



2024 Student Handbook

Foot of Ten Baptist Church's Statement of Faith

Blair County Christian School, as a ministry of Foot of Ten Independent Baptist Church, believes and teaches the doctrines of the Christian faith as embraced by the historic, Biblical, Baptist position.

- We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
- We believe that the Bible is God's preserved Word and that the King James Version is the best translation of the original transcripts for English speaking peoples.
- We believe in the triune God.
- We believe in the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the personal existence and eternal destiny of Satan.
- We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God.
- We believe in the sinful nature of man and his salvation by the grace through the blood of Christ.
- We believe in the eternal security of the believer.
- We believe in the establishment of the church for the purpose of worship, observance of the ordinances, and proclamation of the Gospel.
- We believe the only ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- We believe in the Pre-tribulation rapture of the church.
- We believe in the judgment of the unsaved dead and their consignment to the lake of fire for all eternity.
- We believe that as Christians we are obligated to follow the Bible as our guide for faith and practice.
- We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage. The Bible strictly forbids such conduct which includes immoral actions as well as advocating for sinful behavior. The following will not be tolerated in any form and will constitute grounds for school dismissal: any actions that include but are not limited to fornication, adultery, pornography, homosexuality/LGBTQIA+ and identifying statements. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5;13, Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

- o *Definition of "immoral act"*

Bodily contact, actively undertaken or passively permitted, between members of the opposite sex or members of the same sex for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires and any bodily contact that a reasonable person would understand to demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in an immoral or homosexual act.

- o *Definition of "identifying statement"*

A statement that a student is a homosexual, bisexual, or otherwise immoral, or words to that effect or language or behavior that a reasonable person would believe is intended to convey the statement that a student engages in or has a propensity or intent to engage in immoral and/or homosexual's acts.

Standard of Conduct

A student may be dismissed or expelled from BCCS or asked not to return the following year if he/she is out of harmony with Foot of Ten Baptist Church's Statement of Faith, the spirit, or the policies of the school whether **on or off property** as determined in the sole discretion of the administration. Re-admission considerations following dismissal will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Blair County Christian School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, athletics, and other school-administered programs.

Blair County Christian School's Philosophy of Education

We strive to equip our students Biblically and academically to serve the Lord effectively in whatever capacity He has planned for them.

Proverbs 16:16 "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"

Ecclesiastes 7:12 "For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We truly believe the Lord wants every person to experience true success in their lives. He is going to provide the knowledge and understanding of life, through experiences and the utilization of counsel from others.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

It is our policy to require that all our teachers hold a degree. However, this may be waived in situations where the school administration, the deacons of Foot of Ten Independent Baptist Church, and our Pastor agree that an individual is qualified for a position.

We hire Christian people who are actively attending a local church and that have a desire to love Jesus and serve others.

Our job as teachers and school staff is partner with you as parents/legal guardians. We are here to **help teach** your child but ultimately **you** determine how well your child learns and progresses.

Admissions

Student Acceptance Requirements

1. Students must reach the chronological age required for a given grade by September 1st to be placed in that grade. Cranial and social maturity will also be taken into consideration. For K-3 and K-4 the cut-off date is July 1st.
2. Necessary medical records (vaccinations, dental, physical etc.) must be provided as determined by the state regulations. This paperwork is due in our possession before your child can attend any classes or extracurricular activities at BCCS.
3. A completed application and accompanying fees should be paid at this time unless otherwise discussed with the finance office.
4. All students requesting enrollment into BCCS are subject to entrance testing for no less than the following subjects: Mathematics, English.
5. Blair County Christian School reserves the right to review and/or refuse acceptance of an individual applying based on their prior academic and disciplinary background.
6. If a student is found to not be in harmony with the philosophy of Christian Education held by BCCS he/she may be dismissed from the school.
6. Blair County Christian School will not accept students who actively and blatantly do not want to attend our school or those who openly disagree with this handbook.
7. All new students must meet with the administration before final acceptance is made.

Media Release

I understand that at all school related activities, my Child may be photographed. I agree to allow my Child's photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by the event holders, producers, sponsors, and organizers. When an identification of a child is made, only the first name of the child may be used along with the name of the school.

Curriculum and Textbooks

We use the ABeka curriculum. Our high school Bible, math, science, and elective's curriculum may vary based on the teacher's discretion but will coincide with the doctrinal stance of BCCS.

