



B R E S

2018-2019
Student Handbook

BLUE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Warrensville, NC 28693

Phone: 336-384-4500 Fax: 336-384-4512

2018-2019

School Administration

Phyllis Yates, Superintendent

Callie Grubb, Principal

Earl Pennington, Assistant Principal

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Cindy Lewis, Data Manager

June Neaves, Counselor

Welcome

Welcome to Blue Ridge Elementary! We are a newly designated Leader in Me Lighthouse School that has a vision to encourage dreams, inspire hope, fulfill needs, and prepare for success. Our motto is "Dream. Believe. Become. Lead.". During the 2018-2019 school year, we look forward to a cooperative and committed home-school relationship. Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed. There are countless opportunities to be involved in our school including PTSO committees and events, volunteering in classrooms, attending school sponsored events and supporting your child's learning. This parent-student handbook contains basic information about school policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office. Again, we welcome you and your child to BRES!!

The
Leader in Me™

great happens here

Arrival

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. However, on the first day you may walk your child to the classroom. Kindergarten parents may walk their child into the building the first two weeks of school. If your child is having separation issues, please see the school counselor at the end of the first week of school.

Doors in the school will open at 7:25 am. Do not drop off students prior to this time. All students arriving to Blue Ridge between 7:25 am and 7:45 am will have the opportunity to participate in our Free Universal Breakfast. Those students wanting a hot breakfast item will report to the cafeteria and those that prefer a dry item such as breakfast bars, pop tarts, trail mix or dry cereal will report to the gymnasium. At 7:45 am students will be released to their classroom. Students arriving after 7:45 am and wishing to participate in breakfast will report to the cafeteria for either breakfast option. Others may report directly to their classrooms. School staff will be positioned throughout the school to assist children as needed.

The instructional day begins at 8:00 am and any students arriving to the classroom after this time will be counted tardy. Students arriving after 8:00 am must report to the office with a parent/guardian to sign-in for the day. In the event of a two-hour delay, do not drop students off before 9:25 am. Breakfast will still be served on these days.

Attendance

Regular attendance enables a child to be more successful in school and develop good habits. A written note from the parent or guardian must document all absences within 3 days after the child returns to school. Ashe County School's attendance policy requires that the school notify parents after a child has missed 5 consecutive school days or 10 cumulative absences. Parents will also be contacted when a child has accumulated 3 unexcused absences. An unexcused absence occurs when a child is absent for an invalid reason or when a parent fails to send a note explaining any absence within 3 days after the child returns to school. Students picked up prior to 11:30 am will be counted absent for the entire school day. Parents wishing to take their children out of school for an educational trip must request prior approval from the principal **two weeks** in advance. Ashe County School's attendance policy will only allow three excused absences for educational trips, if you have less than 7 absences. A student will be recorded as tardy if they arrive to the classroom after 8:00 am or if they check out of school before 3:00 pm. All early outs are classified as a tardy in the North Carolina PowerSchool system. At the end of each nine week grading period, students that have qualified to be an "**Attendance Leader**" will be eligible to attend the nine-week attendance reward activities.

Our "Attendance Leader" Qualifications:

- No Absences

- No unexcused tardies

Students acquiring the following absences or tardies will not be eligible to attend the nine-week attendance reward.

- Students accumulating 1 or more absences in a nine week grading period
- Students accumulating 3 or more excused tardies/early outs
- Students accumulating 1 or more unexcused tardy/early out

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 a 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. Illness or injury
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Medical or dental appointments
4. Court or administrative proceedings
5. Religious observances
6. Educational opportunity
7. Quarantine
8. Special emergencies as determined by the principal.

If a student has accumulated three unexcused absences in a school year, the law requires that the principal/designee notify the parent/guardian of the student's excessive absences from school.

