

Blue Ridge Elementary School

**Student/Parent
Handbook
2024-2025**



Welcome!

MEET THE ADMIN TEAM

BRES FAMILIES,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year! As your Principal, now entering my full second year, I am thrilled to embark on another journey of learning and growth with our amazing students, families, and staff. It's an honor to be part of this vibrant community where we embrace the principles of the Leader In Me program. Our dedication to the 8 Habits not only guides our daily interaction but also fosters an environment where every student can thrive and develop into confident, capable leaders. Together, let's make this year a remarkable one, filled with opportunities for success, discovery, and leadership. Together We Can Move Mountains. Welcome back!

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

-John F. Kennedy

Mr. Mitchell Reedy Principal



Mrs. Sarah Mossow Assistant Principal

BRES Families,

I am so excited to begin another school year here at Blue Ridge. We have some great things planned for this year and I am looking forward watching our students 'Move Mountains'.



**"Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way!"**

-Dr. Seuss

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WELCOME TO BRES

Dream, Believe, Become, Lead.

Our vision is to encourage dreams, inspire hope, fulfill needs and prepare for success.

At Blue Ridge Elementary School we are committed to educating, nurturing, and challenging our students through:

- a safe, child centered caring environment
- high expectations of students and staff
- meeting individual needs and building meaningful relationships
- the use of data to drive instruction
- systematic, explicit instruction
- dynamic, engaging learning experiences
- positive behavioral support
- administrative support
- a school-community partnership

During the 2024-2025 school year, we look forward to fostering a cooperative and committed relationship with all parents and guardians. Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed. There are countless opportunities to be involved in our school, including PTSO committees and events, volunteering in classrooms, and attending school sponsored events.

We encourage everyone to join our PTSO!

This parent-student handbook contains basic information regarding school policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

We hope you have a fantastic year and look forward to working with you!





LEADER IN ME

FAMILY QUICK GUIDE

WHAT IS LEADER IN ME?

LIM is a whole school improvement model and process that empowers students with leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.



WE BELIEVE THAT...

BRES staff has made five core commitments to your child.

At this school we see that:

- Everyone is a leader
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.
- We empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

BENEFITS

- Each child discovers and develops their unique gifts and talents
- Students become active, engaged partners in their own education
- Children's self confidence, responsibility, and initiative grow
- Students learn to appreciate differences, listen to new ideas, work together, and motivate one another

THE SEVEN HABITS



Habit 1: Be Proactive

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind

Habit 3: Put First Things First

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

Habit 6: Synergize

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

**Habit 8: Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Parents and teachers are a partnership that supports the whole child.

Here are some things you can do to engage with us:

- Add our school to your social media feed.
- Set up regular times to check in with your student about what they enjoy at school or what is a challenge.
- Regularly check Remind messages or other communication from your student's teachers and respond. Ask questions when needed.
- Model a positive attitude about school.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS!

ARRIVAL

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Drop off begins at 7:30am

Drop off ends at 7:55am

In an effort to make our school operate as efficiently and safely as possible, we ask that you drop your child(ren) off and let them walk in on their own. Kindergarten parents will have a staggered entry and may walk their child into the building the first day. If your child is having separation issues, contact your child's teacher at the end of the first week of school.

Drop off will begin at 7:30am.

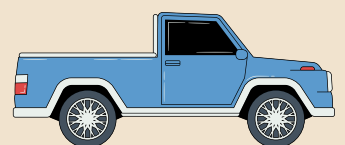
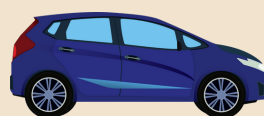
Do not drop students off prior to this time.

All students will report to the cafeteria. At 7:45am students will be released to their classrooms. Students arriving after 7:45am and wishing to participate in breakfast will report to the cafeteria for breakfast options. Others may report directly to their classrooms. School staff will be positioned throughout the building to assist as needed.

The instructional day begins at 8:00am. Any students arriving on campus after 8:00am will need to be signed in at the front desk by a parent/guardian. They will be counted as tardy and given a slip for admittance to class.

Any student not in a classroom at 8:00 will be considered tardy.

In the event of a two hour delay, do not drop students off before 9:30am. Breakfast will still be served on these days.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy 4400: The Ashe County Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance plays a significant role in the academic performance of all students. The following attendance policy is designed to promote optimum student attendance.

The public school laws of North Carolina require compulsory attendance for all children between the ages of seven and sixteen years. (G.S. 115C-378) Every parent, guardian, or other person having charge or control of such as child enrolled in Ashe County Schools by law must cause that child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time when the public school is in session.

The following reasons can be accepted by school personnel as valid excuses for school absences:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school
2. isolation ordered by the local health officer or the State Board of Health or isolation or quarantine that is a required state or local control measure
3. death in the immediate family
4. medical or dental appointment
5. attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action or under subpoena as a witness
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parents or legal guardian
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel, with prior approval from the principal
8. pregnancy and related conditions of parenting, when medically necessary
9. a minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student's parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting
10. any other reason as approved by the board in a board resolution

ATTENDANCE

To excuse an absence: a written note from the parent/guardian should be received within 3 days after the child returns to school

Remind messages will not be accepted for absence notes!

If a student accumulates more than 10 absences (unexcused or excused) with a parent note, a doctor's note will be required for any additional absences.

Per state policy, the school is required to notify the parents after a child misses 3, 6, and 10 absences with a letter send home by mail.

Per ACS policy, the school is required to contact parents if 5 consecutive days are missed or 10 cumulative absences.

Students who are picked up before 11:30am will be counted absent for the entire school day.

