

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School



Student and Family Handbook

*Respect*Responsibility*Community*

2023-2024

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A Message from the Principal

Dear Baldwin Bulldogs,

Welcome to Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School. I am excited to welcome you to Baldwin. Whether you are just joining us this year or you are returning to our middle school, I look forward to seeing each and every one of you and welcoming you into our Bulldog family! Over the course of this school year, we will support your learning and your growth and help you to continue to develop into the well-rounded young adults that our community needs you to be!

Our handbook outlines the rules and expectations that are meant to help guide you through your middle school experience. Our focus as a school is on promoting academic excellence, while also nurturing the social and emotional wellbeing of our entire school community. Our staff is committed to providing a quality education that meets the needs of each of our middle school students.

In particular, our code of conduct is an important document for each of you to know and understand! While you may not agree with everything in our code of conduct, our job as a school is to prepare you for lifelong success, beyond middle school. As such, our rules and expectations reflect the expectations that each of you will have to live by once you are adults yourselves. Please know that, while I do not expect perfection, I do expect each of you to try your best, to work for growth and improvement, and to use the strategies you learn here to better yourself as a young adult.

So, Bulldogs. Here we are. Another school year, full of excitement and challenges. Join us, bring your best effort, and let's make this the best school year ever!

I can't wait to see you all,

Principal Dukette

Canterbury Public Schools Mission Statement

In collaboration with our community, the Canterbury Public Schools will develop, foster, and cultivate all students to their highest potential, through rigorous academics within a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment.

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Core Values and Beliefs

The DHBMS community will **demonstrate excellence** through having **respect for ourselves and others, being engaged in our community** through developing meaningful and positive relationships, and **showing responsibility** through our character and actions.

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Mission Statement

As an integral part of the Canterbury community, Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School is committed to preparing our students for an ever-changing future. Through our supportive and nurturing environment, our focus is on developing our students to become respectful and impactful members of a global society; to become advocates for those in need while seeking opportunities for self-improvement; to be adaptable and resourceful in their learning and experiences; to develop a passion for learning through investigation and inquiry; and to always be mindful of where they have come from and where they are going.

School Procedures

Important Contact Information		
Location	Phone	Fax
Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School	860-546-9421	860-546-6289
Office of the Superintendent	860-546-6950	860-546-6423
Special Education Office	860-546-1040	860-546-6294
Business Office	860-546-6236	860-546-9881
Transportation	860-546-6950	860-546-6423
<p align="center">**Please stay informed with all district information by visiting the Canterbury Public Schools website at www.canterburypublicschools.org**</p>		

School Hours	
Full Day:	8:20 am - 3:15 pm
Delayed Opening:	10:20 am - 3:15 pm
Early Dismissal	8:20 am - 12:50

Bell Schedule:

Regular Schedule			Early Dismissal Schedule			2-Hour Delay Schedule	
Arrival	8:00-8:20		Arrival	8:00-8:20		Arrival	10:00-10:20
Homeroom	8:20-8:25		Homeroom	8:20-8:25		Homeroom	10:20-10:25
1	8:25-9:10		1	8:25-8:53		1	10:25-10:55
2	9:12- 9:57		2	8:55- 9:23		2	10:57-11:27
3	9:59- 10:44		3	9:25- 9:53		3/Lunch	11:29-12:34
4	10:46-11:31		4	9:55-10:23		4	12:36-1:05
5/Lunch	11:33-12:55		5/Lunch	10:25-11:28		5	1:07-1:37
6	12:57-1:42		6	11:30-11:58		6	1:39-2:08
7	1:44-2:29		7	12:00-2:28		7	2:10-2:40
8	2:32-3:15		8	12:30-1:00		8	2:42-3:15

Arrival and Dismissal Times and Expectations

A student is tardy to school if they arrive after 8:20 a.m.

Students should not arrive before 8:00 a.m. Students arriving between 8:00 and 8:20 should report to their first period class. Students cannot leave school grounds once they have arrived. Only students who have passes or are requested by teachers may enter other classrooms between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. After 3:30 p.m., only students who have official school business or who are participating in supervised activities should be in the building.

Students Walking or Riding Bicycles to School

Students who walk to school or ride a bicycle to school need written permission from parents or guardians annually. The Bike Riding/ Walking Permission Form is available in the main office and on the school website. They may not ride on school property. Students are to park bicycles in the school's bicycle racks. A helmet is required to be worn at all times when riding bikes. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage to student property. Riding a bicycle to school is a privilege and can be revoked at any time by the principal.

School Closing and Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal Announcements

In the event of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed, delayed, or require early dismissal for student safety. Announcements will be made in the following manner:

Automated Messaging Parents will receive phone call, email, or text messages via contact information provided. Paperwork for this option is available in the main office.

Radio Stations WINY 1350AM

Television Channels WFSB 3, WTNH 8/My TV9, NBC 30

School Closing: No school classes or activities for the day.

Delayed Opening: School classes will operate with a 2 hour delayed opening schedule.

Early Dismissal: School will be dismissed with coordination with parental notification and transportation services. Procedures will be followed based on the Emergency Dismissal Form completed at the start of the school year.

Attendance Procedures

The Connecticut State Board of Education, effective July 1, 2012, adopted definitions of excused and unexcused absences. These definitions are for use by all Connecticut school districts and schools for the purpose of carrying out the provisions in Connecticut General Statute 10-198a and the reporting of truancy. This change in legislation will require Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School to adjust some practices in how we report truancy. The state defines excused absences as follows: Parents/Guardians can excuse up to nine (9) student absences when the "parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation, i.e., a written note." Any absences beyond 9 are considered excused for the following reasons:

- Student illness. This must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional, regardless of the length of the absence;
- Student's observance of a religious holiday;
- Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond control of the student's family;
- Mandated court appearance. This must be verified with written documentation;
- The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the

one student attends;

- Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by the district's administration and in accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education's guidance; please note that family vacations are also deemed as unexcused absences unless they meet this criterion.

- Student absences that are the result of the school or district disciplinary action are excluded from the definition of excused or unexcused absences.

Under the new definitions, parents are required to submit written documentation for an absence to be excused. This means that a phone call without timely, written follow-up will automatically be coded as unexcused. Unexcused absences are considered to be any absences that do not meet the above definition or for which the appropriate documentation has not been submitted.

A student is considered chronically absent when they are absent for 10% of the school year and reported to the State of Connecticut Department of Education annually.

