

# **Student Handbook**

## **2021-2022**

**Benton Middle School**



# **TIGERS**

**6136 Hwy. 3**

**Benton, Louisiana 71006**

**Phone (318)549-5250**

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**[bentonm.bossierschools.org](http://bentonm.bossierschools.org)**



**ready**



**respectful**



**responsible**



**safe**

# **WELCOME TO BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The faculty and administration welcome you to Benton Middle School. The Benton Middle School and Bossier Parish School Board policies and procedures contained in this handbook have been developed to help you become familiar with the facilities, activities, and guidelines concerning your school. This information has been carefully prepared and presented so that it will be of great value in helping you to adjust to BMS and to become an integral part of it. Please take some time to read each section so that you become aware of items that pertain to you.

School Colors: Purple and Gold  
Mascot: Tiger  
Grades: 7-8

## **Benton Middle School: A Shared Expectation of Excellence**

### **Mission**

Our fundamental purpose is to ensure high levels of learning for all.

### **Vision**

We will become the highest performing middle school in the state.

### **Collective Commitments**

- We all take responsibility for the learning of all and will serve as positive, contributing members of our content teams in order to ensure it.
- We will teach the essential standards within the Tier I curriculum.
- We will create and implement common formative and summative assessments, collaboratively analyze the resulting data, and respond immediately through a three-tiered system of RTI.
- We will allow students multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the content and will fully reward them when they do so.
- We will provide time and support to students who need to develop academic and social skills.
- We will equip parents with tools to support student learning at home.

# BE RESPONSIBLE (Policies and Procedures)

## Attendance

Written documentation from a physician is required for all excused absences due to illness and must be presented within ten (10) days upon a student's return to school. A student should request missed assignments within three (3) days of return from an excused absence. If possible, parents should notify the school office at (318) 549-5250 before 9:00 AM regarding their child's absence from school.

## Tardy to School

All tardies to school are documented and are cumulative for each semester. According to school board policy, the Bossier Parish Truancy Center will be notified when excessive tardies to school occur.

The desired time to arrive at school is no earlier than 7:20 AM. Students who eat breakfast are to go directly to the cafeteria. All other students are to report to their assigned area or classroom. All students should be in the classroom by 7:40 AM, and students who are not in class at 7:40 am are considered tardy to school. If a student does not arrive at school in time to be in the class by 7:40 AM, parents or guardians must come to the office and sign the student in, and the student will be given an unexcused tardy admit to class.

All tardies are unexcused except for tardies due to medical visits with proper documentation. Extenuating circumstances or situations may be approved by the administration (inclement weather, vehicular accidents, and serious family illness). If the student is tardy because of bus problems, the student will be issued an excused tardy slip.

## Tardy to Class (2nd-5th block)

A student who is not in class and ready for learning when the tardy bell rings is considered tardy. Consequences will be based on the number of tardies that the student has received. Tardies to class are cumulative for each semester. For example, the first and second are recorded, and the students are given a verbal warning. The third tardy will result in a warning letter that is sent home with the student. The 6th tardy will result in lunch detention and the loss of zero-hero status for the semester. Nine or more tardies will result in an office referral and a day in GASP.

## Departure Time

All students are to leave the building at 2:40 PM unless participating as a team member in a supervised school related extracurricular activity. Students who ride a bus are to report immediately to their assigned bus. **No student will be allowed to ride a bus home with another student without written permission from a school administrator.** Buses will depart by 2:50 PM from the north parking lot. All students being picked up by personal vehicles should be picked up in the south parking lot no later than 2:50 PM unless they are involved in an extracurricular activity that day. Students should always follow the directions of the duty teachers. Students attending extracurricular events need to be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the ending time of the event to avoid consequences. **No student is allowed to walk to school or to his/her home.**

\*If there is an athletic/extracurricular event in the evening on school grounds, students must depart campus at the end of the school day and return to campus to attend the event.

## Check In Procedures

Any student arriving at school after 7:40 am or checking in at any time during the day, must report to the front office and **be signed in by an adult**.

## Check Out Procedures

No student will be allowed to leave the school premises without proper authorization from the office. Parents or guardians needing to check students out during the school day must report to the office and sign the student out. Only parents, guardians and/or persons authorized in the student's household information will be allowed to check students out of school. Parents need to fill out student information carefully and identify people who are allowed to check out a student in case the parent is unavailable. PICTURE IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED TO CHECK A CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL. There will be no student checkouts permitted after 2:00 PM.