TARDIES

Students are considered late if they arrive after 8:00am or if they check out before 3:00pm.

All early check outs are classified as a Tardy in the Infinite Campus system.

Parents must provide a written excuse note within three days for the tardy.

Written excuses will be accepted for up to six unexcused tardies or 10 accumulated tardies-after this a medical excuse will be required.

If a student is chronically absent or tardy, conferences with the teacher, administration, and/or mediation may be required.

If a mediation agreement is not upheld, the parent/guardian will be referred to ACS Student Services Department.

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

Parents wishing to take their student(s) on an educational trip must request prior approval 5 days in advance. ACS policy allows 3 unexcused absences for an educational trip, if the student has less than 8 total absences. Absences from the previous school year may be taken into consideration.

[Click here to go to the Educational Leave Form](#)

The form can also be submitted online on the BRES website. Students will be required to submit an age appropriate summary of the trip.

ATTENDANCE REWARDS

At the end of each quarter, we will celebrate students who have had excellent attendance.

The requirements to attend this reward are:

No more than a combination of 2 excused absences and two excused tardies, or, no more than 1 unexcused absence or tardy.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Each classroom will celebrate birthdays during the last week of each month. If you would like to bring in treats or snack for the class to honor your child's birthday, please make arrangements with the classroom teacher prior to the last week of the month. Cakes and cupcakes for classroom parties must come from commercial sources. (Board Policy #6230)

BRES GOES GREEN

In an effort to be environmentally friendly, Blue Ridge Elementary has implemented a recycling program called "BRES Goes Green." Recycling bins are located throughout the school for plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and paper. We hope our efforts will help eliminate the amount of waste that goes to the landfill.

COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

Blue Ridge wishes to make its facilities available for community use. Policies and procedures are in place and must be followed. Please contact the office for further information and to arrange facilities and times.

BULLYING

Bullying is persistent, repeated, consistent, intentional, and is always about hurt, embarrassment, humiliation, isolation, and causing pain. Anyone can be bullied or harassed. Ashe County Schools, teachers, staff, and administrators care about our students and are committed to providing an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from bullying and harassment. Students, parents, volunteers, visitors, or others are also strongly encouraged to report any actual or suspected incidents of discrimination, harassment or bullying.

Reports may be made anonymously using an online form.

Click here to view the form: [Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident](#)

All reports shall be investigated in accordance with Policy 1710/4021/7230, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Compliant Procedures and reported to one of the school officials identified in that policy.

Click here to view the policy: [ACS Board Policy-Bullying](#)



What is Bullying?

There are several different types of peer conflict that your child may experience during their educational careers. Here we will outline common types and their characteristics.

Mean Moment

- An isolated event (does not happen regularly)
- Someone is being hurt on purpose
- Reaction to a strong feeling or emotion
- Based in anger or impulsivity
- Behavior is often regretted

Examples: Someone calls you a name
Someone pushes you in line
Making fun of someone's looks, clothes or family (once)



Rude

- Happens occasionally
- Spontaneous; unintentional
- Causes hurt feelings
- Based in thoughtlessness or poor manners
- Rude person generally accepts responsibility

Examples:
--Someone steps on your shoe or heel in line
-Interrupting a person who is talking
-Laughing at someone who falls down



Peer Conflict

- Spontaneous and triggered by a noticeable event
- Equal power in relationship
- Both children take responsibility for their part
- Both are upset or feel remorse
- Both want to solve problem and restore relationship
- Usually not long lasting or damaging

Examples:
-You are playing a game at recess and someone accuses another of cheating-an argument follows
-Both you and your friend want to be the first in line-you start pushing, shoving and yelling at each other
-You were picked to be team captain in gym class and now your friend isn't talking to you because they wanted to be captain



Bullying

- Intentional and repeated
- Is planned and done on purpose
- Imbalance of power in relationship
- One child means to harm, hurt, or make other child feel bad about themselves
- Keeps occurring even when the victim tells them to stop
- Can be serious emotional or physical threat
- Types of bullying: verbal, social, cyber, and physical

Examples: Telling someone everyday that they don't have any friends
Leaving someone out every time you go to recess
Creating social media content making fun of someone's looks



CAFETERIA PROGRAM

Students share in the responsibility for good housekeeping and proper conduct while in the cafeteria. It takes everyone working together to make the cafeteria a pleasant place to enjoy meals.

Breakfast will be served from 7:30am-8:00am
Two Hour Delay Breakfast will be from 9:30am-10:00am

We recommend that breakfast and lunches be paid on a weekly basis by cash, check, or online. Please make every effort to pay for your child's meals in a timely manner. Past due balances should be paid by the end of each nine weeks. While charging meals is strongly discouraged, there is a \$10.00 limit on cafeteria charges. Students may not purchase "extras" in the cafeteria if they have an outstanding balance.

Meal prices are established by the ACBOE and are as follows:

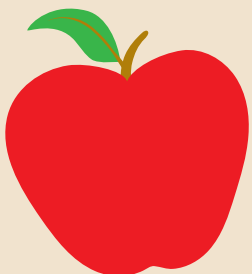
Student Breakfast and Lunch: Free

Adult Lunch: \$5.00

Adult Breakfast: A La Carte

If you have questions concerning your child's bill or status in the cafeteria, please contact the cafeteria manager at 336-384-4511. We will send letters and phone reminders if your child has a negative lunch balance on a periodic basis. Additionally, ACS has implemented an online payment platform to help make managing lunch accounts easier and convenient. It is easy to set up and has an online and mobile app.