Tardiness to School

Students who are not present in homeroom by 8:20 or signed in at the main office are tardy for school. Students arriving late are expected to arrive at the receptionist's office with an explanatory note or with a parent. Students should be tardy no more than three times per trimester. A student who is tardy more than three times will receive a silent lunch as a consequence. A student who is tardy six times will receive an afterschool detention. Progressive discipline regarding tardiness will be at the discretion of the principal and the Student Assistance Team with parental involvement.

Dismissal During School Hours

Parents requesting early dismissal for their children are asked to make their requests first thing in the morning with a note or phone or electronic notification. Since attendance at school is most important, we ask that parents make requests only in emergency situations. Parents and guardians are asked to report to the receptionist's office when picking up their children. The school nurse will contact parents to pick up ill students. Students who are ill must go through the nurse's office and may not contact parents directly via texting.

Parent Permissions for Bus Transportation, Staying After School, and PE Excusal

It is important that parents and the school communicate effectively. In order to protect the welfare of students, the school requires parent/guardian permission:

- If someone other than a parent is picking the student up from school.
- If a student is going to another student's house after school on the bus, and **BOTH** students are required to bring in a note giving permission.
- If students are to walk or ride their bicycles instead of taking the bus (one note can be used for the year).
- If students want to remain after school for any activity, they are required to have notes from parents/guardians granting permission to participate in the activity. Students should be picked up promptly after the activity has ended. There may be no one to supervise after activities have ended. Students will not be allowed to stay for athletic events unless they are accompanied by an adult, either on or off campus.
- If students are to be excused from PE (see Physical Education), a doctor's note is required.

Family Vacations

Family vacations should coincide with scheduled vacations on our school calendar. Extended or different vacations are not in keeping with school policy. Parents are expected to cooperate in the matter.

In the event that time must be taken, a note must be sent to the principal. Advance assignments are not in keeping with school policy; therefore students are responsible for missed work and must confer with teacher(s) upon return to school for missed assignments. These absences remain a part of the students attendance record and are subject to those requirements.

Make Up Work

Students are required to make up work missed during absences. Make up work should be completed within a period of time equal to the period of absence. Work should be made up on student's time; not during the next scheduled class. Students are responsible for seeking out teachers for make-up work. Students who are absent may receive an "Incomplete" if work has not been satisfactorily completed. Parents should call before noon if they wish to pick up make-up work after school that day. If an Incomplete is not made up within 2 weeks a grade of "F" may result. If there are any concerns, please communicate with the teacher directly.

Leaving School Grounds

Once students arrive at school, they must remain until such time as the students are released for the day. If students leave the school grounds during normal school hours, parents and/or the police will be notified as needed.

Visitors to School

All visitors must report to the receptionist's office and display identification and/or visitor's sticker/badge. Faculty and staff members have been asked to direct people without visitor identification to the receptionist's office. Parents and guardians who are picking up their children from school must also report to the receptionist's office so their children may be dismissed from class. We do not permit students to bring guests to school. Former students wishing to visit teachers may request to arrange visits after the current students have been dismissed.

School Safety

Emergency Drills and Plans

In order to be prepared for emergency situations, students and staff will conduct various safety drills in compliance with state law. These procedures are meant to keep students and staff out of harm's way based on the situation. Procedures are posted in each classroom as needed. Behavioral expectations for the various drills will be reviewed continually throughout the year. In the case of an emergency, the school building and campus will be unavailable for students to enter or exit until the emergency is determined over by the principal.

Accidents and Illnesses

The school nurse is available for accidents that occur during school hours. All accidents occurring in school or on the grounds must be reported to the school nurse. Under normal circumstances, a student who becomes ill during school hours must obtain a pass to see the nurse from their teacher. If, in the opinion of the nurse, the student is too ill to remain in school, parents will be notified. Parents are expected to be available and to provide transportation. If a child stays home due to illness, please call the nurse or main office to report the absence. Emergency contact information must be current and updated when changes occur.

NOTE: In order to protect our community, any student who is feeling ill or showing any signs of Covid-19 **MUST** remain home and follow all procedures outlined in the “Reopening our Schools” document.

Student Transportation Expectations and Procedures

The school day begins when a student is waiting for the school bus and is over when a student is dropped off from the school bus. Students are expected to follow the DHBMS Code of Conduct while riding the school bus. This includes:

Showing respectful behavior:

- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Use a quiet voice and appropriate language
- Be considerate of other people’s belongings
- Share your seat

Being responsible

- Follow the rules and directions of the bus driver
- Remain seated at all times
- Be an upstander instead of a bystander if you observe unkind behavior among others

Being a positive community member:

- Leave the bus the way you found it or better
- Take care of your personal belongings

Student Transportation Consequences

When student behavior does not meet expectations of the DHBMS Code of Conduct, a bus incident report will be written by the bus driver. The school will follow all behavior-related tiered interventions as identified by our PBIS and restorative practices systems.

Academic Information

Student Evaluation and Assessment

Report cards are issued on a 12-week trimester schedule and comments will be updated in Powerschool at the midway point of each trimester, as-needed. Marks will close prior to issuance of report cards as determined by the teacher. Student grades will be accessible and updated every two weeks, and will be visible on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Various forms of school correspondence with parents and students will be utilized in the attempt to communicate individual academic progress in addition to the trimester reporting.

Grading			
A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D 60-69
A 94-96	B 84-86	C 74-76	F <60
A- 90-93	B- 80-83	C- 70-73	

Homework

Homework is to support the development of skills and learning activities that take place in the classroom. It is important that the teacher, student, and parent work together to make learning a priority, inside and outside of the classroom.

Student Responsibilities

- Review and understand the purpose, requirements, and criteria for evaluation of the assignment.
- Ask for further explanation if original directions for homework are not completely understood.
- Understand the time frame for assignments and plan accordingly.
- When absent, make up work right away.
- When no other assignments are given, review, preview or improve assignments.
- Put in full effort.
- Maintain a system for recording and remembering.

Parent/Guardian Support

- Arrange a quiet, suitable place for their child to work.
- Support and encourage their child to complete homework assignments.
- Understand the value of various types of homework, since the value differs under different circumstances.
- Contact the teacher in the event of questions or concerns.
- Have your child read 20-30 minutes every day.

Homework shall never be counted for more than 10% of a student’s final trimester grade.

Suggested Homework Times:

Grade 5	20-40 minutes, 4-5 days per week
Grade 6	35-40 minutes, 4-5 days per week
Grade 7-8	60-80 minutes, 4-5 days per week

In addition to the homework times identified above, students are also encouraged to read a minimum of 20 minutes each day.