Book Fees:

K-3 – 5th Grade Book Fees: Students will be charged the amount of the book kits needed to complete the grade they are enrolled in. These books will be given to the student over the course of the school year.

6th-8th Grade Book Fees: Students will be charged the amount of the book kits needed to complete the grade they are enrolled in. These books will be given to the student over the course of the school year.

9th – 12th Grade Book Fee: Students will be charged a fee for test, quiz papers, activity books, non-reusable books, and a rental fee for wear and tear on the school’s reusable books.

If a student loses a book and cannot find it, the account associated with that student will be charged the cost of a new book.

Due to the varied sources and diverse materials covered in the students’ textbooks, we cannot be held responsible for contradictions to the Word of God found in some of these materials. We reserve the right to present the Biblical viewpoint in each subject area where, in our opinion, the authority of God’s Word has been challenged.

Academics

We use a 10-point grading scale.

Graduation Requirements

Anyone requesting transcripts for a student must send in a written request two weeks in advance.

(Two free transcripts will be given per student, one unofficial and one official. A fee may be charged for each additional transcript)

A minimum of 23 credits must be earned in the areas listed for students attending BCCS 9th – 12th grades.

Four Math(s) are still required from 9-12 Grades.

Required courses, credits, and suggested grade levels the courses should be taken in:

General Diploma

<u>Subject/Class</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Bible	4	9 th – 12 th
English	4	9 th – 12 th
History	4	9 th – 12 th
Math	4	9 th – 12 th
Science	3	9 th – 12 th
Physical Education	.5	9 th – 12 th
Health	.5	9 th – 12 th
Computer	1	9 th – 12 th
Financial Planning	.5	9 th – 12 th
Foreign Language	1	9 th – 12 th
Speech	.5	9 th – 12 th
Elective	.5	9 th – 12 th

Honor Courses

Algebra II	2 Years Foreign Language
Pre-Calculus	Physics

Votech

<u>Subject/Class</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Bible	4	9 th – 12 th
English	4	9 th – 12 th
History	3	9 th – 12 th
Math	4	9 th – 12 th
Science	3	9 th – 12 th
Physical Education	.5	9 th – 12 th
Health	.5	9 th – 12 th
Financial Planning	.5	9 th – 12 th
Foreign Language	1	9 th – 12 th
Speech	.5	9 th – 12 th

Honors Requirements:

1. Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
2. Completion of all honor courses.
3. GPA of 3.0 or higher in the honor course taken.
4. A salutatorian and a valedictorian are chosen from the senior class. A 3.5 GPA minimum is required to be considered. A student must attend BCCS for the entire 11th and 12th grades. Honor courses must be taken. The GPA which decides the salutatorian or valedictorian will be computer based upon all grades received through the first semester of the senior year.

Electives offered, and credits given for these electives, also may vary from year to year. The amount of credit for each elective will be determined when the elective is offered.

Failed Classes:

High School Fail Within 5% (54%-59%)

If returning to BCCS having failed core/state-required classes procedures are as follows:

-can take 2-week intensive summer school to earn a passing grade

-hours per day are subjective based on classes failed

-cost: *families expense* that will be based on the amount of time needed to complete the two-week intensive.

i.e. one course equals 2 hours per day x 10 days (two weeks) = \$200

Anything greater than 5% below passing will require a meeting to discuss a game plan for extensive summer school or else the student will retake the class

Elementary

Meeting with the teacher and principal to discuss the best plan moving forward

6th-8th

Meeting with teacher and principal to discuss grade and best solutions moving forward

-if summer school is recommended

-if retaking class is beneficial

9th-12th

Anything greater than 5% below passing will require a meeting to discuss a game plan for extensive summer school or else the student will retake the class.

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center (Vo-Tech)

A student must declare at the start of 9th grade to be a part of the program. One cannot do the Vo-tech track and do our honors track.

We are so excited that our students have the opportunity to take classes at GACTC. With this great opportunity comes extra responsibility for those students. Please read the following guidelines and requirements that we have for all students in this program.

1. As a student of BCCS and GACTC, all students should do their absolute best to meet all assignment deadlines for both institutions.
2. If a student is failing a class at GACTC for more than one quarter, BCCS may not allow them to continue attending GACTC.
3. If a student has a failing average at BCCS, they may not be allowed to attend GACTC until they have brought their grades up.
4. All students that drive from GACTC to BCCS must arrive by 11:00AM to be counted present for that day of school. If they arrive after that time, they will receive a zero on all classwork missed and they will not be allowed to make it up.
5. If a student will be late for any planned reason, we must receive a phone call from a parent, or a parent signed note/doctor's note must accompany the student upon arrival.