Click here to sign up: [Online Payment System](#)



CELL PHONES & PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

We live in an age of technology and many students have ready access to personal electronic devices. Per ACS board policy, students are prohibited from use of such devices during school hours. **Cell phones are permitted as long as they are powered off. This means “OFF”, not silenced or on vibrate, and the cell phone is in their book bag (not in their pocket).**

ACS Board Policy 10200-Except as permitted by this policy or otherwise authorized, no student shall, during regular school hours or while participating in school sponsored curricular functions, turn on or use a personal electronic device. The ACSBOE recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students in our schools are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Only those items necessary for the school day should be utilized during regular school hours. Students' personal items such as iPads, hand held video games, music players, cell phones, etc. should be left at home. If personal property is brought to school, it should be in the students bookbag, and turned off.

The school will not be responsible for damaged, stolen, or lost property.

STUDENT ITEMS

Water Bottles—Students may bring a personal refillable water bottle daily. It should contain clear water only. Sports drinks, juice, sodas, or other colored beverages are not permitted at school or on the school bus.

Prohibited Items: Toys, Blankets, Pillows, Stuffed Animals, Trinkets, Oversized Blanket Hoodies, Costume Parts (ex. ears, tails, etc.)

PICTURE TAKING/ VIDEO RECORDING

Students **may not** take pictures, videos or recordings of other students or faculty unless supervised by a faculty/staff member for instructional purposes. This also **applies to buses and all school activities, including field trips.**



SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage parents/guardians to monitor your child's personal social media site(s). The information on these sites is the responsibility of the student/parents, however, if it causes a disruption to the school day, administration may issue discipline.

CODE OF ETHICS EDUCATORS

Blue Ridge Elementary School expects its faculty and staff to meet the standards of professional conduct as set forth by the State Board of Education. Educators will be committed to our students and community, the school, the school system, and profession. Our faculty and staff will maintain respect and confidence of all stakeholders, and serve as an appropriate role model for students, parents, and the community. We are committed to teaching and learning, accountability, maintaining professional growth, using professional judgement, and exemplifying integrity.

CODE OF ETHICS STUDENTS

ACS has developed a Code of Conduct related to student behavior. Parents are asked to review its contents and discuss these expectations with their children. All parents will be required to sign an acknowledgement that this information has been provided to them.

Students should conduct themselves in a kind and courteous manner in all interactions with teachers and other students.

1. The use of cell phones during school hours, including bus rides, is not allowed. Cell phones will be confiscated. Administration will return the phone to the parent/guardian
2. Students are not to bring excessive amounts of money to school
3. Students may not buy, sell, or trade items at school
4. Damage to school property must be repaired or replaced at the expense of the offender
5. Chewing gum is not allowed at school or on the bus
6. Toys, games, stuffed animals, blankets, electronics, etc., are not permitted in school or on the bus

Administration has flexibility in utilizing various consequences for reinforcement of school expectations violations and includes, but is not limited to conferencing, time out, lunch detention, after school detention, In School Suspension, and Out of School Suspension

CUSTODY ISSUES

To comply with state law, all parents/guardians of students with custody restrictions shall provide an official court file (paper copy) detailing custodial actions to the school office.

DELIVERIES AND INVITATIONS

Students **may not** receive gifts, flowers, or deliveries at school. Invitations to social events and celebrations outside the school environment must be delivered outside the school. Confidentiality laws prohibit schools from providing names, addresses, and phone numbers of other students to parents.

PTSO

The Blue Ridge PTSO (Parents, Teachers, Students Organization) actively supports the school through fundraising, volunteering, and by sponsoring special events. All parents are encouraged to join BRES PTSO.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

Parents and visitors are always welcomed in our school. However, in order to comply with NC Safe Schools mandates, all persons should report to the front office before entering any part of the school.

Visitors will be required to sign in and wear a visitor badge.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in a manner that does not cause disruption in school and promotes respect. Clothing should be clean, neat, and appropriate for school wear. Clothing or accessories that are disruptive, potentially injurious, or that creates a question regarding a student's health and safety will not be allowed. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to change the clothing or accessories in question. If a student has been sent to the office because of a dress code infraction, instruction time is interrupted for the student, the teacher, and other students in the class. Furthermore, more time is lost for the student if the administration determines that the clothing must be changed and the student must wait for the parent to bring the change of clothing.

School administrators have the authority and the responsibility to determine what clothing or accessories are disruptive to the school environment or injurious to a student's health and safety. Cooperation among school personnel, parents/guardians, and students is essential in the implementation and enforcement of school regulations, including this dress code. Decisions regarding a student's clothing or accessories will be made in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. Headgear

- No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building, except for those worn for obvious or established reasons.
- Hats/hoods are not allowed to be worn inside the building

2. Shirts/Blouses/Tops

- Must be secured to the shoulder and worn at all times
- No halter tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps (less than 2"), bralettes, camisoles, or tube tops are allowed
- Tops that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed
- Other tops not appropriate for school include, but are not limited to low cut, see through, backless, or have inappropriate cut outs or slits
- No sleeveless/cutout t-shirts are allowed unless an undershirt that meets dress code guidelines is worn

DRESS CODE CONT.

3. **Shorts/Skirts/ Pants**

- All shorts and skirts must reach mid thigh or the end of the fingertips with arms down at the side
- All tops worn with tight legwear (ex. leggings, tights, jeggings, skinny jeans, yoga pants, etc.) must cover the buttock and pelvic areas. Fabric must not be see through (ex. tights and pantyhose)
- Slits, holes, or tears in shorts/skirts/pants are not permitted above mid thigh or above the length of the fingertips with arms down to the side
- Shorts/skirts/pants must be worn securely around the waist with no bagging or sagging
- The waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be worn at or above the hips with no underwear showing and may not be rolled at the waist
- Belts may not be excessive in length and should not be hanging from either side of the body
- **Pajama** tops or bottoms are not permitted

4. **Footwear**

- Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times
- Bedroom slippers are not allowed

5. **Undergarments**

- Undergarments must never be visible

6. **Words/Symbols**

- No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual implications, gang affiliations, or other illegal activity expressively or implied
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected group

7. **Jewelry/Accessories**

- Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not permitted at school, including but not limited to, spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are connected, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.