Tardy Procedure

It is a reasonable expectation that in order for learning to occur, each student must arrive to school on time. Students who are excessively tardy fall behind in academic achievement. A student who is continually tardy not only places his/her own learning in jeopardy, but also interrupts the learning of other students. Teachers take roll each morning and students are considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings **OR** if a student leaves before the end of the instructional day. Students will have three school days to provide a written excuse for the tardy. Written excuses will be accepted up to 6 unexcused tardies or 10 accumulated tardies. After 6 unexcused tardies or 10 accumulated tardies, a medical excuse will be required. The following procedures will be followed for frequent and excessive tardiness in Ashe County Schools:

K-6

- After **3 unexcused tardies, 1 unexcused absence** will be assigned to the student. The classroom teacher will contact the parent or guardian of the student to address the tardies and provide possible solutions and educate parents or guardians of possible consequences of continued tardiness.
- After **6 unexcused tardies, an additional unexcused absence** will be assigned to the student. An administrative conference will be scheduled with both the parent/guardian and the student.
- After **9 unexcused tardies, an additional unexcused absence** will be assigned to the student. Both the parent/guardian and the student will be referred to mediation to establish an agreement.
- If the mediation agreement is not upheld, the parent/guardian will be referred to the Ashe County Schools Student Services Department.

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-Nutritional Standards for Food Selection).

BRES goes Green

In an effort to be environmentally friendly, Blue Ridge Elementary has implemented a recycling program called "BRES goes Green". There are recycling bins 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.

Buses

Students who ride a school bus are expected to adhere to the following expectations:

Sit and stay in assigned seat.

Act responsibly and respectfully.

Feet, hands and objects kept to self and inside the bus.

Emergency situations—voices off!

Talk quietly and appropriately to your neighbor.

Your driver is the leader.

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. When students are reported to the office by the driver, the following procedures will be used:

- First Offense- Driver Warning and/or administrative conference.
- Second Offense- Referral to administration, notify parents and discuss future actions.
- Third Offense- Students will be suspended from riding the bus for 3-5 days.
- Fourth Offense- Students will be suspended from riding the bus for 5-10 days.
- Fifth Offense- Students will be suspended from riding the bus the 10-15 days.
- Sixth Offense- Permanent suspension of riding privileges for the present school year.

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

Students should wait at their designated stop in an orderly manner and stand at a safe distance from the roadway.

Students crossing a lane of traffic when loading or unloading the bus are expected to adhere to the new "Driver Hand Signals".



****Any changes made to a student's bus assignment or designated stop must be submitted in writing to the assistant principal for approval.**

****Please include an address and contact number on the bus assignment or stop change request notification.**

Cafeteria Program

Students share in the responsibility for good housekeeping and proper conduct while in the cafeteria as it takes everyone working together to make the cafeteria a pleasant place to enjoy meals. All students are entitled to Free Universal Breakfast as we serve breakfast daily between 7:25 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. When school is on a delayed schedule, breakfast will still be served beginning at 9:25 am. We recommend that lunches be paid on a weekly basis by cash or check. Please make every effort to pay for your child's lunch in a timely manner and that any past due balances are 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 Ashe County Board of Education and are as follows:

Student reduced lunch	\$0.40	Student full-pay lunch	\$2.25	Adult Lunch	\$4.00	Adult Breakfast	\$1.50
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Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child in a designated area but advanced notice is requested. Visiting guests and parents are required to sign in as a visitor in the office and then meet your child in the cafeteria and sit in the designated area. In fairness to all students and in order to comply with the federal competitive food regulations, please do not bring food to your child at school in packaging from outside restaurants. If you choose to bring lunch, please repackage any commercially prepared food in an unmarked container. All foods, including cakes and cupcakes, for classroom parties must come from commercial sources (Board Policy #6230 - Nutritional Standards for Food Selection).

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 Connect 5 reminders if your child has a negative lunch balance on a periodic basis. Additionally, Ashe County Schools 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. See the school for more information or visit www.payschoolcentral.com.

Code of Ethics for 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, 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 judgment and exemplifying integrity.

Code of Ethics for Students

Ashe County Schools 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 kindergarten and new student 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 students and teachers.

1. The use of cell phones during school hours, including bus rides, is not allowed. Cell phones will be confiscated by the principal if seen at school. Administration will return the phone to the parent.
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, electronics, etc. are not permitted without teacher approval.

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, In-School Suspension as well as Out of School suspension.

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 school for further information. Contact Mr. Pennington to arrange times.

Custody Issues

To comply with state law, all parents/guardians of students with custody restrictions shall provide a file 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 environment. Confidentiality laws prohibit schools from providing names, addresses, and phone numbers of other students to parents.