Honor Roll
<p>All students are eligible to earn honor roll distinctions. There are two categories:</p> <p><u>High Honors:</u> student who earns grades of 90% or higher in all subjects</p> <p><u>Honors:</u> student who earns 80% or higher in all subjects</p>

Extra Help

A student may seek extra help from his/her teachers as needed. Time may be arranged with the teacher before or after school or at a time convenient during the day. Teachers may request that a student meet during lunch or after school if it is apparent that the student is having greater difficulty.

Parent/Guardian Conferences

Parent/guardian conferences are held twice a year. For parents'/guardians' convenience, conferences are scheduled so that afternoon and evening times are available. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss their children's progress on a regular basis. At any time throughout the year, parents/guardians may schedule time for conferences with teachers, the guidance counselor, or principal by contacting the school office. Teachers have common planning during the day which can be used for parent/guardian meetings as needed.

Parent/ Guardian conferences will take place October 18 & 19 and March 20 & 21.

Student Promotion and Retention

Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the Board of Education that all students are placed in instructional programs in which they can achieve academically, as well as emotionally, socially, and physically. Students are assigned to grades for organizational and record keeping purposes. Grade placement is not, however, the only basis for organizing classes. Instructional groups in reading, math and other subjects may be developed in order to provide instruction at the level at which students, given positive motivation and appropriate instruction, will progress satisfactorily through their middle school programs. Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade or level to level. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certified staff, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the student involved. Exceptions will be made only after prior notification and explanation to each student's parent or guardian, but the final decision will rest with school administration.

Guidelines

If any of the following conditions exist, a student will be considered at risk for retention:

- If a student has failed two or more of the following academic courses for the school year, Writing, Reading, Math, Science, or Social Studies..
- If a student has not attended school on a regular basis and has a record of excessive absences. Generally, more than 20 absences in a year will be considered excessive.

Procedures

The classroom teacher shall closely examine all available data and develop an accelerated program or teaching strategy to meet the needs of any student who is at risk. Parents/guardians will be called in for a conference. The teacher will refer the student to the Baldwin Student Assistance Team/SRBI process for help in meeting the needs of the student. If necessary, the student will be referred to the Planning and Placement Team for possible evaluation of any disabilities. A final decision concerning the student's placement will be made jointly by the team and the parents/guardians with the best interests of the student serving as the primary criteria in the decision making process. If the parents/guardians disagree with the team's recommendation, Board policy allows the administrators to make the final decision.

Considerations

The following factors will be considered in determining promotion or retention: age; academic ability and achievement; work and study habits; physical development; social maturity; emotional maturity; attendance record; behavior; placement of siblings.

Student Records

If you are planning on moving out of the Town of Canterbury, you should notify the school office before you move so that the necessary papers may be completed. Cumulative health records will be forwarded to the district to which a student is transferring as quickly as possible. Educational records will be forwarded on request to a school in which a student intends to enroll. Educational records may be sent with or without written consent on behalf of transferring students in order to ensure compliance with the Buckley Amendment. In such cases, parents/guardians would be notified and will receive a copy upon request.

The following individuals are permitted access to records without consent: administrators and other professional staff members, board of education members, and persons with whom the school board has contracted to perform certain tasks (i.e. attorneys, auditors, consultants).

Student Information/ Student Activities

Athletics

A variety of athletic activities may be offered at Baldwin Middle School, such as but not limited to soccer, basketball, softball, baseball, track and cheerleading. Students in grades 5-8 are eligible to try out. Selection on a team will be based on level of skill and ability to safely participate. A current physical exam (within the past 12 months) form must be on file in the health office prior to a student trying out or participating in a sport, and must remain current throughout the sport season. Students are representatives of Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School and are expected to follow behavioral expectations whenever and wherever they play. Membership on a team is a privilege and players may be removed from participation as a consequence.

Participation Guidelines

1. Student athletes must be in attendance for a minimum of one-half day (3 hours) to participate in games and/or practices that day.
2. The school will notify the Athletic Director and/or coach whenever a student athlete's grade(s) falls below 70% during the marking term (utilizing the three week reporting timeframe). This serves as a means to involve more aspects in supporting the student's academic success.
3. Student athletes with more than one D or any F's on their record during each 3-week grade check (in any class) will be ineligible to participate for a period of up to three weeks, or until they raise their grade(s) to a minimum of 70%. If a student athlete does not raise their average to or above 70% within two consecutive reporting periods (6-weeks), they will be off the team for the remainder of the season. If the student athlete's grades are maintained, then he/she will be allowed to continue participation in that sport.
4. At the beginning of each 3 week reporting period, there will be a grade check done by all teachers for all student athletes currently on an athletic team. If any student athlete has more than one D or any F's, then they will be given a "passport" from the school. On that passport will be the classes that the student is below on. It is up to the student to get those grade(s) up, have that teacher sign the passport, then bring it to their coach to make themselves eligible to play again.
5. If a student athlete serves detention on the day of an activity, practice, or game; he/she may not participate until the detention is completed. If behavioral concerns repeat, then there may be the possibility of the student being suspended from participation in athletics for that season. If there is a team behavioral concern that does not meet school expectations, the team may forfeit scheduled games.

6. Student athletes must return clean uniforms at the end of the season. Lost or damaged uniforms must be paid for.

Student spectators may stay after school to watch games only if accompanied by a parent/guardian, or have written permission from a parent/guardian to watch a game with a staff member. Written permission should be given to the homeroom teacher in the morning of the event.

Book Bags

While book bags may be used to transfer books to and from school, they are not allowed to be used during the school day except to and from PE class. Book bags will be stored appropriately upon entering school and taken home at dismissal. The rationale behind this is classroom space and safety.

Cologne and Perfume Expectations

Recognizing that students and staff may have sensitivity and/or allergic reactions to various fragrant products, students and staff are not permitted to wear or bring perfume and/or cologne to school. Regular hygiene is encouraged, including the use of roll-on and stick deodorants/antiperspirant; however, using sprays of any kind within the school is not permitted.

Acceptable Use Policy

District resources have been invested in computer technology to broaden instruction and to prepare students for life in a digital society. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and parents/guardians will be asked to sign a user agreement regarding appropriate use of these resources. Violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that e-mail communications, using district computers and/or district-provided emails, are not private and may be monitored by staff. Students may not access social media sites using district equipment, while on district property, or at a district sponsored activity unless the posting is approved by a teacher. The district will not be liable for information posted by students on social media websites, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snap-Chat, Twitter, YouTube, etc., when the student is not engaged in district activities and not using district equipment.

