing ● Name-calling ● Put-downs ● Insulting remarks ● Mean/rude gestures ● Rumors ● Mean notes ● Playing a mean trick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 1 Silent lunch ○ Note Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 1 Silent lunch ○ Student call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 2 Silent lunch/Recess ○ Student call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 3 Silent lunch/Recess ○ Student call parent ○ Positive Behavior Plan
LEVEL III Moderate Physical Contact/Intimidation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hitting/kicking ● Pinching ● Throwing objects ● Threatening ● Taunting ● Spitting ● Swearing towards others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 2 Silent lunch ○ Student call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 3 Silent lunch ○ Student call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 1 day assigned seat ○ Student call parent ○ Written Behavior Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 2 days assigned seat ○ Student to office ○ Admin. call parent ○ Written Behavior Plan ○ Parent Meeting
LEVEL IV Severe Physical Contact/ Harassment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Punching ● Severe Harassment ● Racial/Ethnic/sexual name-calling ● Damaging property of others ● Stealing from others ● Biting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Written Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 3 Silent lunch ○ Student to office ○ Admin. call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Written Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 3 Silent lunch ○ 1 day assigned seat ○ Student to office ○ Admin. call parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Written Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 2 days assigned seat ○ Student to office ○ Admin. call parent ○ Parent Meeting ○ Written Behavior Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 sec. Intervention ○ Restate definition of behavior ○ Written Apology ○ “Think Sheet” ○ 3 Silent lunch/recess ○ Student to office ○ Admin. call parent ○ Parent Meeting ○ 1 (or more) out-of-school Suspension ○ Written Behavior Plan

Kindergarten Consequences for Aggressive Behavior

For repetitive aggressive behavior toward other students, the following rubric of consequences will be used:

Kindergarten Consequences for Aggressive Behavior					
Behavior	Redirection	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
LEVEL 1		* 15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention
Disrespect towards others and teasing		*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior
Purposeful: -unkind gestures or looks -name calling -insulting -excluding others -behaviors that hurt feelings -play fighting		*Discuss briefly an alternate action to mean behavior	*Removal from activity, area, or toy for 3 minutes to calm down and think about it	*Documentation	*Documentation
		*Opportunity for apology	*Practice with adult, after time out, what they might have done differently	*Time out for 5-7 minutes	*Loss of 1 recess or play time
			*Opportunity for apology	*Discuss/practice an alternate action to mean behavior	*Discuss behavior with Admin
				*Opportunity for apology	*Parent notification by phone, email, or in front of child at pick up
					*Opportunity for apology
LEVEL 2		*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention
Physical Contact		*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior
Purposeful: -pushing -shoving -hitting -grabbing -pinching -swearing		*Documentation	*Documentation	*Documentation	*Documentation
		*Time out for 3 minutes	*Time out for 5-7 minutes	*Loss of 1 recess or play time	*Loss of 2 recesses or play times
		*Discuss briefly an alternate action to mean behavior	*Discuss/practice an alternate action to mean behavior	*Discuss behavior with Admin.	*Discuss behavior with Admin.
		*Opportunity for apology	*Parent notification by phone, email, or in front of child at pick-up	*Parent notification by phone, email, or in front of student at pick-up	*Parent conference
			*Opportunity for apology	*Opportunity for apology	*Opportunity for apology
LEVEL 3		*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention	*15 second intervention
Severe Physical Contact		*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior	*Restate definition of hurtful behavior
Purposeful: -punching -biting -spitting -kicking		*Documentation	*Documentation	*Documentation	*Documentation
		*Immediate time out for 5-7 minutes	*Immediate time out for 5-7 minutes	*Immediate time out for 5-7 minutes	*Immediate time out for 5-7 minutes
		*Discuss/practice an alternate action	*Discuss/practice an alternate action	*Discuss/practice an alternate action; "Think Sheet"	*Meeting with parent/teacher/admin
		*Loss of 1 play time/recess	*Loss of 2 play times/recesses	*Loss of three play times/recesses	*One day assigned seat or out of school suspension at Admin. discretion
		*Child calls parents to inform of their actions	*Discuss with Admin.	*Discuss with Admin.	
		*Opportunity for apology	*Teacher emails or calls parents	*Admin. phone call to parents	
			*Opportunity for apology	*Opportunity for apology	
				** 90 minute assigned seat in class	
					*Written Behavior plan

Black River Montessori Elementary –Behaviors and Explanations

1. Disrespect of Peers and Disturbing Class

Students at Black River Public School are expected to act respectfully toward peers. Disrespectful behavior includes: teasing, name-calling, gossiping, hitting, unhelpful social interaction, when a student's behavior impedes the learning of others.