6. All students must sign in at the main office and turn their devices in before heading to class.
7. Online assignments for GACTC will not be allowed to be completed on campus.
8. The school will communicate with GACTC if your student will be absent for a school reason.
9. It is your responsibility to contact GACTC if your student will be/was absent for any other reason.
10. Students must attend their GACTC classes every day that they are in session even if BCCS is closed or on a break. The only exclusion is at the end of the full school year where BCCS will give them the final day that our students will be in attendance.
11. Be advised that your student's academic load will be different from the general track or honors track. Any modifications will be instituted by the discretion of the administration.

P.E

Only certain grades have organized P.E. classes and information will be sent home from the student's teacher if they will be having P.E. for that school year and what is expected during P.E. class.

Attendance

Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the school during the days and hours that school is in session.

Blair County Christian School considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school: Illness, quarantine; death in the immediate family; impassable roads; exceptional urgent reasons that are submitted to the administration and approved after an evaluation is made; educational trips which are given prior approval by the administration after an evaluation is made.

Absences shall be treated as unexcused until the administration receives a **written excuse** explaining the absence, to be submitted **upon return to school**. A **maximum** of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification may be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed physician. A zero will be averaged in for each class for each day of an unexcused absence.

A student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session, or at the place where the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction or health care, or at the place where the student is engaged in approved and properly supervised work study or career education program such as a class field trip or Altoona Greater Career and Technology Center.

Repeated infractions of school policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students, may constitute such misconduct and disobedience as to warrant the suspension or expulsion of the student from regular school programs. The administration is authorized to establish the criteria to implement this policy.

Blair County Christian School recognizes the importance of good home-school communications in preventing attendance problems. The school will make every reasonable effort to communicate with the home and expects the parents/guardians to react positively and cooperatively in promoting good attendance.

1. Absence: the non-attendance of a pupil to class on those days and half days that school is in session.

2. Tardy: is a student reporting to school or class after the designated starting time.
3. Excused Absence: is the absence of a pupil for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. Illness
 - b. Quarantine
 - c. Death in immediate family
 - d. Impassable roads
 - e. Unavoidable family emergency
 - f. Observance of a religious holiday
 - g. Educational trip with prior approval
 - h. Exceptional urgent reasons that are submitted to the administration and approved after an evaluation is made.
 - i. Court appearance.

NOTE: A parent's/guardian's note is required for all the above excuses consistent with procedures set forth under Attendance Guidelines and Procedures.

4. Prior Approval: A student must request prior approval 5 days in advance to be absent for absences not listed in item number 3. The administration will have the authority to grant or deny the request after evaluating the legitimacy for the request.
5. A student who has received an excessive number of unexcused absences in any course will be denied credit for that course. What is excessive is determined based on whether the child is in elementary (K5-6th) or high school (7th – 12th).
 - a. If a student is in elementary school, then the denial of credits will take place after that student has received ten (10) unexcused absences. This is reviewable by the administration.
 - b. If a student is in junior/senior high school, then the denial of credits will take place after the student has received four (4) unexcused absences per year.

Notification to Parents or Guardians: Before denial of credit is imposed, the student's parents or guardian will be sent two (2) written warnings according to the following guidelines:

- a. Elementary parents will receive a written warning after the fifth (5) unexcused absences and after the ninth (9) unexcused absence.
- b. Junior High and Senior High parents will receive a written warning after the first (1) unexcused absence and the third (3) unexcused absence.

A student must attend a minimum of 3 hours in order to be counted as present for that day. **The student is responsible to make arrangements with teachers to make up missed work.** If the student is unable to get this work, we ask that the parents get the material needed for the student to fulfill their assignments.

All assignments are due by the end of the second (2) day upon the student's return. Any tests taken by the class, which were announced or known by the student prior to his/her absence, are due to be taken within two (2) days after the student's return to class unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Any research

paper, homework, or other assignment whose due date falls within the period of the absence, and whose due date was known by the student are due upon the student's return to class.

Any other make-up work shall be completed in the number of days that the student was absent. However, all make up work of this nature must be completed within seven (7) school days regardless of the number of days absent.

