

BERKLEY ACCELERATED MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Effective 2021

BAMS

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Follow us on Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/BerkleyAcceleratedMiddleSchool

BAMS is committed to inspiring our students to Believe in Better, to encourage them to aspire to higher learning, and challenge them to achieve their maximum individual potential while providing a supportive and safe educational environment. "Believe in BETTER!"



Berkley Accelerated Middle School - -- Important Items to Know

Character Counts at BAMS! We are BAMily! Be KIND.

Remember to be Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, Caring, and a good Citizen.

BAMS students are expected to:

- show courtesy and respect towards others; use acceptable language at all times, free of name calling, insults or profanity;
- ask staff for help as needed for conflict resolution;
- eat in designated areas only and keep the school clean and free of litter;
- interact with each other safely without pushing or roughness;
- and take care of school grounds, property and equipment.

BAMS students take responsibility for the task of learning. Students are expected to:

- come to school and class on time, prepared to work and study;
- listen, follow directions, participate and cooperate;
- have all necessary school supplies;
- walk in a safe and orderly manner while at school;
- and leave toys, games, gum, laser pens and other items at home that distract from learning.

DRESS CODE

****Students will complete a Mandatory Dress Code Assessment each summer to ensure understanding of the Uniform and Dress Code Requirements. Listing of Acceptable Clothing**

Uniforms do not allow for clothing with colored trim, stripes, embroidery, decoration.

Bottoms: SOLID Colored: Navy, Black Traditional Denim, or Khaki/Tan Only

- Walking shorts, slacks, skorts, skirts
- Must be **plain, solid-color navy, black or khaki/tan in color**

Tops: Navy, red or white **with collar** (solid colored)

- Must have long or shortsleeves with collar
- Knit polo-type, Oxford or woven dress shirts with collar
- School t-shirts are acceptable (available through email orders)

Other rules for appropriate dress:

- Shorts/skirts must be mid-thigh or longer. "Mid-thigh" is determined by extending the arms to the sides of the body and finding the tip of the longest finger (**using normal posture**).
- Shirts/blouses/dresses must cover midriff, back and sides at all times; should be fastened with no visible cleavage or undergarments; and may have a small, less than 1 inch logo.
- Clothing must be the appropriate size for the student, not be oversized or undersized.
- The waist of the garment shall be worn so that the waistband is worn at the waist and not below the waist. Students may not wear baggy/saggy pants.
- Clothing that is too tight or too loose is not appropriate for school.
- School administrators will determine if clothing is appropriate for school and complies with school rules.

Shoes and Socks: Must be safe and appropriate

- Students may not wear bedroom slippers or shoes with wheels.
- A manufacturer's logo is acceptable.
- Socks should match and not go above the knee.
- Students must wear shoes that are closed toe and closed heel and/or athletic shoes if scheduled in Physical Education and/or Dance. **Platforms, flip flops, crocs or jellies are not permitted for any student. Changing shoes at school is not allowed.**

Extreme Weather:

On very cold days, students who walk, bike, etc. may need to wear sweatpants, etc over their school clothes on their way to/from school. However, any clothing that doesn't meet dress code requirements must be removed before school begins.

Outer Garments: Jackets, sweaters, coats, etc...

- Jackets must zip **all the way down the front**.
- **No Hoodies** allowed of any type.
- Long sleeve button up shirts are not to be worn as an outer garment.
- May not be disruptive, distracting, display offensive language/symbols, etc..
- Any pullover garment, that is worn all day (sweater or sweatshirt), must be solid white, navy or red and not have any colored stripes or decorations and **may not have a hood**.
- School staff may ask student to remove unacceptable jackets.