2. Disrespectful/Insubordinate Behavior

Students at Black River Public School are expected to act respectfully towards administration, faculty and staff. They are expected to follow instructions and cooperate with their teachers, the school staff and administration. Persistent disobedience will not be tolerated. This includes: disruption in the classroom, hallways, school events, etc. If a student's behavior repeatedly takes away from the learning of others, it will be considered persistent disobedience.

3. Excessive Tardiness

All students are expected to be in class and prepared to learn on time. Students may receive a referral and be assigned a detention upon their fifth unexcused tardy. Excessive excused absences may also result in disciplinary action.

4. Dress Code Violation

Students who are in violation of the dress code may not be permitted to return to class until they are dressed appropriately. For specific guidelines, please refer to the STUDENT DRESS CODE guidelines on page 11.

5. Public Display of Affection

Students will show respect for themselves and one another by refraining from excessive displays of affection including kissing, extended hugging and any other forms of physical affection deemed inappropriate for the BRPS learning environment by the Dean of Students or other designated members of the faculty.

6. Running/Noise in Hallways

Students are expected to respect themselves and their environment by acting appropriately in all BRPS buildings. Screaming, yelling and/or running in the hallways are unacceptable.

7. Mischief On/Off Campus

Students are expected to follow all rules and guidelines not only inside BRPS buildings, but also when they are at any school-sponsored event. Students who choose not to follow the guidelines outlined in this handbook or who are generally disruptive in any school activity or off-campus event will receive a discipline referral and consequences commensurate with their offense.

8. Eating/Drinking Outside Lyceum Area

Students are not to consume food items or beverages (other than water) in any area of the building other than the Lyceum for lunch and scheduled or teacher-approved snacks in the classroom. Permission to eat in the play area must be obtained from a teacher.

9. Littering

Students who do not respect our campus by littering will be disciplined. This includes students who do not clean up after themselves during and after lunch. Students who receive referrals for littering will receive disciplinary consequences.

10. Out-of-Bounds

Any student who is not where he/she should be is out-of-bounds.

The following locations are considered out-of-bounds for students:

- Bathroom during class time without permission from teacher
- Bathroom for purpose of using cell phone
- Hallways/stairwells during class time without permission from teacher
- Lyceum area during class time without teacher permission
- Administrative offices during school without a pass
- Media center/computer lab without a teacher's permission
- Classrooms without a teacher present
- Parking lot during the school day without permission
- On the elevator without a pass
- Outside the building without permission at any time

Students are also expected to use the crosswalks from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

11. Possession of Prohibited Items

Prohibited items include weapons, cellular phones (when used without expressed permission), electronic devices, collectible cards and any other item or device which is deemed by faculty and/or administration to be distracting or threatening to the student learning environment. Please see PROHIBITED ITEMS in the Student Handbook.

12. Gambling

Students are not permitted to play any games that involve illegal gambling. This includes wagers and bets that involve food, money or the exchange of any other compensation based on the outcome of a game or event.

13. Profanity or Obscene Gesture

Black River students, faculty, staff and administration will not tolerate any language or gestures that are offensive to individuals. Disciplinary action will be taken immediately.

15. Leaving Building/Class Without Permission (off campus)

Black River Public School has a closed campus. Students may not leave the campus without permission or supervision. The student's parent or guardian must sign the student in and out of campus. Sign out for student's grades K-5 is in the main office.