EARLY DISMISSAL

1. A student desiring an early dismissal must present a written excuse, signed by a parent or guardian indicating the time of the early dismissal and the specific reason for the request.
2. An early dismissal that extends more than three (3) hours will be marked as half ($\frac{1}{2}$) day absence. If the early dismissal extends more than three and one-half hours ($3 \frac{1}{2}$) hours, it will be recorded as a full day absence.

Withdrawal

No monies will be refunded for the actual month of withdrawal. Withdrawal from the school must be made by parents or legal guardians through the school office. Records will not be released until all bills are paid in full and all loaned textbooks and materials have been returned. Any scholarship awarded for any school year is not refundable or transferable.

Parent/Teacher Communications

Our mission is to PARTNER with the parents/legal guardians to PROPERLY prepare the student for the next stage of life. We strongly believe that working with the parents/legal guardians is vital for proper progress of the student in the classroom. We promote a consistent line of communication with our team and you. You will be contacted by phone, email, text, or letter several times over the course of the school year.

We utilize what we call Parent-Teacher Assembly (PTA). We attempt to schedule a school-wide meeting around the 9th week/end of the marking period. This time is used to make school announcements, give updates, meet briefly with teachers, and sometimes our students will make presentations as well.

If a parent has any issues with things done by a teacher or events that transpired during the school day, then the parent needs to reach out to the teacher and discuss it with that teacher **before** trying to set up a meeting with the administration.

After a parent has met in person or had a direct phone call with their student's teacher, and they would like to schedule an appointment with school administration, the parent should contact the school office to set up an appointment. Just showing up at the school will not guarantee a meeting with staff or faculty.

Our staff are not required to answer questions concerning school matters after 6pm. Please understand that we encourage teacher/parent communication, and it is vital for the continued progress of that student. We also need

our teachers to be well rested and ready for the next day's work. Feel free to leave them a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible. If you find a teacher is not communicating with you or returning your calls, please call the main office to set up a meeting or to schedule a phone call with that teacher through the office.

It is asked that no faculty members or administration (including spouses) are approached about school matters at church services or school functions. If there is a concern, please make an appointment with the teacher.

We continue to try to communicate in an efficient and technologically accessible way. We use the website, Facebook, PTA, the current school system and weekly folders to keep you informed on upcoming events. Please note as a safety matter, that if an item is not posted on the website or Facebook then it is not considered public knowledge. This means that certain information, like the school calendar, is only given to parents/legal guardians. If a family member wants to know specific dates of events that are not on our website or Facebook page, then they will need to reach out to the parents/legal guardians for that specific information.

Sickness Policies

Blair County Christian School desires to maintain a healthful school environment by instituting controls designed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The term communicable disease means an illness which arises because of a specific infectious agent which may be transmitted either directly or indirectly by a susceptible host of infected persons or animal to other persons.

A teacher or an administrative official who reasonably suspects that a student has a communicable disease shall immediately notify the school office. If a child is believed to have any sickness the child may be sent home. Any student having a temperature of over 100.4 needs to stay at home until the fever breaks. After 24 hours of being fever free and no other symptoms, the student may return to school. If a student is sent home during the school day for a sickness, that student is not allowed to return to school until they have been symptom free for 24 hours

Any students with a communicable disease for which immunization is required by law or is available shall be temporarily excluded from school while ill and during recognized periods of communicability. Students and employees with communicable diseases for which immunization is not available shall be excluded from school while ill. If the nature of the disease and circumstances warrant, Blair County Christian School may require an independent physician's examination of the student or employee to verify the diagnosis of a communicable disease. Blair County Christian School reserves the right to make all final decisions necessary to enforce its communicable disease policy and to take all necessary action to control the spread of communicable diseases within the school.

All health records must be kept up to date according to PA State standards. The school nurse will send notices to the families to inform them of the need for updated records. If a student's record is not kept up to date, the student will be removed from school until the records are updated.

School Dress Code

While at school, student dress will follow the dress code. Students are to be neatly and appropriately dressed for all school-sponsored activities. Students violating the dress code at school or other activities may, at the discretion of the administration, be asked to leave campus until their appearance meets school standards.

Parents and guests of students are encouraged to honor the standards of dress exemplified by the school dress code while participating in school activities or attending school functions. We ask that students refrain from wearing current trends in fashion which creates a very casual environment that often carries over into the learning atmosphere. The school administration reserves the right to initiate policies on new fads and changes in style during the school year.