**Students who leave class/school without permission will be subject to disciplinary action.**

## Excessive Absences

All absences are documented daily. Parents receive a phone call after 3 unexcused absences and are notified in writing of **excessive unexcused** absences. Extenuating circumstances must be verified and approved by the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance or the Director of Student Services, in consultation with the principal. Unexcused absences accumulate the entire school year. They do not start over at the beginning of the second semester.

According to school board policy, the Bossier Parish Truancy Center will be notified when excessive absences to school occur.

NOTE - The Bossier Parish School calendar should be considered when planning family vacations. If a vacation is taken while school is in session, the absence(s) will be considered unexcused absence(s).

## Deliveries at School

Items will not be delivered to students in the classroom. Students will not be dismissed from class to retrieve deliveries in the office. This includes but is not limited to items such as lunch money, fees, uniforms, shoes, lunches, practice gear, homework assignments, class projects, etc.

Should such items need to be dropped off at school for students, they will be placed on a table in the office with the student's name on it. It will then be the student's responsibility to retrieve those items during lunch, class change, or the end of the day. The office will not interrupt the classroom to notify students of the arrival of the items. The school will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or misplaced items.

Because of safety precautions, no special deliveries (flowers, balloons, etc.) for students will be allowed at school.

## Visitations and Conferences

We encourage parents to visit our school to attend programs and sports events and become an active part of our school community. Teacher conferences will be scheduled through the counselor's office only. Conferences with teachers will be arranged by the counselor before school, after school, or during the teacher's planning time.

## Student Valuables

Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money to school. Students must be responsible for any items brought to school including personal property and electronic devices. If these items are used inappropriately, they will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent comes to the school to get them. These items will only be returned to parents. Siblings, other relatives, or friends may not recover confiscated items for students.

## Lost and Found

Anyone who finds a lost or misplaced article should immediately turn it in at the office. Under no circumstances should any item that has been found be taken from school property. Keeping items that do not belong to you will result in serious consequences (usually GASP or suspension). Students are encouraged to write their names on all personal belongings and clothing, and they should check in the front office or Lost and Found table for lost possessions.

## School Telephones

Our school telephone number is 549-5250. If your call goes to voicemail, please leave a message. The phone messages are checked throughout the day. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, leave a message on his/her voice mail or contact the teacher through email. The teacher will check messages before and after school and during their planning time. Teachers will return calls as soon as possible. The office telephone is used for school business, and it may be used by students only in cases of emergency and with the permission of the secretary. Students cannot be called to the telephone during class time. Students who use the office phone under the pretense of an emergency situation for personal use are subject to consequences. Messages will be sent to students during their lunch break-time or picked up by students at the student window during class change after being notified to do so.

## Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices

### Student Privileges

Classroom use of personal mobile learning devices is considered a privilege and must be approved by the classroom teacher. For example, students may not utilize apps, play games, make phone calls, listen to music, or access Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or email unless the teacher has given permission in connection with enhancing a planned lesson.

### Student Expectations

Students choosing to bring personal mobile learning devices to school must:

- ensure that mobile learning devices are in working order, fully charged, and have wireless capability.
- connect the devices to the district's wireless (not wired), filtered network.
- take full responsibility for their personal mobile learning devices.

As stated in BPSB policy, "the School Board shall not be responsible for any electronic devices, including cell phones, lost or damaged while on School Board property."

## **Student Violation Consequences**

Students are expected to adhere to the school district's acceptable-use policy as well as the student code of conduct. Violations of BPSB's policies concerning acceptable use of computers and networks, code of conduct, and classroom procedures established for the use of devices will result in the same disciplinary actions that would result from similar violations in other areas. If a student is causing a distraction, is off task, or is using a personal device inappropriately in the classroom and/or outside of the classroom, the administration/staff will follow the CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES policy outlined in the BPSB Student Handbook (see BPSB Student Handbook).

## **Bus Transportation**

Students are assigned a bus number according to where the student lives and the assigned bus route. Bus number information is available by calling the front office or by accessing the route guides listed on the Bossier Parish Transportation website.

**Guest riders are not allowed on any buses. Students are to ride the assigned bus that picks them up and drops them off at the address registered on file in the Benton Middle School main office.**

Guest rider hardships can be applied for through the BMS administration.