DRESS CODE CON'T.

8. Other Inappropriate Dress

- Any student dress/appearance not specifically prohibited in this policy but which school administration deems disruptive to the learning process will not be allowed
- To ensure student health and safety, school administrators may adopt and implement additional dress and appearance regulations for certain curriculum areas such as science labs, vocational classes, and JROTC

9. Exceptions

- Exceptions to this policy may be made by school administrators on an individual basis for a bona fide religious, medical, or other appropriate reason.
- Schools may designate special dress days at the direction of the principal

10. School Sponsored Trips and Events

- This policy applies to all school sponsored trips and events
- Any deviation from the policy will be discussed by the advisor and the principal

11. School Dress Code Discipline

- Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance
- Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity will be consistent with Section D of Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies
- The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code

FIELD TRIPS

A field trip that coordinates with a curriculum area may be scheduled for your child's class during the school year.

Each child who participates in a **out of county** field trip must have a written permission form for each trip.

An **in county** field trip permission form will be signed at the beginning of each school year to cover all trips within Ashe County.

Refunds will not be given for field trips
Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with administration.

If a student has behavior issues (has been assigned more than 5 days of after school detention, In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension) within a school semester, then they have forfeited their right to attend the field trip.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

We believe that strong communication is vital to student success. In order to protect teaching and learning, we ask that appointments with classroom teachers be made in advance and occur prior to 8:00am or after 3:00pm.

During the school day, classroom interruptions will be limited to emergencies only. Messages for teachers will be forwarded to them daily via voicemail. Each classroom teacher will have a Remind account that parents will be able to access for information throughout the school year. Parents/Guardians also have the option of gaining access to the "Parent Portal" through Infinite Campus. This provides information on attendance, grades, and assignment descriptions. Please contact BRES data manager to sign a form and obtain a password for the "Parent Portal."

ACCELERATED READER

Students will check out books from the Media Center based on their Accelerated Reader (AR) level.

These books should be read nightly for homework.

Students will take AR Quizzes when they complete a book. These quizzes earn them points toward their AR Goal.

Goals will be set each quarter, based on student performance on the STAR test.

At the end of each quarter, the students who reach their AR points goal AND accuracy goal will earn a reward.

BEHAVIOR REWARDS

K-2

Students who lose “Fun Friday” time more than 2 times during a quarter will not be eligible to attend the quarterly Behavior Reward.

3-6

In order to be eligible for the quarterly Behavior Reward, students must not have received more than 2 Minor Consequences (phone call home, warning, Lunch Detention, classroom consequence) or more than 1 After School Detention.

MEDICAL INFORMATION



Lice

Children found with live head lice should remain in class, but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others. The school nurse will contact the parents to discuss treatment. Students with nits only should not be excluded from school, although further monitoring for signs of reinfestation is appropriate.

In some cases, over the counter treatments fail to eliminate live lice. Your child's physician may then order a prescription for the treatment of head lice.

Medication



School personnel can administer prescribed medications only. Students who need to take medication must have the appropriate form signed by the physician and parent before the medication can be brought to school and administered. Medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian and **cannot be brought to school by the student or on the school bus**. Forms are available from teachers, the front office, or the school nurse.

Sickness/Accidents/Emergencies

If your child becomes ill or is injured at school we will contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information you provided. It is important to fill out the forms completely with as much information as possible so that we can contact you if needed, or in rare cases, must take a child to the hospital. Should this information change throughout the year, please speak to the data manager to make updates.

Please remember that we will not keep children at school who are ill.



DISMISSAL

Parents using the afternoon car line for student pick up are asked to not arrive on campus before 2:10pm

In order to ensure the safety of all students, parents are to remain in their vehicles at all times. Buses will begin loading at 3:00pm and will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Car riders will be dismissed as soon as the buses pull out of the parking lot. We ask that you wait until the buses have dismissed to pull to the designated pickup area so as to not block the route for exiting buses.

Parents/guardians will be given signs to place in windshields to help teachers on car duty keep the line moving. **Student signs must stay in car windshields until students are picked up.** See the receptionist if additional tags are needed.

Students not picked up by 3:25pm will have their parents/guardians contacted. In cases where no one can be reached, DSS will be contacted.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

All children must be signed out in the main office.

The following procedures are designed to ensure the safety of children who are released during the day.

1. Written parental permission should be sent to the teacher stating the requested time of release. **If any other person other than the parent or guardian is to pick up the child, the school must have a written statement from the parent specifying the necessary information.**
2. If a student needs to be dismissed early for medical or emergency reasons, the parent or guardian must come to the office and sign out the child. Please bring appointment cards when coming early to check out students for a medical/dental appointment. Whenever possible, please try to schedule appointments after school hours.
3. Please complete the **Inclement Weather** form and return to school promptly. Make sure that your child is aware of their Inclement Weather plan, which may be different than their regular routine.
4. Students will be expected to follow their regular routine unless they have written parental permission in advance or the parent has advised the office of any changes.

REPORT CARDS

Communication between home and school is essential for student success. Formal communication between home and school will occur four times per year in the form of a report card.

In K-2, report cards will use letters to identify levels of mastery, while in grades 3-6, a numeric grade will be used.

