

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

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“Education is a once in a lifetime opportunity to open children’s hearts and minds to the unbelievable wonder of the universe.”

– Sir Anthony Seldon

Black River offers personalized learning for our students, support for our families, and opportunities to create a genuine and lifelong passion for knowledge and personal growth. We are here to help you choose the right path for your student.

Our Mission, Our Culture, Our Methods...We are BR!

Our mission is simple. To prepare each student for college and for life through a challenging curriculum, which accommodates individual learning styles. We want our students to 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 they can reach their full potential.

Our culture is safe and connected. We strive to create a climate of hope and high expectations, where we nurture students but also provide the focus and mindset they need to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams. We reflect and celebrate a student population of social, economic, and racial diversity.

Our faculty are academic coaches, providing academic leadership as well as guidance toward learning and personal growth. Students "learn by doing" in a unique K-12 campus setting where positive, restorative, and constructive interaction is essential and helps build strong student-teacher relationships. We offer small class sizes and embrace the Socratic method and experiential learning as primary teaching tools. We are an active partner helping students make decisions that lead toward positive physical and emotional well-being. Guiding our students to embrace challenges and to feel empowered to succeed is part of the Black River difference.

BLACK RIVER IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

WELCOME! #BRBOUND

Supported by GVSU - Future Focused

Black River is proud to be chartered by Grand Valley State University. We are fortunate for the many resources and opportunities they provide to our faculty, students, and families including no cost K-12 tutoring, extensive professional development opportunities for our staff, access to college events, and college experiences. Please visit the GVSU Charter Schools Office for a detailed look at their mission, vision, and values.



Block Schedule - Supports Deeper Learning

Black River utilizes block scheduling to replace a traditional school schedule. Students and teachers have more time during class to explore each subject and lesson in greater depth. Students have more time for reflection to process the information over the course of the school day. With smaller class sizes, students are provided with individualized instruction by teachers and mentors. BRPS middle and high school students take four core classes per day and have seven class blocks, A-G per week. Elective classes (G) meet twice.

Class	Time	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	8:00-9:26	A	A	B	A	C
2	9:33-11:00	B	C	C	B	D
HS CAP	11:05-11:30	High School Students - CAP Middle School Students are at Lunch				
MS CAP	11:30-11:55	Middle School Students - CAP High School Students are at Lunch				
3	12:00-1:26	D	F	D	F	F
4	1:33-3:00	E	G	E	G	E

SEE OUR ACTIVE LEARNING STYLES IN THE CLASSROOMS

SOCRATIC METHOD - Promotes Critical Thinking

FUTURE PREP - Promotes Project-Based Learning

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM - Promotes Collaboration

PAIDEIA SEMINAR - Facilitates Discussion

SERVICE LEARNING- Promotes Community Awareness



PROJECT TERM A MONTH LONG ACADEMIC ADVENTURE

Black River students take final exams in late-May just as the weather is getting warmer and spring is in the air. The timing is perfect as they end a rigorous school year and embark on four weeks of engaging project-based learning. This time of the school year is a favorite for our students and with good reason!

Project Term consists of one to four hands-on learning classes that cover a vast range of subject matters which changes yearly. In the past, students have had the opportunity to embark on adventures in countries such as: Japan, Australia, Spain, Italy, and Mexico. National trip leaders have taken students to Washington D.C., Beaver Island, the Great Smoky Mountains and on a Western adventure. Local classes range from art, music, golfing, sailing, sewing, cooking, fishing trips, photography, drivers training and more. Students can also work with a faculty mentor to create an independent study tailored to their unique interests. Each year, Project Term concludes with an Open House where all BR families are invited to preview the student projects. It is a perfect way to end the year and reflect on the past four weeks.

See the full list of courses and detailed descriptions in the Project Term catalog on the Black River website.