Discipline

Be Respectful and Responsible Each and Every School Day!

Blue Ridge Elementary School is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment that empowers learners with knowledge, confidence and respect for individual differences. In order to achieve this philosophy, we expect all students to make good behavior choices at school. Through our school-wide Leader In Me program, we teach and encourage respectful and responsible behaviors. We will not allow a student to disrupt teaching or prevent other students from learning.

Critical infractions, which could result in suspension, are: stealing, fighting, drug possession, alcohol, vandalism, weapons, use of abusive gestures or verbal/physical bullying, tobacco, physical assault of others, leaving school without permission, false alarms, fireworks, class disruptions and damaging property. Cell phones are permitted only if stored in the student's book bag and turned off. These are only used for before/after school communications.

"Most people say their main fault is a lack of discipline. On deeper thought, I believe this is not the case. The basic problem is that their priorities have not become deeply planted in their hearts and minds."

Stephen Covey

Discipline Management Systems

K-2 Management System

Students in this grade range use a clip chart to monitor each individual student's behaviors. Students begin each day on "Base Camp". If a student demonstrates EXPECTED Leader in Me (LIM) behaviors his/her clip will remain at "Base Camp" for the entire day. A student may

move up the chart to "Trailhead", "Hiking", and ultimately "Summit" for demonstrating behaviors that go above and beyond the expected LIM behaviors. A student moves down the chart to "Stumbled", "Lost Your Compass", and "Wilderness" for displaying behaviors that do not demonstrate LIM expectations. If a student's clip consistently remains below "Base Camp," at the end of the school day a "N" may be recorded and communication (written and/or verbal) to the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be made sharing what LIM characteristic needs improvement. (Parent(s) may refer to the LIM Habits list in the student's folder/binder.) All students are given opportunities to improve behaviors and move back up the chart throughout the school day. Students who have consistently remained at base camp and above for the week will be entitled to participate in a "Fun Friday" activity with their grade. Students who have participated in 15 or more Fun Fridays in a semester, will be invited to participate in a larger reward.

If a student demonstrates exceptional behavior an "E" ticket may be awarded. "E" tickets can be used to "purchase" items from the School Store.

Students that receive an office referral will **not** be invited to participate in the "Fun Friday" activity for that week nor the larger reward at the end of the semester. *

3-6 Management System

Students in this grade range use only the Behavior Communication sheet to monitor each individual student's behaviors. If a student demonstrates EXPECTED Leader in Me (LIM) behaviors for the entire day nothing will be recorded on his/her Behavior Communication Sheet. If a student demonstrates behaviors that go above and beyond the expected LIM behaviors an "E" will be recorded each time on the Behavior Communication Sheet beside the behavior demonstrated. If a student displays a behavior that does not demonstrate LIM expectations a "N" will be recorded each time on the Behavior Communication sheet beside the habit that needs improvement. Behavior Communication sheets that have 2 or less "N" marks for the week will entitle him/her to participate in a "Fun Friday" activity with his/her grade level. "Fun Fridays" will be held every week for a minimum of 15 minutes. If a student receives an "E" mark on their Behavior Communication sheet, they will also receive an "E" ticket. "E" tickets can be used to "purchase" items from the School Store as often as a student would like. Students who have 15 Behavior Communication sheets with 2 or less "N" marks will be invited to participate in a larger reward at the end of the semester.

*Students that receive an office referral will not be invited to participate in the "Fun Friday" activities for that week nor the larger reward at the end of the semester. *

Dismissal

Parents using the afternoon carline for student pick up are asked not to arrive on campus before 2:10 p.m. In order to ensure the safety of all students, parents are to remain in vehicles at all times. Buses will begin loading at 2:55 p.m. and will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Car riders will be dismissed as soon as 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 not to block the route for exiting buses. Bus riders will be dismissed at 3:00 and car riders at 3:05. Parents will be given signs to place in windshields to help teachers on car duty keep the line moving. Students not picked up by 3:25 p.m. will have their parents contacted. In cases where no one can be reached, DSS will be contacted.

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 to be sent to the office because of a dress code infraction, instruction time is interrupted for the student, the teacher, and the 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 a parent to bring the change of clothing. **It is vital that students understand that time out of class will be regarded as unexcused.**

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 (or other legal 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.