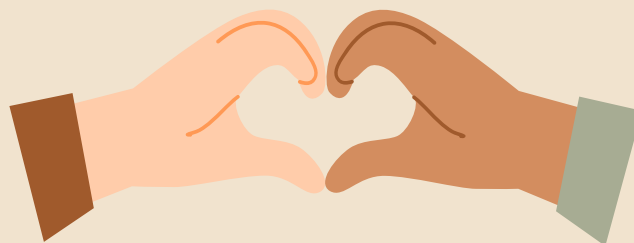
10 Point Grade Scale

The ACSBOE approved a 10-point grading scale. The current grading scale is as follows for grades 3-12:

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59

SUPPORT SERVICES

Our school is fortunate to have personnel to serve our students. Our school counselor is available to help students achieve their highest potential mentally, emotionally, socially, and academically. We also have a school nurse who is able to help with specific needs. Speech therapy and other services are available. You are encouraged to contact the school regarding these services at any time.



SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

Earthquake Drill: BRES students will **Drop, Cover, and Hold On**: **Drop** to the ground, take **Cover** under a table or desk, and **Hold On** to it as if a major earthquake were happening. Students will stay down for at least 60 seconds. At the end of the drill, but before getting up, the students should look around and imagine what would happen in a major earthquake. They are to think about what could fall on them or others.



Fire Drills: School officials are required to conduct fire drills at least once each month during the school year. Students are required to follow this procedure when the bell sounds to signal a fire drill:

1. Move quickly from the building to the area designated by the teacher
2. Do not run, but walk rapidly from the building
3. Absolutely no talking during a fire drill
4. Do not take books or other belongings
5. The exit to use from each classroom is posted in each room
6. The teacher must have an alternate exit if the one designated is blocked during the drill for any reason
7. Discuss building evacuations and safety procedures with each class during the first week of school



Tornado Drills: Tornado drills must be practiced at least once a year. This usually occurs during tornado season. Students should follow this procedure when the solid blast signal sounds to signal a tornado drill:

1. Move quickly from the classroom to the hallway
2. Do not run
3. Absolutely no talking during a tornado drill
4. Do not take books
5. Assume the tornado position as requested by your teacher



SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

Lockdown Drills: Lockdown drills are designed to keep students from being injured in case of an emergency. During these drills, a teacher should take all precautions to keep the room calm and keep students away from doors and windows. The students should follow this procedure in the case of a lockdown:

1. Remain calm
2. Follow any instructions that the teacher gives to the class
3. Stay away from doors and windows
4. Keep on task, unless the teacher tells you differently



Firearms: Weapons and Explosives Prohibited (Policy Code 5027/7275)

The Ashe County Board of Education is committed to providing a safe school environment that is free from violence, to maximum extent possible. Employees, students, visitors, and other persons are prohibited from possessing, carrying, using, or threatening to use, or encouraging another person to possess, carry, use, or threaten to use weapons or explosives on school property while attending curricular or extracurricular activities sponsored by the school system. This policy applies to weapons or explosives carried openly or concealed. Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to immediate termination. Any visitor or other person who violates this policy will be escorted from the premises and/or school activity immediately. The superintendent or principal shall immediately report any violation of this policy to law enforcement officials. Any employee who is aware that a weapon or explosive is present on school property or at a school event in violation of this policy must immediately report this information to the principal or designee or the school resource officer as appropriate. Students who violate this policy are subject to discipline as provided in **Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety**.

Weapons and Explosives Defined: For purposes of this policy, a weapon includes, but is not limited to, any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind; any BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razorblades (except solely for personal shaving), or fireworks; and any sharp pointed or edged instrument, except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, clips, and tools used solely for the preparation of food, instruction, or maintenance on educational property. For purposes of this policy, an explosive includes, but is not limited to, any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive as defined in **G.S. 14-284.1**.

SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

School Property: For purposes of this policy, school property is any school building, or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by the Board of Education.

Exclusions: This policy does not apply to: 1. a weapon or explosive used solely for educational or school sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in school approved program conducted under the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by a school authority; 2. a handgun in a closed compartment or container within the person's locked vehicle or in a locked container securely affixed to the person's vehicle if the person has a concealed handgun permit valid under state law or is exempted by state law from needing a permit to carry a concealed handgun (the person may unlock the vehicle to enter or exit the vehicle provided the handgun remains in the closed compartment at all times and the vehicle is locked immediately following entrance or exit); 3. firefighters, emergency personnel, North Carolina Forest Service personnel, and any private police employed by the Board of Education, when acting in the discharge of their official duties; 4. law enforcement officers or other persons as provided in **G.S. 14-269.2(g)(1a)**; or 5. a volunteer school safety resource officer providing security to the school pursuant to an agreement as provided in **G.S. 115C-47(61)**, provided that the volunteer school safety resource officer is acting in the discharge of his or her official duties and is in the educational property of the school that the officer was assigned to by the head of the local law enforcement agency. Legal References: G.S. 14-69.2, -269, -269.2, -284.1, 20-17, 115C-47(61), -288(g)

TOBACCO/VAPORIZER FREE SCHOOL

Ashe County Board of Education recognizes that it has a legal obligation pursuant to Title I of Public Law 103-227 to provide schools that are tobacco free and thus promote a healthy learning and working environment. Per ACS Board Policy e-cigarettes/vapes are considered a tobacco product. Vaping is not permitted on school grounds, including school buses. Any student in possession of a vape or electronic smoking device will be referred to administration. The vape will be confiscated and destroyed. Any student in possession of or attempting to distribute or conceal a vape will be subject to suspension at the discretion of school administration. Accordingly, the Board of Education enacted the following regulations:

*Students may not possess, display, or use any tobacco product at any time on school premises, including school vehicles, or while participating in school sponsored events. **No student, employee, or visitor shall be permitted under an circumstance to use tobacco products in any facility or grounds owned, leased, or contracted for by the Ashe County Schools.** For the purposes of this policy, the term “tobacco product” means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine. Tobacco is defined to include cigarettes, chewing, dipping, vapors, e-cigarettes or any other use of tobacco products.*

TRANSPORTATION

Safety is our number one concern when it comes to transportation.