The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and; any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the district and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such material.

Federal law requires the district to use filtering devices on school computers to block entry to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, harmful or inappropriate for students as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The school provides students and staff access to the Internet. Guidelines have been established for the safe use of the Internet. If a student violates the guidelines, access privileges may be terminated, appropriate disciplinary action taken, and all future access may be denied. To use a computer students are required to read and sign a contract called the Student Network Responsibility Contract. Network etiquette and digital citizenship includes:

1. Be polite. No abusive messages are to be sent.
2. Use appropriate language.
3. Anything pertaining to illegal activities is strictly forbidden.
4. The personal address or telephone number of any person is not to be revealed.
5. Email messages are not to be forwarded or distributed without permission from the author.
6. The network is not to be used in such a way as to disrupt its use by others.

Electronic Devices / Cell Phones

Chromebooks are designed to be a tool for learning; as such, all students are expected to use their one-to-one chromebook with respect. This includes appropriate web browsing, physical care of the device, and responsible charging and transportation of the device.

While cellphones are undoubtedly a significant part of our society, research shows a direct link between cellphone use and significant behavioral, academic, and social issues for individuals of all ages. In order to support students in a developmentally appropriate way, Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School will expect students to abide by the following cell phone policy:

- Cell phones may be used in the building from 8:00-8:20 am and again from 3:15 until dismissal
- In the classroom and during school hours (between 8:20 and 3:15) cell phones MUST be away and out of sight. Any cell phone use in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher or staff member.
- Earbuds are allowed in the hallways, but should be out of ears and put away during classroom time. Earbud use in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher or staff member.

If cell phone use becomes a repeat issue for students, consequences will follow all behavior-related tiered interventions as identified by our PBIS and restorative practices systems.

School Dances

School dances are held at various times throughout the school year and are open only to students currently enrolled at DHBMS (grades to be determined). Students who are absent or suspended on the day of the dance, or who owe a missed detention, cannot attend. Students are not permitted to leave and then re-enter the dance. All students should arrange for their parents/guardians to pick them up promptly at the end of the dance. Dance rules will be reviewed and signed before the dance. Students who chose not to follow the dance rules may lose the privilege of attending the next school dance or not be allowed to stay at the dance. Parents or guardians must sign students out at the end of the dance. Proper dress is required. Any student arriving in inappropriate clothes will not be allowed to stay.

Field Trips

Field trips may be scheduled for educational, cultural, or extracurricular purposes. Any student whose behavior is considered detrimental to the well-being of other students may be barred from participation by the principal. While on a trip, all students are considered to be "in" school. This means that conduct and dress standards will be appropriate for the field trip activity.

Bathrooms

All students must ask permission to use the bathrooms. Passes will be given to students. Students are expected to keep the bathrooms clean. If feeling ill, students should report to the nurse's office. Assigned bathroom times

may be issued if deemed necessary due to inappropriate behavior in the bathroom. It is recommended that only one student be granted bathroom permission at a time. Any student who defaces any aspect of the bathrooms will be subject to consequences. Parents/guardians will be held financially responsible for damage.

Lockers

Students in grades 7 & 8 are assigned lockers where they can keep textbooks, classroom materials, backpacks and personal belongings. Students are expected to keep their lockers neat and orderly. Valuables should be left at home. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage to student property.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office where they can be claimed by the owner. After a reasonable amount of time, lost and found items may be donated or discarded.

Classroom Passes

During the school day, students are expected to go directly to their scheduled classes unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a pass from a staff member. Students failing to comply with the policy regarding passes are subject to disciplinary consequences. Tardiness to class or to school may be considered a pass violation.

School Store

Students operate a student store. A wide range of school supplies and special items are available for sale. Store hours will be posted.

Student Valuables

Students should not bring large amounts of money or other valuables to school. Not only do they disturb classes, but they are often lost or stolen.

Students should not leave valuables in desks or lockers. On occasion, electronic devices may be carried into school with the specific permission of a teacher or administrator. Bringing inappropriate materials may result in discipline. Cell phone use must be in line with the cell phone policy.

Students wearing glasses or watches should keep track of these articles at all times. Students are responsible for their personal property.

Student Telephone Use

The office phone should be used by students for emergencies only. Parents should not call for their children when classes are in session, except in cases of emergency.

Student Textbook Responsibility

The school provides books to all students. Reasonable wear and tear is expected as a result of daily use. Unreasonable damage to textbooks will result in fines. All school books must be covered at teacher discretion. Lost textbooks must be paid for and replaced immediately. Fines must be paid to the office at the time of loss. Damaged or lost books must be paid for before the final report card can be issued.

Student Insurance

Students injured on school property or during school activities are not covered by school insurance. Parents of students who do not have health plans are encouraged to participate in the student insurance program, which is available at a nominal cost. When students insured under this plan are injured at school, they will be given claim forms from the nurse's office. These forms must be completed by parents/guardians and presented to the respective physicians or hospitals. The school merely acts as an intermediate in supplying the insurance forms, and assumes no liability for any subsequent negotiations with the company.

Student Services

School Counseling Program

The counseling program provides assistance to students in a variety of programs and services. Students are counseled to satisfy their basic needs through more effective and responsible behavioral choices. Services are established through Student Assistance Team (SAT) meetings, Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings, and/or parent/guardian or student request.

Library Use

All students are encouraged to use the school library when their class schedules permit. Students must have a pass issued by their teacher. No more than two students from a class may be given passes. All students must check in and out of the library with the librarian.

Books signed out by a student are the responsibility of the student until such time as the books are checked back into the library.

Physical Education

Physical education is a requirement for all students. To be excused from gym classes for a period of time, students must submit to the nurse a written request from a physician. A note from a parent/guardian requesting a student be excused from class for one day must state the reason and may or may not be approved by the nurse. All students are required to wear rubber soled shoes.

Health Services

Emergency first aid is available for in-school illnesses or accidents from 8:00 a.m. until the last bus departs at the end of the school day. In the event of illness or accident, school personnel will give emergency care only. Parents are responsible for any additional care needed. All students should have a written pass from the faculty or staff member on duty before reporting to the health room. If the health room is closed, students should report to the main office. Parents of students with health problems are to report the problems to the school nurse at the beginning of the school year or when such problems are present.