Students may NOT wear the following:

- Clothing that is not properly fastened
- Clothing or hairstyles that disrupt the orderly learning environment
- Clothing that is torn, has holes, or pants that are frayed
- Clothing that exposes body parts in an indecent and vulgar manner
- Clothing that is unlined sheer or unlined lace
- Clothing that is form fitting, leotard or spandex
- Cut-off pants, jeggings, short-shorts, overalls, or running shorts
- Visible undergarments, sleepwear or outer garments traditionally designed as undergarments such as boxer shorts or bras
- Outer garments or accessories (such as backpacks, jewelry, and purses) which have slogans, signs, symbols that:
 - Promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang identification, weapons, or lewd sexual behavior
 - Denigrate or promote discrimination for or against an individual or group on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, race, religion or gender
- Hats, bandannas, sweat bands, headgear, or other head coverings, inside the school building, except when approved by the principal
- Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons, such as chains, spiked jewelry or arm bands
- Combs, curlers, or hair picks
- Sunglasses inside any school building

Clothing and jewelry with writings or designs that depict prejudice, unlawful acts, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol are prohibited.

If you do not observe the BAMS dress/uniform code, your parents will be called to bring a change of clothes to you. If they are unable to bring the appropriate garment to you by 8:30am, students must change into provided school t-shirt and gym shorts from the uniform closet. Additionally, you will receive a minor infraction for not complying with the dress code.

PIERCINGS: For your child's safety, facial piercings, of any kind, should not be worn at school. If a

parent allows a student to have a piercing, the parent is accepting the risk of injury if worn at school.

SCHOOL DANCE DRESS CODE: (ALLOWABLE ATTIRE)

Bottoms: pants/jeans, shorts at appropriate length, no holes/rips

Tops: Shirts covering midriff, sleeveless shirts with at least a 2" wide strap

Dresses: appropriate fingertip length, sleeveless with at least 2" strap

SHIRT ONLY DRESS-OUT DAYS: *Fridays* are designated as shirt only dress out days. BAMS Bucks cards are available to purchase. Purchasing a BAMS Bucks Card will enable you to wear a **SHIRT** other than a standard school uniform shirt. No shirts with logos bigger than 1 inch are allowed. Some dress-out days are theme based such as sports day, beach day, etc. Students dressed inappropriately must change into school uniforms from the school uniform closet and will receive a dress code infraction.

SCHOOL PICTURE DRESS CODE: Students wear school uniforms for traditional school pictures taken in the Fall of the school year as these are used for yearbook and official school business.

Students may dress out of uniform for **spring** pictures; however, the dress code must still be observed: covering, appropriate length, etc.

ATTENDANCE:

School attendance is mandatory. The expectation is to attend school every day, to arrive promptly and to remain throughout the scheduled hours of 7:55a.m. to 3:00p.m. All appointments are to be scheduled outside of school hours.

Our attendance policy states:

- Letter emailed home after five (5) **Unexcused** absences in a semester.
- Mandatory parent conference and probation after five (5) **Unexcused** absences in a 9-week grading period.
- School truancy is a serious offense that may result in court action and will be a cause for dismissal from BAMS. Truancy is defined as a student that has an accumulative record of tardiness or has had at least five unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day. Parents have five days from notification to submit documentation to change unexcused to excused absences otherwise students may be withdrawn.

Notes for excused absences must be completed online via the parent absence reporting link. The school requires a doctor's certificate after five (5) illness days in a 9-week grading period to count as excused.

Excused absences and tardies include:

- sickness
- funeral of family members
- court ordered appearances

*All other absences/tardies are considered unexcused

***Students must be in attendance at least four periods on the day of, or proceeding if event is over the weekend, of any special activity in order to attend the special activity (dance, sporting event, etc.)

BAMS DOES NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK FOR CREDIT EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.

It is the **responsibility of the student** to get missed work on the day they return to class. Students have one day for each day of an excused absence to get missed assignments returned for credit.

- Students must be present a minimum of four periods the same day of a scheduled afterschool activity in order to participate.
- Students must be present a minimum of four periods the school day prior to a weekend activity in order to participate.