16. Truancy *Please refer to the truancy definition listed under the philosophy of attendance on page 6.*

17. Plagiarism/Cheating

Using the ideas, organization of ideas, words or a phrase of another (including fellow students or parents) in one's written work without giving credit to the source is called plagiarism. Using the ideas or answers of another on quizzes or tests is called cheating when it is not part of an intentionally cooperative assignment assigned by a teacher.

Both the giving and receiving of information in an intentionally dishonest manner is unacceptable behavior. The school will respond with appropriate disciplinary measures ranging from receiving a zero credit on an assignment or quiz or being dropped from the course with a failing grade. Parents will be contacted to discuss further action.

18. Altering Records/Forging

Students found altering records or forging will receive disciplinary consequences and parents will be contacted to discuss further action.

19. Bullying

Bullying is prohibited at Black River Public School.

Retaliation or false accusation of a target of bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about the act of bullying is prohibited at Black River. (PA) 241 section 5(b).

Definition According to the State of Michigan, taken from: Enrolled House Bill 4163, PA 0241 section 8 (b), and updated by PA 478 of 2014 **"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, physical act or cyber bullying, (including but not limited to any electronically transmitted acts or communication, i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, computers and/or tablets of any kind, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:**

(i) Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of 1 or more pupils.

(ii) Adversely affecting the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the school district's or public school's educational programs or activities by placing the pupil in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress.

(iii) Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a pupil's physical or mental health.

(iv) Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

"Telecommunications access device" and "telecommunications service provider," mean those terms as defined in section 219a of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.219a.

Subsection 5 (c) of PA 241 states: *All pupils are protected under the policy... bullying is equally prohibited without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus.*

Further definition of bullying: Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (2010)

Three key components of Bullying Behavior:

1. *Involves an aggressive behavior.*

2. *Typically involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.*

3. *Imbalance of power or strength*

(Program Developed by Dan Olweus, Ph.D.)

Reported allegations of Bullying:

Students are encouraged to report any conduct or contact from faculty or students that makes them feel uncomfortable, is bothersome, or contrary to a positive educational environment and/or the mission of Black River Public School to a teacher, school social worker, or member of the Black River administrative team. The allegation/report should be written out on either a form provided by the school, or on a separate paper including the following: the person(s) who engaged in the bullying, when the event occurred, where the event occurred, and if possible, other people who may have witnessed the event.

Confidentiality

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation. (As taken from Board Policy 5517.01, pages 1-4)

Insuring the policy is implemented:

Members of the Black River administrative team and/or social workers will promptly investigate all claims of bullying. As appropriate and pursuant to Michigan Law the parents/guardians of both parties will be notified by a member of the administrative team or school social worker.

Verified acts of bullying will be tracked by administration through the electronic referral system provided by Infinite Campus. Students who engage in any type of bullying, harassment, or aggressive behavior may be subject to consequences ranging from a referral and/or detention to a disciplinary hearing and possible police involvement. As deemed necessary and appropriate, further disciplinary action ranging from a behavior plan to suspension and disciplinary probation to expulsion will be determined after the hearing. Each event will be reviewed on an individual basis and the severity and/or repetition of the infraction will be taken into consideration when determining an individual's consequences.

This policy is designed for publication in the annual Black River Public School Handbook, and is also available online at the school's web page: <http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org>. This policy supports the Board of Trustees' policy.

20. Theft/Vandalism

Theft or vandalism of school, faculty, or student property will result in a parent conference and possible suspension or expulsion. Despite this strict policy regarding the theft and vandalism of personal property, incidents of this type will undoubtedly occur. The best way for students to protect themselves from theft is to refrain from bringing valuable items and excessive amounts of money to school. BRPS will not be held responsible or liable for loss or theft of prohibited items that are brought to school. Restitution must be made by anyone found to be responsible for theft or vandalism. This includes but is not limited to: false fire drills, destruction of property, abuse of school vehicles, graffiti, etc.

21. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is against the law and will not be tolerated at Black River Public School. Sexual harassment includes inappropriate comments, inferences or physical contact of a sexual nature. If you would like a copy of our policy, please see one of the social workers or Head of School.