Whenever a child has received a serious/significant injury to his/her head while at school, his/her parent/guardian will be notified of the injury by the nurse (either by phone call, email, or a note sent home).

Health Screenings: The following screenings be conducted yearly by the school nurse as mandated by Connecticut State Law:

Hearing: Students in Grade 5

Vision: Students in Grade 5
 Scoliosis: Females: Students in Grades 5 and 7
 Males: Students in Grade 8

Immunizations

As mandated by Connecticut law, new students entering school must have proof of immunization on file in the health office prior to starting school. All students must meet the State of Connecticut immunization regulations for their respective grade level.

Medications

If it is necessary for students to receive medication (prescription or over-the-counter) during school hours, the medication must be transported to school by a parent or guardian, along with an Authorization For the Administration of Medicine By School Personnel form completed by the student's physician. Medications must be in the original container. Prescription medication must have a current pharmacy label. All medication (prescription and over the counter) must be stored in the health office and dispensed by the nurse or trained designee. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be administered only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. A single dose of medication will be prepared by the nurse to administer during a field trip. Multiple doses of medication for longer field trips require specific physician authorization and pharmacy packaging.

Failure to observe these guidelines will be grounds for immediate confiscation of the medication for possible referral to the student's parents/guardians or to police authorities. Only students who have been approved to participate in the Self Administration of Medication Program will be allowed to carry medication (inhalers and epi-pens only) on their person. No other medication (including aspirin or Tylenol) is to be kept in student's possession. Unauthorized medication will be confiscated if found in a student's possession. Students who take improper amounts of medication or who take medication without proper notification and supervision will be subject to the same consequences outlined under Drug and Alcohol Use and/or Abuse.

Physical Examinations

Physicals are required for all students participating in interscholastic sports. Physicals must be current within 12 months and must remain current the sport season. The form must be on file in the health office prior to the student trying out for the sport.

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School - Student Code of Conduct
2022 - 2023

**Respect
Responsibility
Community**

DHBMS Bulldogs will demonstrate excellence through:

	Hallway	Classroom	Bus	Cafeteria	Playground	Bathroom	Events/ Activities	Restorative Conversations	Home
R E S P E C T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use quiet, soft voice • Keep hands and objects to yourself • Keep hallways and stairways clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be considerate of others: kind words, hands to yourself • Raise your hand if you have a question or want to add to the discussion • Use a quiet voice and appropriate language • Follow adult directions • No cell phones or bluetooth devices! • Follow the core values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Use a quiet voice and appropriate language • Be considerate of other people's belongings • Share your seat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be considerate of others: kind words, hands to yourself • Follow adult directions • Respond to quiet signals • Stay seated and get up only with permission • Use a quiet voice and appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take turns and play cooperatively • Include others • Use kind words and appropriate language • Follow adult instructions the first time it is asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow privacy to others • Use quiet or soft voice • Clean up after yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a quiet and attentive audience • Remain seated • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Follow all rules of the facility • Use respectful language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen with an open mind • Wait your turn to speak • Be understanding of others' thoughts and ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make time for your family away from technology • Share daily experiences with your family • Be supportive of your family members
R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay to the right hand side • Walk directly to your destination • Keep locker organized • Use lockers in a timely manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask teacher for permission to use the bathroom • Complete your work on time • Allow others to complete their work • Clean up after yourself and put materials away • Make positive contributions and ask relevant questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the rules and directions of the bus driver • Remain seated at all times • Be an upstander instead of a bystander if you observe unkind behavior among others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember your lunch code • Use good table manners • Stay in line and give others their space • Keep table and floor clean • Leave area better than you found it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use equipment appropriately • Return equipment where it belongs in a timely manner • Line up quickly and quietly when signaled • Ask teacher for permission to go inside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands • Return to class immediately • No Cell phones or bluetooth devices! • Throw trash in proper container • Keep area clean • Flush appropriately • Report problems to teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up after yourself and others • Follow the school's code of conduct and handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use talking piece responsibly • Meaningfully contribute to the conversation • Be self-reflective • Think before you speak • Advocate for yourself • Take action to follow through • Report post- discussion • Be comfortable with apology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share successes and failures • Complete chores in a timely manner • Make time for homework • Be aware of upcoming due dates • Follow through on commitments
C O M M U N I T Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind and courteous to others • Use polite language • Greet others and be inclusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all your work to the best of your ability • Encourage others when working in a group • Stay focused on your teacher and the task at hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the bus the way you found it or better • Take care of your personal belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful of your peers • Include others • Help others who need it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share equipment • Actively seek others to include in activities • Avoid disrupting others' activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report misconduct to your teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be supportive of your peers • Show appropriate enthusiasm • Use encouraging language • Represent your school in a positive way • Be a role-model to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for others • Work to repair any harm done to your community • Ensure all voices are heard • Have a restorative mindset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active member of your family by: • asking others about their day • offering help and support • Being kind and forgiving

PBIS at Baldwin Middle School

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) is an organized, data-driven system of interventions, strategies, and supports that positively impact school-wide and individualized behavior. PBIS is a framework that seeks to set up clear, consistent expectations so that each student knows exactly what is expected of them in every situation in school.

PBIS is based on the core values of Respect, Responsibility, and Community.

PBIS helps to create and maintain a positive, safe, and effective learning environment that will increase academic achievement when implemented with fidelity. Appropriate behavior and social competence require direct teaching to students just like math and reading. When students are given positive, immediate feedback, they are more likely to continue the behaviors that elicit praise. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

The student norms are explained in the student code of conduct which students will go over during the first week of school in order to fully understand the behaviors they are accounted for. Students will also work to define the core values of Respect, responsibility, and Community