TARDIES:

Students are considered tardy if not in their 1st period classroom seat by the 8:00 am bell. The following are procedures concerning tardies to school:

- Letter emailed home after three (3) **Unexcused** tardies in a 9-week grading period.
- Parents are allowed to write two (2) notes as excused tardies to school in a 9-week grading period.
- The criteria for determining an excused tardy shall be the same as an excused absence.
- Mandatory parent conference and probation after five (5) **Unexcused** tardies and may be withdrawn after eight (8) **Unexcused** tardies in a semester.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE & GENERAL CONDUCT:

BAMS has expectations of behavior that will provide for an orderly and safe school atmosphere. BAMS follows the PCSB Code of Conduct. The PCSB Code of Conduct is read to all students and available on our website Berkleymiddle.net and at <http://www.polk-fl.net/parents/formsanddocuments/default.htm>.

- Our goal is to develop students who are self-disciplined and able to make good judgments about acceptable behavior.
- Our philosophy is that no student should be allowed to disrupt the learning of another student.
- BAMS utilizes a discipline policy which is explained to students by each individual teacher at the beginning of the school year.
- Rules and expectations for behavior are posted in the classroom.
- It is important for students to recognize they are responsible for their actions to and from school, during school hours, on the bus and at all school sponsored events.

GUM CHEWING:

Gum chewing is NOT ALLOWED. Careless disposal of gum and candy in drinking fountains, on furniture and on floors presents sanitation and cleaning problems.

BUYING OR SELLING ITEMS:

No items are to be bought or sold without the consent and approval of the principal's office. Items will be confiscated without consideration for monetary loss.

CELL PHONES and TELEPHONE CALLS:

Telephones are located in the main office and in each classroom for emergency purposes only. Students may use the classroom or office phone to call parents/guardians with the permission of their teacher.

Parents and students **must not** text each other during school hours. While we allow students to have cell phones and other devices for after school needs at school, **they are to be turned completely off and in book bags at all times and not used at school.**

CONDUCT WHILE ON BERKLEY CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS:

Walkers who exit through the elementary school are to observe all BCS rules for conduct. Failure to act appropriately on the BCS campus will result in discipline and possibly being prohibited from their campus. Only walkers who live in adjacent neighborhoods or parents work at the elementary campus are allowed to enter or leave via the elementary campus.

BACKPACKS:

Students may carry a backpack and should strive to keep it clean and organized. Backpacks with wheels are only allowed for medical reasons. Backpacks must fit under desk and will not be allowed if they exceed the size requirement. Students do not have textbooks, so book bags do not need to be large. **Only one book bag is allowed. Student items must all fit in their one book bag.** Weekly organization of book bags will be conducted.

CAFETERIA/EATING AREA:

Students may bring a lunch from home or order a school lunch each day. Lunch money should be paid online or turned in 1st period. Students who pay at school, must use an envelope for their lunch money. The student's name and ID number should be printed on the envelope.

All students are required to either bring a lunch from home or order a school lunch.

Eating is allowed only in a designated area. Students are expected to act responsibly while at lunch which includes cleaning their area before being dismissed from lunch.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY (ADHERING TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH POLICY)

The Berkley Charter/BAMS/PPCA Nutrition program has a heartfelt concern for the well-being and health of our students and our community. We believe that good nutrition is critical for maximum student achievement and meeting our student's educational goals. The school nutrition program is an extension of the Berkley Charter Elementary program and it shares the same focus and commitment to serving the most nutritious meals to our students and providing nutrition education that will prepare students to choose a healthy lifestyle now and into the future.

In an effort to create the best options for student success, in order to support the nutrition program and in an effort to comply with USDA school dietary guidelines, BAMS has set forth the following basic food and drink guidelines:

- Parents who wish to share a meal with their children at school, may bring outside (commercially prepared) food to share with their children; however, this food cannot be brought in the cafeteria, or any other area where students eat their school-prepared food. Office or administrative staff will direct parents to the area designated for these visits where the outside food can be enjoyed by parents and students. Parents must stay and eat with the student. Food cannot be "dropped off".
- Parents cannot bring outside (commercially prepared) food for any other student other than their child(ren).