22. Fighting/Physical Assault (mandatory suspension or expulsion PA 102)

Because of the seriousness and danger of permanent injury, both parties involved in a fight will be immediately suspended. There will be a discipline hearing scheduled and students will be suspended or expelled up to 180 days in accordance with PA 102. Any restitution for damage and/or injury is the responsibility of the student(s).

23. Fighting/Physical Assault of Faculty Member (mandatory expulsion PA 104)

Verbal attacks of members of the BRPS faculty will not be tolerated and may result in suspension and/or expulsion. Because of the seriousness and danger of permanent injury, both student(s) involved in any type of physical altercation with a member of the faculty will be immediately suspended. There will be a discipline hearing scheduled and students will be suspended or expelled up to 180 days in accordance with PA 104. Any restitution for damage and/or injury is the responsibility of the student(s).

24. Possession, Sale or Use of Tobacco/Alcohol/Drugs

Black River Public School is a tobacco-free campus. No possession or use of tobacco is allowed before, during or after school on school property. This includes students who are 18 years or age and/or any adult found smoking on campus or at school functions. As of Fall 2000, we are required to call 911 and report any students smoking on campus or during school events. Repeat offenders: ordinarily a second offense results in police involvement, administrative review, and termination of the student's enrollment at Black River Public School.

Black River Public School is a drug-free campus. Possession, use or purchase of any drugs (illegal or over-the-counter), alcohol, or intoxicants during school, or on any school-related activity, will not be tolerated, and will be promptly met with severe disciplinary response. This may include expulsion from school.

Any student who appears under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or is in possession of alcohol or drugs during the school day, at a school sponsored activity, or on the Black River campus will be immediately suspended from school. The student may also face police involvement. Parents will be notified and are expected to pick up their child. The student will remain suspended from school until a discipline hearing is held between the parents of the student and an administrator.

Black River Public School is a tobacco-free and drug-free campus and the sale or gift of drugs and/or alcohol will result in suspension and appropriate due process hearings leading up to a potential disciplinary plan or expulsion.

25. Possession of Weapons (mandatory expulsion PA 102)

Possession or use of a weapon or look-alike weapon or other object, which can reasonably be considered to be a weapon during school time, on school premises or during school sponsored activities, will result in immediate suspension from school. The student may also face police involvement. Parents will be notified to pick up their child or to make arrangements for a responsible adult to come for him/her. There will be a discipline hearing and the student may be expelled.

26. Expression of Violence

Students are encouraged to report any type of behavior that they feel is of a violent or threatening nature. Expressions of violence include but are not limited to verbal, written, or visual threats or intimidation, or possession of materials of a violent nature. Students engaged in expressions of violence will be subject to disciplinary action ranging from parents being contacted, to a discipline hearing, to suspension from school, to mandatory counseling, to police involvement, up to and including expulsion from school. At Black River, we consider gang related communication, such as activity or dress an expression of violence. A student's belongings, clothes, or gestures can be identified for real or potential gang involvement by any of the following means: self-acknowledgement, identification by a law enforcement agent, and meeting criteria of a gang member as established by Black River policy in consultation with law enforcement

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

DETENTION

- **CLASSROOM DETENTION**
Classroom detentions may be assigned at the discretion of the teacher and are to be served in accordance with the teacher's guidelines.
- **DETENTION FOR REFERRALS**
These are assigned for excessive violations of the Code of Conduct. These detentions may be served with the classroom teacher or designee of the BRPS administration. If a student misses a detention he/she will be assigned additional consequences up to and including suspension. Please note: detentions may involve students cleaning up the building or school grounds.
- **LATE ARRIVAL TO MORNING DETENTION**
Students who are more than five minutes late to detention will not be admitted to the detention room. Multiple late arrivals may result in suspension.
- **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS**
A student's failure to comply with the consequences assigned by any member of the faculty as a result of their behavior will result in further disciplinary action.

SUSPENSION

The Dean of Students or Elementary Administrator, in accordance with the policies listed under Level I and Level II behaviors, may suspend students from school. Students who are suspended may only make up missed work at the discretion of individual teachers.