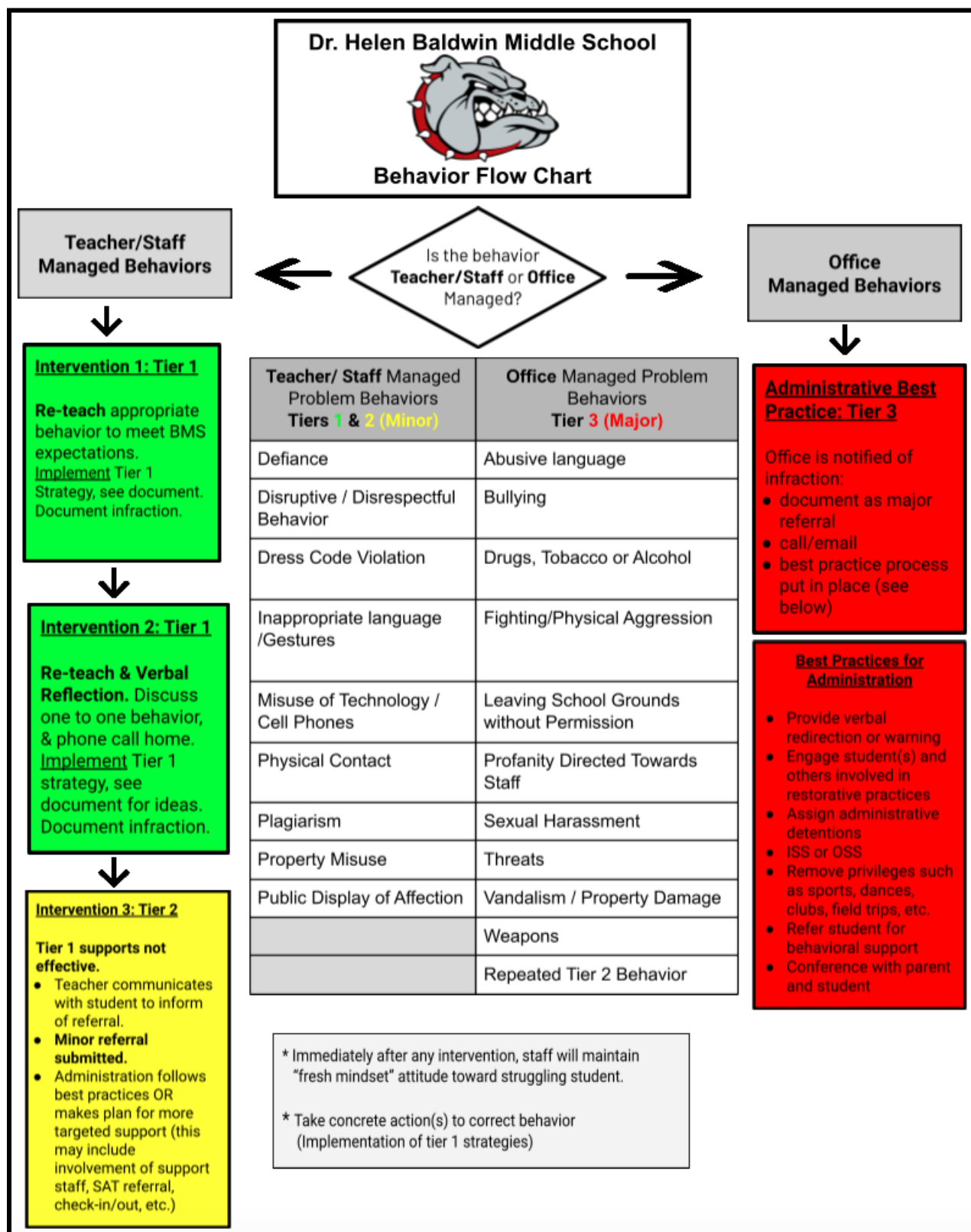
Students will be rewarded with Bulldog Bucks for conducting themselves according to the code of conduct. Bulldog Bucks are rewarded throughout PBIS Rewards online program. Students will be able to redeem the Bulldog Bucks to participate in special school-wide events and purchase special items from the school store and/or classroom teacher.

Student Behavior Consequences

Discipline is a necessity in every school setting. While PBIS is focused on positive behaviors in an attempt to deter infractions from occurring, Baldwin Middle School still needs a disciplinary procedure in place when the need arises.

At Baldwin Middle School, there are two behavioral consequential levels: Minor and Major. Minor behaviors are those that are handled in the classroom with different interventions, though can result in an Office Referral when the behaviors are repeated without any change in behavior to reflect the behavior in the student code of conduct. A Major is a referral which is automatically handled by the office.

Student Behavioral Definitions	
Minor Teacher/ Staff Managed Problem Behaviors Tiers 1 & 2	Major Office Managed Problem Behaviors Tier 3
Inappropriate Language/ Gestures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words or gestures that are profane, vulgar, discriminatory or otherwise construed as socially offensive or harassing 	Abusive language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial or gender-based taunting
Physical Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pushing/shoving/kicking Biting (with no marks) Wrestling with another student Any unwanted touching 	Fighting/ Physical Aggression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biting (with marks) Any physical contact where the aggressor wants to inflict injury to another
Plagiarism/Cheating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentional misrepresentation by student(s) of homework, class work, tests, reports, or other assignments as if they were entirely their own. 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentional statement either directly or indirectly made to inflict pain, injury or damage to someone or something.
Misuse of Technology / Cell Phones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using technology and cell phones during inappropriate times (between 8:20 and 3:10) and/or in inappropriate ways 	Weapons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knives, bullets, lighters, matches, items with intent to harm?
Public Display of Affection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate physical conduct, such as holding hands, kissing and touching 	Bullying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CPS board policy
Disruptive / Disrespectful Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any behavior that results in a distraction from normal class development or makes the recipient feel anger, fear, uncertainty, isolation, self-doubt or depression. 	Drugs, Tobacco or Alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of prohibited / illegal items
Defiance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refusal to complete classwork Non-compliance/not following directions Leaving class without permission 	Sexual Harassment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances
Property Misuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using other's materials w/o permission 	Profanity Directed Towards Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate language that affects the learning and teaching environment of others, specifically staff.
	Vandalism / Property Damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentional destruction, damage, or defacement of private
	Leaving School Grounds Without Permission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anytime a student leaves school premises without adult permission and adult supervision



Teacher/Staff Managed Behaviors (Minor)

When students do not follow the outlined school-wide behavioral plan they will receive consequences. Classroom managed behavioral issues will be handled by the teacher (classroom, art, music, computer lab, library or physical education). Teachers will refer to the Behavior Management Flowchart when they believe the classroom behavior requires a consequence. The following is a *sampling* of the consequences teachers may use:

- Redirection
- Conference with student
- Self-Reflection Form
- Phone call to parent
- Parent/teacher/student conference
- Loss of privileges
- Office Referral when behaviors are repeated as outlined in the BMS Behavioral Flow Chart.