DRINKS/CONTAINERS:

No glass, cups with straws, or canned drink or soda of any kind should be brought to school by a student for any reason. All containers that are carried in book bag must stay in bookbag unless permission is given by the individual teacher. **Only water, juice or Gatorade/Powerade** may be brought to school to carry in book bags. If a student brings a thermos in their lunch box, it must stay in their lunch box and not be used at any time except during their lunch time.

SPORTS:

Before tryouts, athletes must have a completed physical **dated after June 1**, for the upcoming school year and the doctor's physical form must be turned in to the office or Athletic Director along with the State mandated concussion form signed by the parent. Each athlete is responsible for their own transportation to and from practices and games. Uniform rental is \$10 and uniforms must be returned at the end of the season.

- Students **cannot** make a team if discipline behavior probation is in effect and/or if they do not have a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher as verified by administration.
- Students will be removed from the team if they are on discipline behavior probation as determined through administration.
- Athletes must be present at school for a minimum of four periods on game day.

CONSEQUENCES OF POOR CHOICES ON CAMPUS, SCHOOL BUS, OR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

Students who fail to meet Berkley Accelerated Middle School's positive behavior expectations will face certain consequences. If a student misbehaves, appropriate consequences may include:

- Parental Assistance (Parent Support Phone Calls)
- Office Intervention
- Detention or Work Detail
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of School Suspension or bus suspension - short term/long term
- Possible Law Enforcement Involvement
- Dismissal from BAMS due to progressive discipline incidents and/or a serious breach of conduct

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Please refer to the **Polk County School Board Code of Conduct** regarding bullying and harassment. At BAMS, we are united to banish bullying. It is imperative to us that your child is provided a learning environment that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Our faculty has been trained to recognize the signs of bullying, how to quickly intervene to stop any unwanted behavior and report incidents.

Because bullying behaviors are learned, they can be unlearned. Efforts to make BAMS a "bully-free" school include a school-wide character education curriculum that has been incorporated into all subject areas and grade levels and reporting procedures for students on our website and in the school office. Building character will help our students become more self-assured and productive citizens.

Additionally, students are offered a variety of clubs, sports and other activities in which to participate that will enable them to develop their personal skills and build confidence. These efforts and many more are used to make BAMS a great middle school experience for your child. "Accelerated learning *and safety* for all, whatever it takes" is priority for all BAMS faculty and staff members to ensure your child's success at school.

Ways to Report Bullying:

1. Submit a report on the Berkley Accelerated Middle School website:
<http://schools.polk-fl.net/BAMS>
2. Report bullying to a teacher, school counselor and/or administrator.

STUDENT/PARENT FOCUS GRADE VIEWER

All families are strongly encouraged to sign up for Student/Parent FOCUS Grade Viewer. This gives students and parents opportunities to view their child's performance on assignments and assessments. In a nutshell, it gives you direct access to the teacher's grade book. Each student will receive his or her login information the first week of school.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to reinforce, preview and extend the classroom experience. With the understanding that children will work at different paces when doing homework, the following homework time frames have been developed:

6th Grade 60-70 minutes nightly

7th Grade 70-80 minutes nightly

8th Grade 80-90 minutes nightly

Parent Do's:

- Provide your child a quiet place to work
- Set a regular time for doing homework each day
- Check family email, classroom websites, and FOCUS grade viewer regularly

"Knights of Distinction Awards"

Student "Knight of Distinction" awards ceremonies are held annually. In order to be a "Knight of Distinction" one or more of the following must be achieved; GPA of 3.75+ for the year, A County or State Award, A-Team members, top overall GPA in each subject area, and Individual County Sporting event 1st place.

Technology Resource Reminders

Family Email	Student's firstname.lastname@berkleymiddle.net
School Website	www.berkleymiddle.net
Remind (Text Message)	Enter phone # 81010 then text message @bamspa

All parents and students may view the Code of Conduct and Parent Contract online at berkleymiddle.net
A copy of the Parent Contract is also given to enrolling parent at incoming meeting.

Behavior Contracts will be signed by each student each semester.

Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns!
We are here to help you and make the middle school
experience the best it can be.

Contacts:

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