We also want to keep student transportation consistent day to day.

Beginning this school year, any transportation changes that involve bus to bus change will be made through the Transportation Department.

The only changes that will be made are permanent, long term changes.

If a permanent, long term bus change is needed:

1. Notify the school bus supervisor in writing by completing the **Transportation Change Request Form**—this can be printed from the BRES website and sent to school with your child or you can visit the front office to complete the form
2. The bus supervisor will communicate the request to the **Transportation Department**.
3. There will be a 3 day turnaround time for the change to be made, to check capacity, add the stop to the software, etc.
4. The **Transportation Department** will approve/deny the request and provide the information to the bus supervisor
5. The bus supervisor will contact the parent/guardian with the new bus information

If you have a shared custody arrangement, or other situation that would require your child to ride a different bus on a regular schedule, please let the bus supervisor know.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus drivers will work closely with the school bus supervisor to foster and develop a positive student climate when riding a school bus. All students who ride a school bus will be assigned a seat by the school bus driver. Seat assignments will be completed by the second full week of school and shared with the school bus supervisor.

Consequences for not meeting bus expectations can result in a student losing their privilege to ride. Parents, please stress the importance of proper bus behavior with your child. Remember, bus riding is a privilege. Bus drivers will be proactive in managing student behaviors and will utilize written communication of behaviors with administration and parents.

At the beginning of the year, administration and your child's teacher will review and/or practice the bus expectations. If your student does not follow expectations, there will be consequences.

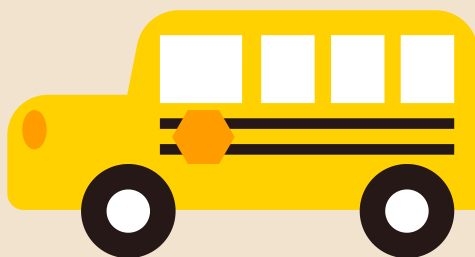
There are two kinds of bus discipline – minor and major.

The administration has the final say in whether an infraction is minor or major.

Minor: eating on the bus, yelling, horseplay, being out of assigned seat, electronics, etc.

Major: weapons, controlled substances, tobacco, fighting, physical intimacy, safety equipment, vulgar/threatening/aggressive language, indecent exposure, etc.

See ACS Board Policy 4300 for Student Behavior Policies.



Continue reading for the list of expectations and potential consequences.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

Category 1 Infractions

1. **Bus Assignment**—Students may only ride the bus they are assigned to and get off at their assigned stop
2. **Bus Stop Behaviors**—Be on time at the designated bus stop. Stand a safe distance from the road and wait for the bus to stop completely to board
3. **Boarding and Unloading**—Students should board the bus in an orderly manner with no pushing, shoving, or breaking in front of another student
4. **Driver Instructions**—Instructions from the driver are to be followed the **first time they are given**
5. **Electronic Devices**—Cell phones or other devices are **not** permitted at any time on the school bus. If a student refuses to comply with the driver's request to put the device away, it will be taken by the driver and turned into administration
6. **Food/Drink**—Only water, in a spill proof bottle, is allowed on the bus
7. **Hands and Feet**—Keep hands and feet inside of the bus at all times and out of the aisle. Keep your body and belongings to yourself—do not provoke or engage in aggressive behavior, fighting, or horseplay
8. **Homework**—Books are the only school materials that may be out while on the bus
9. **Language**—Use polite language and speak softly. Do not use vulgar, profane, aggressive, or threatening language
10. **Personal Items**—Should remain in student's bags. Anything not authorized to be transported will be taken by the driver and given to administration
11. **Seat**—Students should stay in their assigned seat, facing forward with their feet on the floor while the bus is in motion



BUS EXPECTATIONS

Category 2 Infractions

1. **Bus privileges**—No student shall ride any bus if they have been suspended
2. **Controlled Substances**—No student shall possess or be under the influence of any illicit drugs on a bus or bus parking area
3. **Fighting**—No student rider shall provoke or engage in a fight or cause personal injury or discomfort to another
4. **Gross Disrespect**—No student shall disrespect another student or driver by use of vulgar or profane language, indecent exposure, etc.
5. **Physical Intimacy**—No student shall engage in any type of intimate contact with another student
6. **Safety Equipment**—No student shall tamper with emergency exits, bus equipment or deface a bus in any manner
7. **Tobacco/Vaping**—The use of any tobacco product or vaporizer on a bus is prohibited
8. **Weapons**—Refer to ACSBOE Policy 4330
9. **Willful Disobedience**—No student shall willfully comply with any request by school personnel or the driver regarding safety on the bus

Consequences

- 1st Infraction Bus Driver Warning
- 2nd Infraction Administrative Conference and parent contact
- 3rd Infraction referral to principal, parent contact, possible intervention strategies
- 4th Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 3–5 days (administrative discretion)
- 5th Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 5–10 days (administrative discretion)*
- 6th Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 10–15 days (administrative discretion)
- 7th Infraction Permanent suspension of bus riding privileges for the current school year.

*Consequences for Category 2 Infractions begin at the 5th Infraction step.

Administration has the right to suspend bus ridership for serious offenses at any time.