At BCCS we do not allow our students to use their dress to promote current trends, movements, or entertainment outlets. (i.e., music, TV, movies, etc.)

All students:

- o Smart watches are not allowed to be worn during school hours by any student.
- o Any clothing which is considered by the administration to be inappropriate is not permitted.
- o I understand that getting tattoos while enrolled at BCCS is not allowed. (This includes during the summer months)

Special days dress guidelines

- o No skinny jeans (jeans need to be in good condition, no holes)
- o Shorts must come to the knee and be loose fitting, athletic pants must be loose fitting
- o Tops cannot have inappropriate things found to be in contrast with church/school standards written on them.
- These items of clothing are never permitted:
 - o Jeggings, leggings (as pants/capris), work out pants/tops, cut offs, and spaghetti straps.

Pre-school-5th grades

Pre-school through 5th students may wear uniform/golf style shorts in blue, black, gray, khaki, and olive green. (No cargo shorts)

- o Polo (one solid color): up to a 3x3 brand-logo is allowed.
- o Sweaters: For warmth purposes, sweaters can be worn over a polo but cannot have a hood and must be one solid color
- Boy's
 - o Pants: solid color dress pants are permitted to be worn in blue, black, gray, khaki, and olive green.
 - o Hair: cannot be on ears or collar. Length on top cannot be more than 3". Sideburns may not extend below the middle of the ear. (No mullets) Un-natural hair coloring is not permitted.
 - o Shoes: all shoes must have a back and closed toe. No croc style allowed.
- Girl's
 - o Skirts: a solid color uniform skirt in blue, black, gray, khaki, and olive green. Skirts and slits must come to the top of the kneecap when standing or sitting / must be able to naturally pull 3" off the hip.
 - o K3-5th Gr. must wear shorts or leggings under their skirts each day.
 - o Leggings: Solid or simple prints may be worn under the skirt. All legging prints must abide by the school standards
 - o Proper, age-appropriate undergarments must be worn always. Colors should be considered so as to not show through.
 - o Accessories: Earrings are the only piercing allowed
 - o Hair must be done neatly and in natural colors. Hairstyles must be consistent with a traditionally feminine appearance.
 - o Shoes: all shoes must have a back. No croc style allowed.

6th-12th grades

The purpose of our dress code is to allow options while keeping a sense of professionalism in their attire.

- **Boy's:**

- Pants: solid color dress or chino style pants. Jeans material not allowed
- Polo: Prints, multi color, or solid color can be worn. Polos cannot have pictures or words (up to a 3x3 brand-logo is allowed.)
- ***Sweaters: For warmth purposes, sweaters, or a pullover (without pockets) can be worn over a polo but cannot have a hood and must be one solid color***
- Accessories: Jewelry is not allowed for male students. Belts are required for male student's 6th-12th grade if their pants have belt loops.
- Hair: cannot be on ears or collar. Length on top cannot be more than 3". Sideburns may not extend below the middle of the ear. (No mullets) Un-natural hair coloring is not permitted.
- Students cannot have any facial hair.
- Shoes: all shoes must have a back and closed toe. No croc style allowed.

- **Girl's:**

- Skirts: Prints, designs, or solid color skirts. Skirts and slits must come to the top of the kneecap when standing or sitting / must be able to naturally pull 3" off the hip.
- Polo: Prints, multi color, or solid color can be worn. Polos cannot have pictures or words (up to a 3x3 brand-logo is allowed.) One button may be undone
- ***Sweaters: For warmth purposes, sweaters, or a pullover (without pockets) can be worn over a polo but cannot have a hood and must be one solid color (No kimonos)***
- Accessories: Earrings are the only piercing allowed
- Hair must be done neatly and in natural colors. Hairstyles must be consistent with a traditionally feminine appearance.
- Leggings: Solid colors may be worn under the skirt.
- Proper, age-appropriate undergarments must be worn always. Colors should be considered as to not show through.
- Shoes: all shoes must have a back. No croc style allowed.

Lunch Program

Lunch program: If you are choosing to purchase school lunches, you must make your selections in the My School Worx system by Thursday evening for the following week. After a week has passed, we then input all of the charges into FACTs. They are placed under the incidental billing option. If you would like them to be placed on autopay, please make sure that your incidental billing is enrolled in autopay. Lunch is a critical part of a child's day and we have chosen to make sure that any student that is a part of BCCS will not go without a lunch but please note that your account will reflect this lunch. Children may pack a lunch to bring from home.