- Days that a student is suspended from class will be recorded as absences and will be included as part of the five-day semester limit in each class.
- Any student who is suspended is not allowed on school property and may not participate in or attend sporting events, club meetings, fine arts performances, and/or any other school-sponsored activity for the duration of his/her suspension.
- To be readmitted to school, a meeting including parents/legal guardian, Elementary Administrator, Dean of Students, and/or Head of School may be required.

DISCIPLINE HEARING

In certain disciplinary situations, a discipline hearing may be conducted to give the Administration the opportunity to hear all sides of a situation in considerable detail. Discipline hearings may consist of a committee that is comprised of Black River teachers, administrators or their designees. Discipline hearings are closed to all but those persons immediately involved from the Black River community. Because of the seriousness nature of the deliberations, the parents or legal guardians should be present.

The purpose of the discipline hearing is to provide the student with a "fair hearing" in the eventuality that expulsion is under consideration. Expulsion is a decision made by the Head of School in consultation with members of the hearing committee and other administrators. A student and his/her parents or legal guardian may always choose to request a hearing where they can state their position.

General guidelines for discipline hearing:

1. Notice of the reason for the hearing and the range of possible penalties will be given to the student and, whenever possible, the parents/guardians prior to the hearing taking place.
2. The student will be given the opportunity to present his/her version of the situation at hand.
3. The student's parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to offer input at the hearing.
4. The student and parents/guardians will be informed of the findings of the hearing committee.

DISCIPLINARY PROBATION (Behavior Plan)

Serious acts of irresponsibility demand greater accountability and more directed efforts toward correction.

The process of the disciplinary probation puts the student and parent/guardian on notice that any failure to live up to specific terms of the probation may lead to immediate dismissal of the student from Black River.

The probation procedure usually takes the following form:

1. There is a meeting with the student, the parents, and members of the Discipline Committee.
2. A student is assigned a determined period of time to give evidence that his/her behavior and attitude have improved and are consistent with the expectations of the Black River Public School community.
3. *Social Probation*: restricted conditions may be placed on his/her participation in school life. This may include alternative lunch settings and limitation of extracurricular activities.
4. In some cases, professional counseling may be recommended outside of school.
5. The student, his/her parents and a member of the Discipline Committee sign an agreement specifying the conditions of the probation.
6. If the student commits a serious violation during the period of probation the Discipline Committee will review the student's discipline record and the student may be expelled.
7. Toward the end of the period of probation, an evaluation of student behavior may be required of all of the student's teachers. The Discipline Committee will then review the case. On the basis of the evidence, the Discipline Committee will decide whether to recommend that the period be extended or that more serious action be taken.

EXPULSION

Enrollment at Black River Public School is by parental choice, and for that reason a student who attends Black River agrees to follow the rules set down by the Black River School Administration and School Board.

In every school there must be ultimate limits set beyond which no one can go without seriously affecting the common good of the school. At Black River, any student whose irresponsible behavior approaches these limits, either by the severity of a single act or by repeated history of violations, may be considered for expulsion from the school. Due process will be granted to the student prior to the expulsion.

The Head of School has the final authority in all matters involving student discipline. If the student or parent(s) would like to appeal the final decision of the Head of School (especially in the case of dismissal from the school), three members of The Board of Trustees, appointed by the President of the Board of Trustees, will act as an Appeal Board. Alternatively, at the student's or parent(s)' request, an appeal can be made to the entire Board of Trustees. In either case, the decision by the committee or the Board is binding and final.

What are PA102 and PA104?

These are public acts of Michigan State law governing expulsions and suspensions from public schools.

Types of expulsions to be reported: Required mandatory expulsions from all public schools include: arson, weapons, criminal sexual assault and physical assaults on staff (PA104) require mandatory suspension or expulsion up to 180 days where other districts may, but are not required to accept students. Verbal assaults against staff (PA104) and physical assaults on other students (PA102) are defined by the Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual and the Black River Public School Board of Trustees policy. The Board of Trustees policy is available at www.blackriverpublicschool.org.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

POLICY ON SEARCHES OF LOCKERS, BACKPACKS, CELL PHONES, AND LOCKER CONTENTS

LOCKERS ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY

All lockers assigned to students are the property of Black River Public School. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of its lockers. The Elementary Administrator or his/her designee shall have custody of all combinations to all lockers or locks. Students are prohibited from placing locks on any locker without advance approval of the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee.