K-6

1. Headgear. No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building, except those worn for obvious or established reasons.
2. Shirts/Blouses/Tops. Blouses/shirts/tops must be secured to the shoulder.

- o No halter-tops, strapless tops, or tube tops are allowed. Elementary principals may use discretion when dealing with younger students.
- o Blouses/shirts/tops that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed. Other blouses/shirts not appropriate for school include but are not limited to, low-cut, or see through (top underneath must meet dress code).
- o No sleeveless/cutout t-shirts are allowed unless an undershirt is worn.

3. **Shorts/Skirts/Pants**. All shorts must have a minimum inseam of 3". Dresses/skirts should be no shorter than 3" from the top of the knee cap.

- o All tops worn with tight legwear (i.e. leggings, tights, jeggings, skinny jeans, etc.) must cover the buttock and pelvic areas.
- o Inappropriate slits, holes, or tears are not permitted.
- o Shorts, skirts, or pants must be worn securely around the waist.
- o The waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be worn on or above the hips with no underwear showing.
- o Belts may not be excessive in length and should not be hanging from either side of the body.

4. **Footwear**. Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times.

5. **Undergarments**. Undergarments must be worn and must not be visible while standing or sitting.

6. **Words/Symbols**. No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual implications, gang affiliation, or other illegal activity expressively or implied.

7. **Jewelry/Accessories**. Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not permitted at school, including, but is not limited to, jewelry such as 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.

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 and vocational classes.

9. **Exceptions**. Exceptions to this policy may be made by school administration 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. **Applicability to 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 or his designee.

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions" Stephen Covey

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 an 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 field trips within Ashe County. No refunds will be given on field trips unless deemed by principal.

Leader in Me

The Leader in Me is an innovative, school wide model that emphasizes a culture of student empowerment and helps unleash each child's full potential. Applying The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, teachers and students internalize timeless leadership principles that nurture the skills students need for success in the 21st century.

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 (Frankowski & Bocchini, 2010.) Students with nits only should not be excluded from school (American School Health Association, 2005, Frankowski & Bocchini, 2010, Pollack, Kiszewski & Spielman 2000), although further monitoring for sign of re-infestation 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 cannot be brought to school by the student or on the school bus. Forms are available from teachers, the office, or the school nurse.

Parent/Teacher Communications

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 8:00 am or after 3:00 pm. During the school day, classroom interruptions will be limited to emergencies only. Messages for teachers will be forwarded daily via voice mail.

Parents also have the option of gaining access to the "Parent Portal" in PowerSchool which provides parents and students online access to school information including attendance, grades, and assignment descriptions. Please contact BRES's Data Manager to sign a form and obtain a password.

Personal Property

Only those items necessary for the school day should be utilized during regular school hours. Students' personal items such as iPods, iPads, mp3 players, cell phones, etc. may only be used before 7:45 am and after 3:00 pm unless otherwise directed by BRES staff. The school will not be responsible for stolen or lost personal property.

PTSO

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

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 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 in appointment cards when coming early to check out students for an appointment. Children will remain in their classrooms until notified by office personnel. Whenever possible, please try to schedule dental and doctor appointments after school hours.
3. Please complete the Snow Day form and return to school promptly. Make sure that your child is aware of their snow day plan, which may be different from 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 Ashe County School Board approved a 10-point grading scale. The scale will not be retroactive for past report card grades or the recalculation of GPAs. Students in kindergarten through the second grade do not receive letter grades. That policy will stay the same. 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%

"You always reap what you sow; there is no shortcut."

Stephen Covey

SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

Earth Quake 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, 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. 5. The exit to use from each classroom is posted in the room. 6. The teacher must have an alternate exit if the one designated is blocked during the fire 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.

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 the 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 or 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. A. 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 razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), or fireworks; and any sharp-pointed or - edged instrument, except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, and clips and tools used solely for the preparation of food, instruction, and/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*. **B. 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. **C. EXCLUSIONS** This policy does not apply to: 1. a weapon or explosive used solely for educational or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a school-approved program conducted under the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by the school authority; 2. a handgun in a closed compartment or container within the person's locked vehicle **ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY MANUAL** Policy Code: 5027/7275 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 the entrance or exit); 3. firefighters, emergency service 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 at a 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 on 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)* **Cross References:** Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety (policy 4333) **Adopted:** October 7, 2013 **Amended:** December 1, 2014

Sick Children/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 necessary, or in rare cases, must take a child to the hospital. Should this information change throughout the year, see the data manager to provide us with the most current information. Please remember that we will not keep children at school who are ill.