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

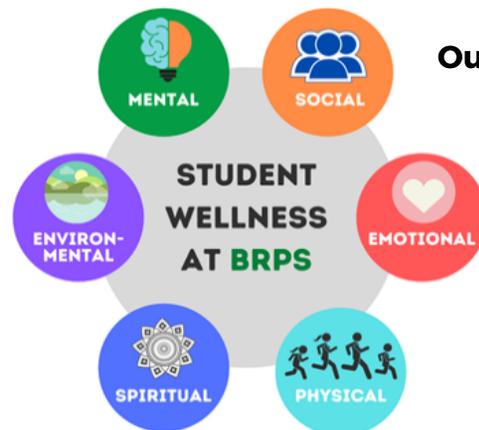
- Malcolm X

Middle School - A Time for Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Growth

The transition between elementary and high school occurs during the middle school years here at Black River. Our middle school team delivers an integrated curriculum to support the students in finding relationships between the subjects. English and history collaborate to provide common reads and integrated writing to immerse the students in the curriculum. Math, art, and science combine studies to create project based learning opportunities. In each subject matter, teachers create challenges for students to reach their full potential and maintain individualized instruction. In addition to individualized attention, students participate in an advisory program, which allows them to seek additional help, prepare for high school, and create lifelong friendships. Combining project based learning, an integrated curriculum, and individualized attention creates an enriched environment and joy in learning in the middle school.

High School - A Time for Independent Thinking and Dreaming BIG

The transition between middle school and high school is a smooth transition as the middle school team prepares the students for the rigor of high school. Being a K-12 school, BR has the opportunity for teachers to collaborate among departments to create a scaffolding of learning. High ethical and academic standards allow for critical thinking and for students to find their voice and passion. Students are offered intellectually challenging course studies including Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment opportunities. Black River has a unique advantage with its close proximity to Hope College allowing more students to take advantage of college coursework. The College Advisory Program prepares all students to be accepted to a four year college or university. Teachers have a passion to challenge and to individualize the learning of each student preparing them for the transition to college. We are the Black River difference.



Our Whole Child Approach Focuses on Student Wellness

We know that in order to learn, students need to know how to understand and handle their emotions, have good social skills, incorporate movement and have meaningful relationships. During a typical day at BRPS, you might see students learning about how to manage stress, watching a middle school science class taking a walking break around the school, seeing a classroom doing a mindful minute, observing a student taking a “calm-down” break, or seeing a classroom doing their lesson while sitting outside. We understand that the mental/emotional health of students is vital to their overall well-being and success in school.



WHY OUR STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

Boosts Mental Health

Volunteering allows our students to connect to their community and make it a better place.

Gives Them Purpose

A student's role as a volunteer gives them a sense of pride and identity. The more we give, the happier we feel.

Gain New Skills

With each new volunteer activity comes training. These skills may seem basic or trivial at the time of training, but may also provide building blocks for future success.

MS/HS Community Service Requirements

- Grades 6-8 - 20 hours of service
- Grades 9-12 - 60 hours of service

We Are RATS - Respectful, Accountable, Teachable and Safe



Black River middle school students receive Rat Tickets for going above and beyond and exhibiting good behaviors at school through our PBIS program that promotes school safety and positive behavior.



LAST YEAR, BLACK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOOK 196 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS IN 19 DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

100% OF OUR SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE

2019-2020 SENIOR GRADUATES RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY \$5,008,500 IN OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS

Senior Capstone The End of An Academic Journey

Every Black River senior is required to complete a Senior Capstone prior to graduation. The Senior Capstone is a way for students to demonstrate the culmination of skills and knowledge gained through their Black River academic career by completing a long-term, multi-faceted project. Students conduct research, maintain a portfolio detailing the steps taken, and create a final paper, product, or presentation that demonstrates what they have learned. Fellow BR students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to attend a special evening showcasing all of the projects completed.

Projects have included rebuilding an engine, training a dog, designing a clothing line, volunteering for a political campaign, creating an app, hosting an elementary basketball camp, learning to cook, building a computer, creating a series of artworks, conducting a scientific experiment, and hundreds more!



BR Athletics - An Opportunity to Become a Student Athlete

Black River Public School is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). We know the value of athletics in school is significant and should not be overlooked. Participation in sports can have a profound impact on a student as athletic teams bring students together, and provide opportunities to learn leadership, perseverance, and grit. BRPS is proud that students who want to play will have an opportunity. We have joined with other small districts to create co-op teams so our student athletes have more choices than ever before. Offerings include: Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Cross-Country, Boys Tennis, Boys and Girls Sailing, Boys Baseball, Girls Softball, Boys and Girls Track and Field, Boys and Girls Skiing, and Boys and Girls Basketball.