LEGITIMATE USE OF SCHOOL LOCKERS

The school assigns lockers to its students for the students' convenience and temporary use. Students are to use lockers exclusively to store school-related materials and authorized personal items such as outer garments, footwear, grooming aids, or lunch. Students shall not use the lockers for any other purpose, unless specifically authorized by school board policy or the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee, in advance of students bringing the items to school. Students are solely responsible for the contents of their lockers and should not share their lockers with other students, nor divulge locker combinations to other students, unless authorized by the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee.

SEARCH OF LOCKER CONTENTS

Random searches of school lockers and their contents have a positive impact on deterring violations of school rules and regulations, ensure proper maintenance of school property, and provide greater safety and security for students and personnel. Accordingly, the board authorizes the Head of School or his/her designee to search lockers and locker contents at any time, without notice, and without parental/guardianship or pupil consent. The Elementary Administrator or his/her designee shall not be obligated, but may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer in conducting a locker search. The Elementary Administrator or his/her designee shall supervise the search. In the course of a locker search, the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee shall respect the privacy rights of the pupil regarding any items discovered that are not illegal or against school policy and rules.

SEIZURE

When conducting locker searches or backpack searches, the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee may seize any illegal or unauthorized items, items in violation of board policy or rules, or any other items reasonably determined by the Elementary Administrator or his/her designee to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others.

Such items include, but are not limited to the following: firearms, explosives, dangerous weapons, flammable material, illegal controlled substances or controlled substance analogues or other intoxicants, contraband, poisons, and stolen property. Law enforcement officials shall be notified immediately upon seizure of such dangerous items, or seizure of items that schools are required to report to law enforcement agencies under the Statewide School Safety Information Policy.

Any items seized by the Head of School or his/her designee shall be removed from the locker and held by school officials for evidence in disciplinary proceedings and/or turned over to law enforcement officials. The Elementary Administrator shall notify the parent/guardian of a student or his/her designee of items removed from the locker.

NOTICE OF POLICY:

A copy of the Black River Public School Board of Trustees policy regarding locker searches is available online at: www.blackriverpublicschool.org

CONFISCATION OF STUDENT CELL PHONE:

First and foremost it should be noted that unless an emergency situation occurs, or a student has direct permission from an administrator or teacher and is under their auditory and visual supervision, no student cell phone activity should occur during a normal school day between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This includes using a cell phone during passing time, in the bathroom, or at lunch. Please refer to prohibited items section of the Student Handbook regarding confiscation/return policy.

If suspicious activities are suspected of occurring on a student's cell phone parents and/or law enforcement will be contacted as appropriate.

REFERENCES:

The Revised School Code, MCL 380.1306, 2000 PA 87 (Locker Searches)
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985), U.S. Constitution Amendment IV.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Black River Public School has developed a comprehensive policy to establish acceptable use of the School's computers in regards to the School's networks and the larger Internet.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The Board of Black River Public School (BRPS) is committed to the development and establishment of a quality, equitable and cost effective electronic communications system referred to as the *Network*. The system's sole purpose shall be for the advancement and promotion of teaching, learning and the school's mission. BRPS's system will be used to provide statewide, national and global communications opportunities for staff and students.

Educational Purpose

1. *The Network* has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high-quality personal research.
2. *The Network* has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. BRPS has the right to place restrictions on the material you access or post through the system. You are also expected to follow the rules set forth in BRPS student conduct regulations and the law in your use of *the Network*.
3. You may not use *the Network* for commercial purposes. This means you may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through *the Network*.
4. You may not use *the Network* for political lobbying. But you may use the system to communicate with elected representatives and to express your opinion on political issues.