TECHNOLOGY VIOLATIONS

The activities below are examples of violations and hazards that could result in disciplinary or legal action.

Sending, receiving, displaying or accessing defamatory, offensive, profane, sexually oriented, racially offensive or illegal materials.	Invading the privacy of individuals or using others' passwords
Using obscene language	Trespassing in others' folders, work, or files
Sharing personal information on websites (full name, address, phone number, identifiable photos) without permission from a teacher, parent, or guardian	Intentionally wasting limited network resources (streaming content without permission
Harassing, insulting or attacking others	Employing the network for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud
Unauthorized access, damaging or modifying computers, computer systems or computer networks	Attempting to access websites blocked by district policy, including the use of proxy services, software or websites
Violating copyright laws	The use of keylogging devices/software is prohibited



COMMON INFRACTIONS

Consequences for violation of the Student Code of Conduct range from Working Lunch to Out of School Suspension, depending on severity.

Student Disruptions—No student shall by use of passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence, or any other form of conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful function, or process of the school, nor shall any student urge any other student to engage in such conduct.

The use of electronic technologies to the instigation of any disruption at school will be dealt with according to the discretion of the principal and/or law enforcement.

Verbal Abuse/Disrespect—Verbal or written action that prevents an orderly and peaceful learning environment is prohibited. Student must respect each other and respond to verbal and written directions given by **all** school personnel. Cursing or using vulgar remarks is specifically prohibited.

Physical Contact—Students are to show respect for one another and **NOT** engage in any type of antagonistic physical contact. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force **ONLY** to an extent to free themselves from the attack and notify school authorities. A student who exceeds this reasonable force may be disciplined even though they may not have provoked the fight. Administration will determine the aggressor and administer appropriate consequences.

SCHOOL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Minor Infractions

Classroom Disruption – Disturbing or distracting from the normal instructional process will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to interrupting the class, provoking other students, or talking excessively.

Public Display of Affection – Inappropriate public displays of affection are not allowed. Examples are, but not limited to, kissing, holding hands, hugging, or any inappropriate touching, gestures, etc. This includes all school grounds, such as the football field, bus loading areas, field trips, etc.

Excessive Physical Contact – Students should avoid all unnecessary physical contact, hugging, horseplaying, and/or roughhousing. Students should know it is best to keep your hands to yourself.

Failure to follow a set routine – Students shall comply with all directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers, and any other school personnel during any period of the school day, including, but not limited to, homework assignments, testing instructions, etc.

Food or Drink – No food or drink is allowed in the classroom without the direct supervision of the classroom teacher. Vending machines are off limits until after school hours. Energy drinks or any type of Power Shots are not allowed at any time. Clear water in a bottle/container is the only exception to this rule.

Significant disruption – Students shall not cause disruption in the learning environment or encourage others to do the same.

Profanity – Students shall not use insulting, abusive, profane, or obscene words, signs, or gestures at any time.

Showing or exhibiting disrespect for others – Students are expected to show respect to other students, faculty, and staff at all times.

Unexcused Tardiness – Students should learn the importance of being prompt upon arrival to school and being punctual to attend classes.

Violation of dress code – Because there is a direct correlation between dress, attitude, and achievement in school, Blue Ridge Elementary requires a student to dress in a manner that does not distract or disrupt the attention of the students from the instructional program. The violators will be asked to change clothes before reporting back to class. A student may need to call home for more appropriate clothing to be brought to school. (See Dress Code for a full explanation.)

SCHOOL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Major Infractions

All Class II Infractions will be dealt with by the administration. If deemed appropriate, referrals will be made to the Ashe County Sheriff's Department.

Cheating or Plagiarism – Students shall not cheat on tests or exams, copy the work of another student or person, assist a student in copying or cheating from his or her work or test, nor complete in a dishonest manner any type of academic assignment.

Cutting class and/or leaving school without permission – Students shall be on campus and in their assigned classes unless they have been authorized to be elsewhere by faculty or staff.

Damage to school property – No student will attempt to damage or deface any school property or contents of the same.

Disrespect to faculty/staff – Students shall not cause or attempt to cause any (written, oral, or signed) threat to any school employee. Likewise, any threat of physical or bodily injury to principals, assistant principals, teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers, and other school personnel or visitors will be severely punished.

Falsification – No student shall falsify information presented to school personnel. This includes written statements or the creation of an untruth.

Fighting/Assault – No student will intentionally cause bodily harm to another student by means including, but not limited to, fighting, hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.

Bullying, harassing, or threatening another student – Students shall not harass, threaten, or relay threatening or harassing remarks to any other student. This also includes social media outlets that place a student in danger. This type of behavior will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate bus behavior – Students should not engage in any type of behavior that interferes with the safe operation of the school bus. Riding the bus is a privilege and should be treated as such. A student may be removed from a bus for the remainder of the current school year.

Inappropriate items – Students are not to bring to school items that are disruptive to the instructional day. Items include but are not limited to, squirt guns, water balloons, toys, trading or collectible cards of any type, etc. Electronics are only allowed after school. If they are seen during the school day, they will be taken and discipline procedures will be followed. Lost or stolen items are not ACMS' responsibility.

SCHOOL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Major Infractions

Insubordination (Non-compliance with directions) – Students shall comply with all lawful directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers, and any other authorized school personnel during any time in which they are subject to school authority.

Sexual harassment – Students shall not direct sexual advances or other inappropriate oral, written, or physical contact of a sexual nature with another student. All students must have the privilege of being allowed to learn in an environment free of such inappropriate conduct.

Stealing – Students should respect not only school property but also the personal property of others. Students shall not steal, rob, or attempt to destroy or destroy any property or belongings of others.