Field Trips

Field trips to places of educational interest are taken at various times during the school year. BCCS is within reasonable driving distance of many places of special interest and educational benefit for the school.

The same standards of conduct and dress required of the students at school are also required of students on school-sponsored activities unless otherwise announced.

Depending on class size and the nature of the field trip, teachers may ask parent chaperones to attend field trips. Chaperones are expected to abide by field trip dress code policies and assist the teacher in whatever way possible. **All Field Trips are mandatory for students to participate in, this also includes the Senior Trip.**

If a parent/chaperone is found to be acting or speaking in ways that are non-compliant with our school's code of conduct, then that parent/chaperone may be asked to leave and/or may not be allowed to attend any future school sponsored trips.

We cannot stop people from going to the same place as our students are going but please understand that any child/student that is in attendance must stay with the group always and anyone who "randomly" shows up to the event may not be allowed to participate with the group. This is for the safety of our students and staff. If a parent or guardian decides to take their child(ren) away from their group at any point during the field trip then that student will be considered checked out from BCCS'S care and supervision for the remainder of the day/event. That student will not be able to rejoin the group later on and they will not be able to use BCCS transportation to get back to campus.

Refunds WILL NOT be issued for a child deciding not to go on a field trip as the child's ticket may have already been purchased. We understand there are unforeseeable circumstances but please understand some things are purchased and priced based on the group so there is no way to refund the cost. If it is a ticket with more than one day availability, then the teacher may give the ticket to the family for their usage on their own time.

Parents will not be able to take other student's home with them from a field trip location unless the main office has written consent from both parents PRIOR to the day of the field trip. This is for the safety of our students and our staff.

Senior Trips

Senior Trips are an exciting opportunity to be rewarded for years of hard work in school. The senior classes will raise their money for their class trip through different fund raisers and activities. The sponsors for the trip will be school or church faculty unless otherwise approved by the administration. The senior trip is a school sponsored activity therefore the standards of conduct and dress will apply. The senior trip is a mandatory trip for all seniors enrolled at Blair County Christian School.

Lockers

Lockers are the property of Blair County Christian School, and the administration and teachers have the authority to open lockers to make sure that all material within the locker is in line with school policy. Only lockers assigned are to be used. The account associated with the student will be charged for any damage done to any lockers.

Library

If a book is missing for more than three weeks, then the account of the student who checked the book out will be charged the cost of us to replace the book with a new one.

High School students may only use the library when there is a teacher present and they are subject to the above stated rule.

The fact that certain books are available for student use or reference in the school library does not necessarily mean that the school endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, religious or scientific theories.

Lost and Found

If your child is missing something, please contact the office or the student's sports coach immediately to inquire. The school will be discarding or donating to charity, any items not claimed within the marking period it was placed into lost and found.

Student Driving

1. Students who drive to Blair County Christian School must park in the designated student parking area. This area is the last two rows of parking spots in the church parking lot near the bus parking. Students driving to school should park their cars immediately upon arrival at school and do so properly. Students should not return to their vehicles during the school day for any reason without permission from the administration or main office.
2. A 10 mile-per-hour speed limit is to be observed on school property.
3. No student is to drive or ride in another student's vehicle, including bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc. unless written permission is on file in advance in the office. No blanket permission slips will be approved.
4. When leaving school, student drivers should use the east parking lot exit.
5. No students should loiter in the parking lot area before or after school hours.
6. All student drivers must be properly licensed and insured.
7. Parking is to be within the spaces provided during school hours and functions.
8. BCCS reserves the right to revoke a student's driving privileges at the administration's discretion.
9. Music standards and all other standards of conduct apply while the vehicle is on campus.
10. Once students arrive at school there will be no leaving without written or verbal consent from the parents/legal guardians.

11. If attendance becomes an issue, privileges or enrollment may be revoked at BCCS.
12. Drive-in students may not have any inappropriate, illegal, and/or dangerous items on the campus even if left in the car. If students are known to have any of those kinds of items in their car, the student will be confronted, parents will be notified and driving privileges will be revoked. If any illegal substances are known to be in the car: the student will be confronted, parents will be notified, and the police will be notified. We have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to illegal items on the school campus.