Unacceptable Uses

1. **Personal Safety**
 - a. You will not post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone, school address, work address, etc.
 - b. You will not agree to meet with someone you have met online without your parent's approval. Your parent should accompany you to this meeting.
 - c. You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employee any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.
2. **Illegal Activities**
 - a. You will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to *the Network* or to any other computer system through *the Network* or go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
 - b. You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
 - c. You will not use *the Network* to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, etc.
3. **System Security**
 - a. You are responsible for your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person.
 - b. You will immediately notify a teacher or the system administrator if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
4. **Inappropriate Language**
 - a. Restrictions against Inappropriate Language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.
 - b. You will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
 - c. You will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
 - d. You will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
 - e. You will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
 - f. You will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
5. **Respect for Privacy**
 - a. You will not repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message.
 - b. You will not post private information about another person.
6. **Respecting Resource Limits**
 - a. You will use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited, high-quality, personal research.

- b. You will not download large files. You will not waste paper by printing unnecessarily or by printing material that is not for educational use at BRPS.
- c. You will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

7. Plagiarisms and Copyright Infringement

- a. You will not plagiarize works that you find on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
- b. You will respect the rights of copyright owners. 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 the expressed requirements. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work, you should request permission from the copyright owner. Copyright law can be very confusing. If you have questions ask a teacher.

8. Inappropriate Access to Material

- a. You will not use *the Network* to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature). A special exception may be made if the purpose of your access is to conduct research and both your teacher and parent have approved.
- b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher or another BRPS employee. This will protect you against a claim that you have intentionally violated this Policy.
- c. Your parents should instruct you if there is additional material that they think it would be inappropriate for you to access. BRPS fully expects that you will follow your parent's instructions in this matter.

9. Black River Public School Policy on Social Networking site activity that occurs during non-school time:

Student activity that occurs on Social Networking Sites or the Internet in general outside of the school day will be considered to be the responsibility of individual parents and legal guardians and as necessary law enforcement.

Social Networking sites offer administrative contacts for individual sites where concerned parents may report abuses or inappropriate content. If content is determined to be illegal parents should contact local law enforcement and file an official police report. It should be noted that the content on Social Networking Sites is at times easy to alter and manipulate, and due prudence and diligence should be taken when evaluating material.

Social Network content and communication that occurs outside of the school day will result in school involvement if:

- The site refers to an act of violence to be planned or brought to fruition at school or a school related event.
- The site refers to an illegal activity that is scheduled to occur on school premises or a school related event.

In both cases if the threat is deemed to be legitimate by the administrative team, law enforcement may be contacted.

Student Rights

1. Search and Seizure

- a. You should expect only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files on BRPS system and records of your on-line activity. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker.
- b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of *the Network* may lead to discovery that you have violated this Policy, BRPS student conduct regulations or the law.
- c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this Policy, BRPS student conduct regulations or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.
- d. Your parents have the right at any time to request to see the contents of your e-mail files.

2. Due Process

- a. BRPS will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through *the Network*.
- b. In the event there is a claim that you have violated this Policy or BRPS student conduct regulations in your use of *the Network*, you will be provided with notice an opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in BRPS student conduct regulations.
- c. If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of BRPS student conduct regulations it will be handled in a manner described in BRPS student conduct regulations Additional restrictions may be placed on your use of the Internet.

Limitation of Liability

- 1. BRPS makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through BRPS system will be error-free or without defect. BRPS will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. BRPS is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. BRPS will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system. You or your parents can be held financially responsible for any harm to the system as a result of intentional misuse.

Summary

The Internet is a global network that will provide your child with access to a wide range of information from throughout the world. Information from NASA, the US Library of Congress, and museums around the world are available through this system. Your child will also be able to communicate with other students from throughout the world. Use of the Internet for educational projects will assist in preparing your child for success in life and work in the 21st Century.

It is possible that your child may find material on the Internet that you would consider objectionable. BRPS **Acceptable Use Policy** restricts access to material that is inappropriate in the school environment. Although your student's use of the Internet will be supervised by staff and filtered by law, we cannot guarantee that your child will not gain access to inappropriate material. There may be additional kinds of material on the Internet that are not in accord with your family values. We would like to encourage you to use this as an opportunity to have a discussion with your child about your family values and your expectation about how these values should guide your child's activities while they are on the Internet.