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.

Tobacco-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. 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 any circumstances to use tobacco products in any facility or grounds owned, leased or contracted for by the Ashe County Schools.** Tobacco is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco use includes smoking, chewing, dipping, vapors, e-cigarettes or any other use of tobacco products.*

Visitors

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. Appropriate reasons for visiting are parent-teacher conferences, special classroom projects, school-sponsored events or eating lunch with your child. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their children after the first week of school. Visiting parents are required to sit at the guest table with their child only.

Withdrawal/Transfer of Students

If you are moving to another school, please inform your child's teacher and the office. All textbooks and library books should be turned in to the teacher and all debts paid. The new school will contact our school and we will forward appropriate information to them at that time.

Title I Compact

Blue Ridge Elementary

**5778 NC Hwy 88 West
Warrensville, NC 28693
(336) 384-4500**

Callie Grubb, Principal

Earl Pennington, Assistant Principal

2018-2019

Under Title One of the 1994 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), participating schools with 50% or more students participating in the free or reduced lunch program can become school-wide Title One programs. As a result, all students will become Title One students and all teachers will become Title One teachers.

Blue Ridge Elementary is a Title One School.

Based upon school needs assessment, the Title One program at Blue Ridge will provide services to students in the area of reading and math. In total, Title One funds pay for 5 teaching positions, along with, staff development and parent involvement activities.

Blue Ridge Elementary School Title One Parent/School Compact

We know that learning can take place only when there is a combination of effort, interest, and motivation. As we are all committed to _____'s progress in school, we are going to do our best to promote his/her achievements.

This agreement is a promise to work together. We believe that this agreement can be fulfilled by our team effort. Together we can improve teaching and learning

As a student I pledge to:

- Work as hard as I can on school assignments.
- Discuss with my parents what I am learning in school.
- Follow school and classroom rules.

- Ask my teacher questions when I don't understand something.
- Read my library book/s weekly.
- Limit my TV watching and read books instead.
- Honor the Seven Habits of Happy Kids
- Model responsible use of technology at school and home at all times.

Student Signature

As a parent I pledge to:

- Provide a quiet student time at home and encourage good student habits.
- Talk with my child about his/her school.
- Reinforce the school and classroom rules.
- Find out how my child is progressing by attending conferences, looking at school work, or calling the school.
- Encourage my child to read by reading to him/her, listening to him/her read, and by reading myself.
- Limit my child's TV viewing and help select worthwhile programs.
- Review the Seven Habits of Happy Kids (see attachment).
- Monitor my child's responsible use of technology at home at all times.

Parent Signature

As a teacher I pledge to:

- Provide motivating and interesting learning experiences in my classroom.
- Explain my expectations and instructional goals to students and parents.
- Explain the school and classroom rules to the student and his/her parents.
- Communicate and cooperate with each parent to ensure the best education possible.
- Find out what techniques and materials work best for the students.
- Instill and model the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Teacher Signature

As administrators we pledge to:

- Create a welcoming environment for students and parents.
- Communicate to students and parents the school's mission and goals.
- Ensure a safe and orderly learning environment.
- Reinforce the partnership between parent, student, and staff.
- Act as the instructional leaders by supporting teachers in their classrooms.
- Provide the appropriate materials, in-service and training for teachers and parents.
- Instill and model the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Callie Grubb

Principal Signature

Earl Pennington

Assistant Principal Signature

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE PROMISE TO HELP EACH OTHER CARRY OUT THIS AGREEMENT FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR.

“What you do has far greater impact than what you say.”
Stephen Covey

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 either to 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 read 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 homework or study routine. Provide a quiet work space for your child with all supplies needed. Show your child that positive work habits are valued.

----- (cut along line and return signed portion to your child's teacher) -----

BRES Student Handbook Parent Signature Page

Please sign stating that you have read over the information in this handbook and have discussed it with your child. Then cut at the dotted line and return to your child's teacher.

Grade Level: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