School Visitor Policy

Nobody is permitted in the school building during school hours without first checking in at the main office and receiving a visitor's guest badge. If you are on the campus and you have not checked in at the main office, you will be asked to leave.

Parents, you may **not** enter the building with a student at the drop off or pick up location.

Please understand this is for the safety of our students while on our campus.

General and Specific Discipline

General Rules

At all times, students are to show the utmost respect for those who are placed in authority over them (for example, answering "yes, sir" and "no, sir").

Every teacher is given the liberty to make and enforce a classroom regulation consistent with the general policies of the school.

Electronic Device Policy

No media devices such as recording devices, iPods, gaming devices, etc. should be brought to school. Students resume all responsibility for devices brought to school. No laser pointers should be brought to school.

ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND TURNED IN TO THE DESIGNATED AREA UPON ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STUDENTS TO HAVE THEIR CELL PHONES ON THEM DURING THE DAY. ***THE FIRST OFFENSE*** WILL BE A WARNING, AND NONCOMPLIANCE DEMERITS WILL BE GIVEN BASED ON ATTITUDE AND REASON. ***THE PHONE WILL BE CONFISCATED AND TAKEN TO THE OFFICE WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL MAY PICK IT UP AT THE END OF THE DAY.*** ***THE SECOND OFFENSE*** WILL BE A \$50.00 FINE THAT WILL BE CHARGED TO THE ACCOUNT ASSOCIATED WITH THAT STUDENT, ***AND THE PHONE WILL BE CONFISCATED***

*AND TAKEN TO THE OFFICE WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL MAY PICK IT UP AT THE END OF THE DAY. **THE THIRD OFFENSE** WILL RESULT IN A \$100.00 FINE AND A 3-DAY IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION. THE PHONE WILL CONFISCATED AND TAKEN TO THE OFFICE WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL MAY PICK IT UP AT THE END OF THE DAY.*

ALL STUDENTS MAY PICK THEIR PHONE UP AT THE END OF THE DAY AT THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS.

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR CELL PHONE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY FOR ANY REASON. IF YOU NEED TO GET A HOLD OF THEM, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

A child may not call their parent unless it is an emergency. Students will not be calling home if they forgot to bring their music books, instrument, homework, gym clothes etc. Students may ask the office to call home if they are sick and needing to leave for the day or they have some sort of medical emergency.

Discipline for Grades K3-5th

Examples of corrective measures that will be taken in these grades are time-out from recess, sentences, extra seatwork etc. When problems arise, it is our desire to notify the parents so that the school and home can work in harmony to address any discipline issues. If needed, a detention or suspension will be issued.

Discipline for Grades 6th – 12th:

Beginning in the 6th grade, the school utilizes a detention and a demerit system.

If a student is given detention, the school will notify the parents/guardian and schedule the date of the detention. Detentions are not optional, if a student skips a detention that child is subject to an in-school suspension

Detentions can be given in the place of demerits if the teacher deems necessary.

Demerits:

All demerits are cumulative; therefore, demerits will accumulate on a semester basis. At the beginning of the semester, students will start at zero demerits and begin the accumulation process over

As demerits accumulate over the course of a semester, specific actions will be taken at various levels to keep parents, the student, and school board informed of the student's disciplinary standing.

The various actions and levels are as follows:

10 demerits – Detention, student conference with the principal

30 demerits – One day in-school suspension

45 demerits – Three days in-school suspension, conference with student, parent, principal

50 demerits – Disciplinary probation/social restriction, conference with student, parent, and principal.

60 demerits – Three day in-school suspension and conference with student, parent, and principal; continued probation and social restriction.

75 demerits – Expulsion from school* (students will not be allowed to re-enroll at BCCS for at least one semester and must show a genuine repentance and change of behavior before allowing them to return to BCCS. Upon returning they would be put on disciplinary probation)

A zero will be given for all work missed during a suspension.

*Notification will be sent to the Altoona Vo-Tech for all students who are enrolled in a Vo-Tech program.

Any total over fifteen (15) for the semester will go on the student's permanent record.