You have the option of requesting that your child not be allowed access to the Internet. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL ***LIMITED OPEN FORUM*** ***EQUAL ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY POLICY***

LIMITED OPEN FORUM: Black River Public School has a limited open forum whereby the School grants an offering to, and opportunity for, non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on BRPS premises during non-instructional time.

Equal Access and Opportunity. No **non-curriculum**-related group of students shall be permitted to meet on School premises unless all of the following *required meeting criteria* are met:

- (a) The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated.
- (b) There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the School, the government, or either's agents or employees.
- (c) Employees or agents of the School or government are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
- (d) The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- (e) Persons not affiliated with the School may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

The preceding does not authorize the State of Michigan or Black River Public School or any other political subdivision of the State of Michigan to do any of the following:

- (1) Influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity.
- (2) Require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity.
- (3) Expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings.
- (4) Compel any School agent or employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee.
- (5) Sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful.
- (6) Limit the rights of groups of students that are not of a specified numerical size.
- (7) Abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

The required meeting criteria do not limit the authority of School officials to maintain order and discipline on School premises, to protect the well being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary. School administration has the authority to disband any group violating any of these precepts and to revoke the limited open forum privileges of students involved in violations.

Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:

"Meeting" includes those activities of student groups that are permitted the School's limited open forum and are not directly related to the School curriculum.

"Non-instructional time" means time set aside by the School before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

"Black River Public School" and "the School" includes staff members and entities under contract with the School.

"Sponsorship" includes the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting.

The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other School staff member to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.

Reference: **The Revised School Code, MCL 380.1299, 1976 PA 451 (Limited open forum; equal access and opportunity).**

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

ADA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

To the extent required by law, Black River Public School (a) will not discriminate against a qualified student on the basis of disability, (b) will make facilities accessible and usable to all students in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, (c) will provide free appropriate education at elementary and secondary levels, including nonacademic and extra-curricular services and activities, to qualified students with disabilities, and (d) will provide all students with the same health, welfare and other social services. For a copy of the school's Americans with Disabilities Act Policy, please contact the Head of School.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT ASSAULT POLICY

The Board of Trustees of Black River Public School (the "School") endeavors to ensure that the School is a safe place for teaching, learning and working. Physical, verbal or written assaults against school personnel and other students will not be tolerated. The Head of School or the Head of School's designee will initiate appropriate disciplinary action for the following infractions:

Physical Assaults Against School Personnel. Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence. Any student in grade six or above who commits a physical assault against a School staff member or against a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the School on school property or at a school-sponsored activity or event shall be permanently expelled, subject to possible reinstatement under Subsection 5 of Section 1311a of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1311a (5)).

Physical Assaults Against Students. Any student in grade six or above who commits a physical assault against another student on school property or at a school-sponsored activity or event shall be suspended or expelled, depending upon the circumstances, for up to one hundred eighty (180) days. Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.

Verbal/Written Assaults. Any student in grade six or above who commits a verbal or written assault on school property or at a school-sponsored activity or event against a student, school staff member or volunteer shall be suspended or expelled for up to one hundred eighty (180) days. The Board may modify the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis. For the purpose of this policy, verbal/written assaults shall be defined by the Head of School as a willful and serious threat to inflict injury or harm upon another individual. Verbal and written bomb threats directed at the school building, school property or a school event fall under the jurisdiction of this policy.

Application of Policy for Students. This policy shall be applied in a manner consistent with the rights secured under federal and state law to students who are determined to be eligible for special education programs and services.

Reinstatement. The parent/guardian/emancipated youth may petition the Board of Trustees for reinstatement to the School. The parent/guardian/emancipated youth may be required to have a re-admittance hearing prior to a final determination on reinstatement. The Board of Trustees will provide all due process rights as defined by law and will make the final determination on a reinstatement request.

Reference. The Revised School Code, MCL 380.1311a, 1976 PA 451 (Assault by Pupil)

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL: Adopted School Board Policies

To access current School Board Policies, visit the Black River website Transparency Reporting page at <http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/content/transparency>.

Printed copies are available upon request.