Tobacco – According to the Ashe County Board of Education Policy, students shall not possess or use any tobacco products at school, on the school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. Per Ashe County Board Policy, this includes e-cigarettes/vapes, which are considered a tobacco product. Students will be asked to forfeit tobacco products in their possession, and all products will be disposed of properly.

Vandalism – The defacing of buildings, buses, cars, walkways, bathrooms, etc. and/or the destruction of public or private property will not be tolerated.

SCHOOL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Severe Infractions

Blue Ridge Elementary will follow the Ashe County Board of Education policy in administering discipline for behaviors that fall into the Class III category. The Ashe County Sheriff's Department will assist in certain situations.

Alcohol and other Illegal Substances - Students shall not possess, use, sell, deliver, or distribute marijuana, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, prescription medicines, counterfeit forms of an illegal substance, alcoholic beverage, or any other unauthorized or illegal substance or drug paraphernalia. The Ashe County Board of Education Policy will be followed in all instances.

Arson/Fireworks - Starting a fire or attempting to start a fire on school property is prohibited. No student shall have an exploding firecracker or any material making a loud noise inside a building or on the school grounds or discharging of the same.

Trespassing - Any persons not enrolled in school without authorized permission to be on the campus shall be instructed to leave the campus by authorized personnel.

False Fire Alarms - Students shall not activate any fire alarm unless authorized to do so by school employees or unless there are reasonable grounds for the student to believe an actual emergency exists.

Blue Ridge Elementary will follow the Ashe County Board of Education policy in administering discipline for behaviors that fall into the Class IV category. The Ashe County Sheriff's Department will assist in certain situations. Suspensions are REQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW for Level IV Infractions.

Bomb Threats - At no time shall students communicate a false report concerning a bomb or any other explosive device.

Weapons - Students shall not possess or conceal any weapon or instrument that could cause bodily harm or be used to threaten bodily injury, such as, but not limited to, guns, knives, etc. The possession of weapons will be reported to the Ashe County Sheriff's Department; expulsion may occur.

The administration reserves the right to deal with these and other offenses as stated in Ashe County Board Policy with actions and consequences deemed appropriate in order to provide a safe and orderly environment.

BRES BEHAVIOR PLAN

K-2

Grades K-2 will use a clip chart to monitor each individual's behavior.

If a student demonstrates EXPECTED Leader in Me behaviors (LIM) his/her clip will remain at "Base Camp".

If a student demonstrates behavior that EXCEEDS LIM behaviors their clip will move up the chart.

If a student demonstrates a behavior that violates our Code of Conduct they will move their clip down the chart.

Students can move up and down the chart throughout the day.

Students in grades K-2 will earn "Fun Friday" time each week, based on behavior. For each grade level's requirements for "Fun Friday", please contact your child's teacher.

Students who lose "Fun Friday" time more than 2 times during a quarter will not be eligible to attend the quarterly Behavior Reward.

Teachers will document student behavior's in Educator's Handbook. If the issue is handled in the classroom, the teacher will contact the parent via phone call or Remind message. These incidents would be minor offenses, such as class disruption, non compliance, etc.

If the student's behavior warrants administrative intervention, the behavior will be documented in Educator's Handbook and the parent will be contact by administration via phone call.

BRES BEHAVIOR PLAN

3-6

Teachers will document student behavior's in Educator's Handbook. If the issue is handled in the classroom, the teacher will contact the parent via phone call or Remind message. These incidents would be minor offenses, such as class disruption, non compliance, etc.

If the student's behavior warrants administrative intervention, the behavior will be documented in Educator's Handbook and the parent will be contact by administration via phone call.

Students in Grades 3-6 will have behavior tracked in the classroom by the teacher. If a behavior is continuous or occurs frequently, the student will be referred to administration.

This year, we will be implementing Lunch Detention/Working Lunch and After School Detention for students in grade 3-6. These consequences will be assigned by administration based on the student's behavior/offense. Depending on the offense, student's will also be required to complete an assignment pertaining to the infraction. Other consequences/steps that may be taken are parent meetings, loss of privileges, behavior agreements, etc.

After School Detention will take place from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesday and Thursday. Parents are responsible for transportation.

In order to be eligible for the quarterly Behavior Reward, students must not have received more than 2 Minor Consequences (phone call home, warning, Lunch Detention, classroom consequence) or more than 1 After School Detention.

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

Daily reading helps children become better readers!

- Before reading a book, do some fun research about the topics being presented. For example, if your child is reading a book about the rainforest, use the Internet to find video clips and pictures about the rainforest. These images will help your child understand more about the topic as he or she reads.
- As your child reads, encourage him or her to predict what will happen next in the story or book. Stop after a few pages and talk about what you and your child think might happen next. Then keep reading to find out if your predictions were correct.
- After finishing a book, have your child create a new ending. Allow him or her to either write or draw the new ending and share it with the family.
- Rereading is a great way to build vocabulary and fluency. Encourage your child to reread his or her favorite books, poems, and magazine articles.
- Encourage your child to read lots of different types of texts such as magazines, books, newspapers, songs, poems, and comics. Even reading road signs and directions while on a family trip encourages a love for reading!
- Read to your child! Children of all ages enjoy being read to, and everyone enjoys listening to a good story. Stop occasionally to talk about the characters and what is happening in the book.
- Establish a daily reading routine. Before going to bed, have your child reading for 15 to 30 minutes. Let your child decide whether he or she wants to read silently, read to you, or listen as another reads.
- Along with a reading routine, establish a homework or study routine. Provide a quiet workspace for your child with all supplies needed. Show your child that positive habits are valued.