## **BE READY (Academic and Activity Expectations)**

### **Student Progress/Report Cards**

Report cards are emailed by the district at the end of each 18 week grading period. Reports of progress will be available at each interim 4.5-week time period. Letter grades are given to indicate student progress. Comments are used by teachers to inform parents of student progress and behavior. Throughout the grading period, recorded grades may be given for chapter or unit tests, class participation, projects, homework, oral presentations, accelerated reader, and performance tasks.

Students should check their grades regularly through OnCourse so they will know their progress throughout the school year. The final grade for the year is figured by using quality points earned for the 18-week grading periods.

Parents/guardians may check their child's grades by going to [OnCourse](http://oncourseconnect.com) (oncourseconnect.com).

### **Textbooks/Library Books**

Most student resources are considered consumable, and there are no costs associated. Many classroom resources also have an electronic version of the classroom resource. However, students are responsible for the care of any physical resource and/or textbook, and if a consumable is lost, the student must either use only the electronic version or pay to have the consumable replaced.

Many non-consumable classroom resources are checked out in the Tiger Library along with additional library books. Any book that is checked out from the library must be returned, and if damaged or lost, students will be charged a replacement fee that should be paid prior to the end of the school year.

### **Make-up Work**

Students are responsible for requesting assignments missed during any absence. Arrangements for making up assignments are left to the discretion of the teacher. If a student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, the parent or guardian should contact the classroom teacher to request missed

assignments through the teachers links on the BMS app or through the BMS website. To access a teacher's website go to [bentonm.bossierschools.org/](http://bentonm.bossierschools.org/) and choose the teacher webpages link.

Students will be assigned Study Hall during the school day to make up assignments if necessary.

## Academic Student Recognition

Recognizing student excellence and achievement is important. Awards given at academic assemblies will recognize student academic achievement.

## Athletics and Support Groups

Various sports are offered for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls and boys. In order to participate in athletics and support groups certain grade point averages are required. The sports are governed by Bossier Parish Middle School League Guidelines.

A student may try out in the spring for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleader or dance line member. Returning cheerleaders and dance line members in good standing are also eligible to try out for the coming year's squad. Each organization has a grade point average requirement.

A student who has been placed in GASP or suspended cannot attend practice or games during the day(s) they are in GASP or suspended.

## School Organizations

Students may join a school organization such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes, art club, 4H, or participate in Student Council. Students who fail to exhibit good behavior during meetings or activities may be removed from membership in the organization.

## BE RESPONSIBLE (Behavior Expectations)

Students review the Student Handbook during the first week of school and have access to an electronic copy posted on the school's website. Additionally, parent(s)/guardian(s) indicate during the student registration process that they have read the student handbook. Any student enrolling after the first week of school is responsible for reviewing the Student Handbook with his/her parent/guardian.

Discipline is based on a philosophy designed to assist students to change inappropriate behavior and to enable them to develop self-discipline. The school notifies parents of major student problems. The following list of disciplinary alternatives **may** be utilized (not necessarily in the listed order/depending on the type of infraction and frequency of infractions).

1. Student conference
2. Parent conference
3. Referral to counselor or supervised time-out
4. Assignment of behavior contract packet
5. Deprivation of certain privileges
6. Reprimand
7. Uniform Violation
8. Lunch or After-school detention
9. In-school suspension (GASP)
10. Short term suspension out-of-school
11. Long term suspension out-of-school
12. Expulsion

The principal, assistant principal and/or teachers may establish additional regulations which are appropriate and which are consistent with school board policies.

## **Infraction System**

Students are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations in the classroom, in common areas on campus, and on the bus. In the event there is a behavior issue, infractions will be issued and progressively handled with a student conference, by contacting the parent, through assistance from the school counselor, or a referral to the office.

## **Bus Conduct**

School bus guidelines have been adopted by the Bossier Parish School Board in order to provide safe transportation to and from school. It is a privilege, not a right, to ride Bossier Parish school buses. All Board policies are strictly enforced on school buses. The bus operator, together with the principal, assumes full responsibility for the discipline of students who ride the bus. Should an infraction occur, the bus operator will notify the principal in writing. The principal has the sole authority to determine punishment, if warranted.

The responsibility for supervision of students begins at the bus stop in the morning and ends when students exit the bus at the end of the day. On-time delivery and student safety are the primary goals of each bus operator.