Demerit System Code:

1. Cheating (**20 demerits**)
2. Classroom disturbances – excessive talking, distraction, etc. (**5 demerits**)
3. Defacing or misusing school property (**20 demerits + work detention to help fix what was done/parent account charged to repair/replace any damaged items**)
4. Direct Disobedience – failure to comply when given a direct command (**10 demerits**)
5. Dress Code – Not following the dress code (**2 demerits**)
6. Disrespect to faculty, staff, or other students (i.e., bullying, sassing, innuendos, (**5-10 demerits**))
7. Gripping about rules or faculty (**5 demerits**)
8. Gum chewing or eating in class (gum is not allowed to be chewed on school property during the school day) (**5 demerits**)
9. Horseplay (**1 - 30 demerits**) any issues caused during lunch period will result in an automatic detention.
10. Physical Contact – i.e., kissing, hugging, etc. **Administration Discretion**
11. Language – crude, swearing, profanity, using God's name in vain, etc. (**10 demerits**) Using inappropriate text verbally or written is a violation of the language rule.
12. Not prepared for class (**3 demerit**)
13. Tardy to class – (**3 demerit**).
14. Skipping Class – (**10 demerits**)
15. Unexcused absence – (**zeros for the class or day**)
16. Fighting – **school's discretion**
17. Not complying with the handbook in action or attitude. (**Left to discretion of Administration**)
18. **Lying** – “playing on words”, “mixing or twisting words”, but not being completely honest when relaying information or simply not being truthful. (**20 demerits**)
19. Touching or misuse of classroom technology - (**Automatic 1-day suspension**)
20. **Illegal Substance** – Any illegal substance found on the premises will dictate an automatic call to the police, parents/legal guardians, and the student will be immediately up for school dismissal.

**Double demerits can be given the last week of the school year.

Detention

Detention must be served on the day it is assigned from 3:15 – 4:00pm – **no exceptions will be made**. (We try to be flexible when scheduling detention and take in to consideration the needs of the student / i.e., work, transportation, etc.). **Missing a day's scheduled detention will result in an additional detention; a second scheduled detention that is missed will result in a one-day, in-school suspension**. During this day of in-school-suspension, all grades given in classes the student misses (including homework) will result in zeros and will be required to be turned in to the teacher. All missed detentions are cumulative.

Probation

Because of unsatisfactory achievement or repeated misconduct, a student may be placed on either academic or disciplinary probation. Once placed on probation, a student will have six (6) weeks to improve academically or not accumulate over 20 demerits in a semester. To have his/her disciplinary probation lifted the student must not accumulate more than 20 demerits in a semester. If he/she fails to achieve this goal, he/she will not be allowed to attend Blair County Christian School for one (1) semester, if the student is on disciplinary probation. If a student fails to achieve the goal for academic probation, the student will be permanently removed from any athletics for the remainder of the season. If the criteria are met, the probation will be lifted.

Social Restriction

Students may be placed on social restriction when (1) any act, event, or attitude is deemed by the administration to warrant such action; (2) the student accumulates 45 demerits in a semester; or (3) the student earns his second Inappropriate Touching demerit.

A student on social restriction cannot be in any leadership position (i.e., class officer, team captain, etc.); cannot participate in fieldtrips, cannot attend extra-curricular activities (games, banquets, etc.), cannot continue as a member of a sports team and cannot be excused from classes to do class business (i.e., selling lunch, selling tickets, etc.)

**We realize the demerit list is not exhaustive. If an offense occurs which is not included in the demerit system code, the administration will do its best to be fair in the administration of Discipline.*

Student Dismissal due to Inappropriate Actions

Students who are dismissed during the last quarter of the year will not be allowed to re-enroll until the second semester of the following year. Before a student will be re-enrolled, there must be evidence of a changed behavior and attitude.

Blair County Christian School reserves the right to dismiss a child from the school at any time at its own discretion. We hold to the strict teachings of the Bible and reserve the right to dismiss a student based on the teachings of the Bible and its guide for living.

Student Acknowledgement

Students and parents are asked to read the following Student Code of Conduct with the understanding that not complying with any part of this student agreement may be grounds for appropriate discipline.

As a student of Blair County Christian School:

1. I will cooperate with basic Christian standards of behavior and conversation.
2. I have read the uniform dress code and will endeavor to follow the spirit and letter of the code.
3. I will not bring inappropriate, illegal, and/or dangerous items to school (radios, CD players, MP3 players, portable gaming devices, guns, knives, drugs, vape tools, cigarettes, laptops, sensual items, alcohol, weapons, fireworks etc.)
4. I understand that I will be held responsible for any damage done to school property (including textbooks, lockers, and computers) I will also be held accountable for any misuse of school or student property.