

Berlin Middle/High School

Code of Conduct Summary

Purpose: The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, where everyone is a respected and valued member of the school community. This Code of Conduct is designed to model and teach appropriate behavior and expectations while helping students develop social emotional skills.

Berlin Central School District's Code of Conduct serves as a guide to good citizenship and civic obligations that addresses both the expectations of behavior and the development of character.

Dress Code: All students are expected to dress appropriately for school and school functions in clothes that promote a safe learning environment. Students and their parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for acceptable dress and appearance. Teachers and all other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting according to the following guidelines:

- Footwear is required to promote the health and safety of students; students must wear footwear at all times in the school building. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- A student's attire shall fully cover the student's private parts with opaque fabric.
- A student's attire shall ensure that the student's underwear is covered by outer clothing (visible waistbands and straps are not violations).
- A student's attire shall include a shirt (with fabric in the front and back and on the sides under the arms) and pants/jeans or the equivalent (e.g., skirts, sweatpants, leggings, shorts, dresses).
- Students may not wear clothing that obscures or hides their face to the extent the student is not identifiable, including but not limited to sunglasses, full face masks, and hoods, except for medical or religious purposes.
- Backpacks, drawstring bags, and any large bag must be kept in the student's locker during the school day.
- Students may not wear swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Students may not wear accessories that could be considered dangerous or that could be used as a weapon.
- Students may not wear items that denote or represent gang affiliation such as bandanas, beads, jewelry, or other indicators and/or symbols intended expressly so.
- Students may not wear clothing that does not fit appropriately such that it may cause injury;
- Students may not wear clothing that disrupts the educational process.
- Students may be required to wear protective gear in certain classes.

This list is intended to provide guidance and is not exhaustive. The Principal shall have final determination on any attire in question.

Cell Phone Use: Students are NOT permitted to use cell phones in the classroom without teacher permission as part of the instructional process. Parents should not text or call their child's cell phones during the school day as it is disruptive and distracting to the learning process. Please call the Main Office if you have a need and we will get the message to your child/children. If a teacher finds a student with a cellphone, they will be asked to place it in a designated area until the end of class. If the student does not follow the teacher request, the issue will be brought to the Building Administrator.

Prohibited Student Conduct:

- Engaging in conduct that is disorderly, including, but not limited to:
 - Running or otherwise unsafe behavior in the hallways;

- Making unreasonable noise;
 - Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or abusive;
 - Engaging in any willful act that disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
- Engaging in conduct that is insubordinate and/or disruptive to student learning or teacher instruction, including, but not limited to:
 - Failing to comply with reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect;
 - Lateness and missing or leaving school without permission;
 - Skipping any detention.
- Engaging in conduct that is violent or threatening, including, but not limited to:
 - Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, shoving, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee, students, or any other person lawfully on school property;
 - Possessing a weapon;
 - Intentionally damaging the personal property of the school District, a student, teacher, administrator, other District employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
- Engaging in conduct that endangers the safety, morals, or physical or mental health or welfare of self or others, including, but not limited to:
 - Driving recklessly or at excessive speeds on school grounds;
 - Using derogatory terms towards an individual or group of individuals;
 - Bullying and cyberbullying;
 - Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing;
 - Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette (i.e., vape), using chewing tobacco or smokeless tobacco, or smoking/vaping/ingesting cannabis or concentrated cannabis (includes cannabis products) or smoking cannabinoid hemp.

This list of prohibited student conduct is not exhaustive. Please refer to the complete copy of the Code of Conduct for further examples of prohibited conduct.

Building Expectations: Students will engage in behaviors that are safe, respectful, and responsible. This includes:

- Moving safely and quietly throughout the building
- Using appropriate language
- Being respectful of others
- Being respectful of all property
- Appropriate use of technology

Responses, Interventions, and Consequences: As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter consequence than subsequent violations. Students who are found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subjected to the following responses either alone or in combination and consistent with the seriousness of the violation and the students' rights to due process.

Students who are offered and agree to engage in restorative practices may participate on a voluntary basis in one or more of the following measures:

- Counseling
- Phone call home
- Conferencing
- Reflection activity

- Self-assignment of restriction or removal from activity
- Mediation
- Reading assignment or reflective paper
- Apology
- Behavioral contract
- Community service/cleaning up
- Payment or repair damage to property
- Other activities that repair harm

Students who are found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to one or more of the following consequences. The school personnel identified after each consequence are authorized to impose that consequence, consistent with the student's right to due process:

- Oral/written warning
- Parent/guardian contact
- Detention
- Suspension from transportation, athletics and/or extracurricular activities

Teachers, Principal, and the Superintendent may use during school (e.g., lunch), and after school detention as a consequence for student misbehavior in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate. After school detention will be imposed as a consequence only after the student's parent has been notified and the student has the appropriate transportation home following detention.

This is a summary of the BMHS Code of Conduct. If you would like a complete copy of the Code of Conduct, please contact the Main Office or refer to the District Website.