Office Managed Behaviors (Major)

Office managed offenses will be handled by an administrator. Each child is an individual whose needs will be considered when determining the consequence. The following chart provides an outline of behaviors as well as the tiered consequence that will occur at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School:

	Consequence		
Behavior	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Abusive Language	Lunch detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	Detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days detention OR 1-3 day ISS, parent conference, restorative consequence
Bullying	Detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days detention OR 1-3 day ISS, phone call home, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Drugs, Tobacco, Vaping, Alcohol	ISS, Phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 day ISS, parent conference, referral to counseling, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Fighting/ Physical Aggression	Detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 day ISS, phone call home, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Leaving School Grounds w/out Permission	Detention, Parent conference, restorative consequence	1-3 day ISS, parent conference, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence

Profanity towards staff	2 days of detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days extended detention OR 1-3 day ISS, phone call home, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Sexual Harassment	2 days of detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days extended detention OR 1-3 day ISS, phone call home, restorative consequence	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Threats	2 days lunch detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-5 days ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence
Vandalism/ Property Damage	1-3 days detention, phone call home, restorative consequence, possible remuneration for damages	1-3 days extended detention OR 1-3 day ISS, phone call home, restorative consequence, possible remuneration for damages	3-5 day ISS, parent conference, possible referral to JRB, restorative consequence, possible remuneration for damages
Weapons	10-day OSS, Parent conference, Recommendation for Expulsion per state law		
Repeated Tier 2 Offenses	Detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 Days detention, phone call home, restorative consequence	1-3 days extended detention OR 1-3 days ISS, parent conference, restorative consequence

Please note, this chart provides guidance, but the principal reserves the right to use discretion in any disciplinary situation.

Disciplinary Due Process
Student behavior will be documented and records maintained for the duration of their time at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School. When concerning behaviors occur, a student will be made aware of this concern by the teacher or staff member present. If redirection needs the assistance of the principal, a report will be made to the principal's office. The principal will then investigate the concerning behaviors and meet with the student and staff members as needed. Communication will be made to the student's parents/guardians. Any progressive discipline that involves suspension will be reported to the Office of the Superintendent.

Cafeteria Expectations
Students are expected to bring lunch money to the cafeteria before reporting to homeroom or send it to the office with the homeroom folder. All funds deposited to the cafeteria should be labeled with the student name, grade level, and lunch identification number. In order to keep the cafeteria safe and orderly, students are expected to: Show respectful behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be considerate of others: kind words, hands to yourself

- Follow adult directions
- Respond to quiet signals
- Stay seated and get up only with permission
- Use a quiet voice and appropriate language

Be responsible

- Remember your lunch code
- Use good table manners
- Stay in line and give others their space
- Keep table and floor clean
- Leave area better than you found it

Be a positive community member:

- Be respectful of your peers
- Include others
- Help others who need it

Public Display of Affection

The Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School recognizes that genuine feelings of affection may exist between two students. However, students shall refrain from all Public Displays of Affection (PDA) while on campus or while attending and/or participating in a school-related activity.

Being overly affectionate at school can be offensive and is generally in poor taste. The expression of feelings toward one another is a personal concern between the two individuals and thus should not be shared with others in the general vicinity. PDA includes any physical contact that may make others in close proximity uncomfortable or serves as a distraction for themselves as well as innocent onlookers. Some specific examples of PDA include but is not limited to:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Kissing | • Inappropriate touching |
| • Holding hands | • Excessive hugging |
| • Fondling | |
| • Cuddling | |

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (PDA) is not appropriate for the workplace or the learning environment and will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in such practices are subject to progressive discipline that will follow all behavior-related tiered interventions as identified by our PBIS and restorative practices systems.

Recess Expectations

Students are expected to enjoy their recreational time in an appropriate and safe manner.

- Non-contact games can be played on blacktop or grass.
- Foam balls are allowed on the playground.
- Food and drink not allowed during afternoon recess.
- Food and drink may be allowed during morning recess.

Student Dress Code

Per the Canterbury Board of Education, students are encouraged to dress in clothing appropriate to the school situation. Restrictions on freedom of student dress may be applied whenever the mode of dress in question:

1. is unsafe either for the student or those around the student.
2. is disruptive to school operations and the education process in general.
3. is contrary to law.

In addition to the Board of Education policy stated above, the following restrictions also apply:

- No clothing should depict or reference weapons or violence
- No clothing should depict drugs, alcohol, or other images/references that promote being under the influence
- No clothing should depict, use, or reference profane language, images, or nudity
- Clothing **MUST** cover all underwear
- Clothing **MUST** cover student stomachs
- Clothing **MUST** cover private areas of the body
- Students may wear hats in the hall; however, hat wearing in the classroom will be at the discretion of the teacher

If a student is wearing clothing that goes against the dress code policy, they will be discreetly called down to the nurse's office to discuss the clothing and will be offered a change of clothes. If the nurse does not have a change of clothes or the student refuses to change, the student will remain in the nurse's office until a parent is able to bring in a different set of clothes.

If dress code violations become a repeat issue:

The school will follow all behavior-related tiered interventions as identified by our PBIS and restorative practices systems.

Out of School Conduct Code

Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct which is seriously disruptive of the education process and is a violation of a publicized board policy, even if such conduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time.

Examples of off-school conduct that may result in such discipline include but are not limited to:

- Sale, possession, use, or distribution of dangerous weapons or facsimiles, including martial art weapons.
- Use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs.
- Violent conduct.
- Making of a bomb or bomb threat.
- Threatening to harm or kill another student or member of the staff, where any such activity has the reasonable likelihood of threatening the health, safety or welfare of school property, individuals thereon, and/or the educational process. PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, C.G.S. 10-233c.

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Searches

Desks and school lockers are the property of the school for temporary use by students. Desks, lockers or other school property may be searched by the principal or someone appointed by the principal if there is reason to believe that the search will show evidence that a student has broken either school rules or the law. Students may also be searched for the same reasons. A search may be made of purses, backpacks, outer coats and jackets, footwear, pockets, belts, hair and hats. The scope of the search will be reasonably related to the circumstances which justified the search.

Threats

All threats are taken seriously and immediately investigated. If evidence suggests that threatening statements or behaviors have occurred, progressive disciplinary action is taken and the Office of the Superintendent is notified. Local police authorities may be notified if determined necessary.

Weapons

Possession or use of a knife, gun, laser pointers, water guns, air guns, paintball guns, fireworks, flame throwers, or any other object that might be considered a weapon is prohibited. As of October 1, 1994, students found to have possessed a weapon on school grounds or a school sponsored activity must be expelled. The Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 8921.

Student Wellness

Canterbury promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness including social and mental wellbeing, regular physical activity, and good nutrition as part of the environment in which students learn. Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive practices related to wellness, dietary practices, and physical activity.

We encourage parents to practice a healthy lifestyle at home in support of Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School's effort. Improved health will help to optimize student performance.

Our Wellness Policy encourages healthy classroom snacks. Due to food allergies parents are not allowed to send in any homemade food for classroom celebrations

PLEASE NOTE:

Soda, coffee, and high-energy drinks are not permitted in the school during school hours.

Equal Opportunity

Each student is encouraged to develop and achieve individual educational goals. The district will provide every student with equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, or disability. No student will be excluded on such a basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, student athletics, counseling services, employment assistance, extracurricular activities or other school resources. Programs and activities shall be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law. Mrs. Jodi Davis is the designated

district compliance officer, who will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Bullying

Bullying of a student by another student is prohibited. Bullying is defined as repeated and overt acts by a student or groups of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school sponsored activity, or on a school bus. Bullying which occurs outside of the school setting may be addressed by school officials if it has a direct and negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in school. Such behavior will result in disciplinary action. Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

- Physical violence and attacks;
- Verbal taunts or name-calling and put-downs including ethically-based or gender-based put-downs;
- Threats and intimidation;
- Extortion or stealing of money and/or possessions;
- Exclusion from peer groups within schools.

"Cyber bullying" includes but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: Harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, defaming another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs. Also, sending sexually explicit pictures of minors is considered child pornography and anyone that takes, sends, forwards, or keeps these images may be prosecuted both in the State of CT and/or federally.

Students and/or their parents/guardian may file a written report of conduct they consider bullying. Students may also make an informal complaint of conduct that they consider to be bullying by verbal report to a teacher or administrator, who will promptly reduce the complaint to writing and forward it to the principal for review and action.

Students and parents/guardians are permitted to make anonymous reports of bullying. Parent written reports and student anonymous reports will be investigated by the school administration but no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Pupil services personnel and administrators are responsible for taking a bullying report and investigating the complaint. Parents of students involved in a verified act of bullying will be invited to attend a meeting at school. There is a Bullying Reporting Form available on the school website as needed to be completed by any person aware of this act occurring.

The link to the bullying report is:

<https://tinyurl.com/snda2867>

If acts of bullying are verified, prompt disciplinary action may be taken against the perpetrator, consistent with his/her rights of due process. Board policy and regulation #5131.911 set forth this prohibition and the related procedures in detail, and are available to students and their parents/guardians upon request.

Child Abuse and Neglect

All school personnel are required by law (C.G.S. 17a-101) to report suspected cases of child abuse/neglect to DCF (Department of Children and Families.) Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive yearly training in their use. Reporting of child abuse and neglect is a responsibility which is taken seriously. If there is any doubt about reporting suspected abuse or neglect, a report will be made. The school will work with the parents and appropriate social agencies in all cases.

Child abuse is defined as any physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means or injuries which are not in keeping with the explanation given for their cause. Improper treatments such as malnutrition, sexual

molestation, and deprivation of necessities, emotional abuse, cruel punishment or neglect are also considered child abuse.

Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol Use

The use, possession, and/or sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tobacco products, and drugs are forbidden on school property. This prohibition applies to all students participating in all officially sanctioned school activities wherever they are conducted. This prohibition includes transportation to and from such activities on school buses and/or other officially sanctioned means of transportation. Misuse of any substance may be considered under this portion of the handbook. Discipline up to and including expulsion may be applied for a violation at the discretion of the Board of Education. Recognizing that drug use and abuse may be indicative of serious underlying problems, every effort will be made to offer a student help and assistance, including early identification, referral for treatment and aftercare support. Disciplinary procedures will be administered with the best interest of the student, school population, and community in mind.

Voluntary disclosure of drug/alcohol problem or self-referral: Students will be referred by the staff member to professional assistance (school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist, or an appropriate licensed agency). The student will be encouraged to seek help. Confidentiality will be maintained unless the safety of the student or others requires consultation with a school administrator.

Involuntary disclosure of drug/alcohol problem – If a student demonstrates symptoms of possible drug overdose, the situation will be handled as a medical emergency. Parents/guardians will be notified. If drug use is confirmed, the police will be notified. The student and his/her family will be referred to a community-based agency with services for drug and alcohol education, prevention, and treatment.

The same procedures will be followed if a student is caught in possession of drugs/alcohol, using drugs/alcohol, or in possession of any type of paraphernalia normally associated with the use of drugs/alcohol. Any physical evidence must be turned over to the building administrator and law enforcement agency immediately.

Consequences Drug and Alcohol use and/or Abuse: The student may be referred to the Superintendent for possible expulsion or other appropriate action.

Violation: The student will receive five (5) to ten (10) days of suspension, to be determined by the school principal. The student may receive in-school counseling upon return.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment.

No student, employee or school volunteer may harass a student, employee or school volunteer through conduct or communication of a sexual manner.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal or physical. This includes insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct. Threats are not allowed and neither is anything that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or educational environment.

Sexual harassment will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any person who believes he/she has been a victim of sexual harassment is encouraged to report such complaints to the principal. Complaints will be investigated promptly and corrective action will be taken when allegations are verified. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution, he/she may file an appeal with the Superintendent. Confidentiality will be maintained and no retaliation will be allowed to occur as a result of the complaint.

Suicide Prevention

Any student may seek assistance for himself/herself or a friend through any staff member. When a student makes a statement of suicidal thinking, or when it appears that a suicide attempt is possible, staff members are required to report this information to the guidance counselor or school psychologist or building principal and/or designee who will, in turn, notify the student's family and appropriate resource services. As a precaution, students will be closely supervised and students will be released only to the parents, guardians, or other responsible adults. If the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the case will be treated as a medical emergency and arrangements will be made to transport the student to a proper medical facility. As a follow up, the school guidance counselor will maintain contact with any outside resources to learn how the school can support the student.

The Student Assistance Team or the Planning and Placement Team will meet if there need to be changes in the student's program. Failure on the part of the family to take seriously and provide for the safety of the student in case of potential suicide will be considered emotional neglect and will be reported to the Department of Children and Families.

**Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School
Student Planning For Success
2023-2024**

During the last school year, I was most proud of my performance in:

During the last school year, I put my efforts in improving:

As I look forward to this school year, I want to:

As I look forward to this school year, I seek to improve my skills in:

As I look forward to this school year, I think I will accomplish:

As I look forward to this school year, I think I will accomplish:

As I look forward to this school year, I think I will accomplish:

As I look forward to this school year, I want to remind myself that I should:

-
-
-
-