When riding the school bus, every student will:

1. Follow the Bus Transportation rules as directed by the bus operator and the student's principal.
2. Report to the assigned bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time; the bus stops will be assigned by your student's bus operator.
3. Hold objects brought on the bus in the student's lap or fit objects under the seat (including large band instruments, projects, and other large objects).
4. Assist the bus operator in maintaining a clean and sanitary bus; students who damage/destroy buses are appropriately disciplined/assessed for damages.
5. Exit the bus at their assigned stop. Exiting at a different stop requires written authorization from the principal. The note must be presented to the operator at the start of the afternoon run.
6. Remain seated with backs against the seat, backpacks in lap, facing forward in the student's permanently assigned seat, while the bus is in motion and during stops for other students. The bus operator is responsible for seat assignments.
7. Only talk quietly to your neighbor. Vulgar language and bullying of other students will not be tolerated.
8. Adhere to the dress code for each school.
9. Not eat on the bus. (Students may carry water on the bus in plastic bottles)
10. Not extend arms out of windows or doors; not throw objects out of windows.

NOTE: A violation of a bus rule may result in loss of bus privilege and or disciplinary action. All buses are equipped with video cameras that constantly monitor student passengers. Bus operators are permitted to make reasonable rules for the safe transportation of students. See Transportation website for additional bus safety tips.



# Student Dress Code

## **Shirts**

White, purple, gold, gray, black or navy polo shirts (short or long sleeve)  
Light blue or white oxford-shirts (short or long sleeve)  
Black or purple dri-fit shirts sold by BMS  
School spirit shirts or club shirts sold by BMS

## **Bottoms**

Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, capris  
Navy, khaki, stone, or gray

## **ADDITIONAL UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS**

- The uniform must be in the correct size to avoid any sagging and must not be skin hugging.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Shirts must be buttoned at all times except for the top button
- **A solid white undershirt** may be worn underneath a uniform or spirit shirt (with no inappropriate emblems, designs or writing). The P.E. uniform shirt is not allowed as an undershirt.
- Skirts, skorts, and shorts (boys and girls) must be appropriate length.
- Pants must not drag on the floor in a manner that mutilates or destroys the pants by stepping or tripping on them. The hem of pants and shorts must not be rolled, cut, or torn. All items must be properly hemmed.
- Pants or shorts must be worn at the waist.
- No drawstring pants or shorts are allowed.
- Boys may NOT wear compression leggings.
- Outerwear must not be ripped or torn.
- No shower shoes, house slippers, or flip flops.

## **Spirit Shirts:**

Spirit shirts sold or issued by BMS or school organizations may be worn every day of the week. Spirit shirts from other schools are not allowed. Students may only wear spirit shirts of the organizations of which they are a member. Designated “game day spirit groups and teams only” may wear their organization’s uniform in place of the regular school uniform on approved spirit days (Examples: cheer, dance, pep squad, football, basketball, softball, golf, band)

## **Belts:**

Belts must be worn with pants, shorts, or any item of clothing that has belt loops. The student may choose the style and color of the belt. The belt must fit into all of the belt loops of the pants and shorts and must be left buckled at all times. No part of the belt may be hanging at any time. Scarves or other items may not be substituted for a belt.

## **Shoes:**

Style and color of shoes may be chosen by the student as long as it follows all dress code rules and does not distract from the learning of others. Shoes must be flat and not have wheels for safety reasons. Athletic shoes are recommended for comfort and **required** for physical education. It is preferred that shoes not have black soles since black-soled shoes cannot be worn in P.E. class. At all times, shoes should be tied or fastened in the manner for which they are designed to avoid consequences.

## **Socks:**

The student may choose style, color, and variation of stockings/socks. Girls may wear solid white tights (not leggings) under skirts or skorts.

## **Jackets/Outerwear:**

Jackets, cardigan sweaters, hoodies, and all outerwear must be:

- Solid in color
- White, purple, gold, gray, black or navy
- No longer than mid-hip
- Free of graphics or logos that exceed 3" in diameter not sold or issued by BMS

\*Approved Benton spirit jacket may be ordered from approved vendors.

### **Earrings/jewelry:**

Earrings are acceptable but no other form of body piercing is allowed for any student. Students/parents should be aware of this rule before making the decision to acquire any form of body piercing. No large chains (dog chains, billfold chains, spiked chains) or spiked jewelry are allowed. Tattoos, grills or colored contacts are not allowed at school.

### **Hats and Hair:**

No hats, scarves, head coverings, or bandanas are allowed. Hairstyles and hair colors should not distract from or disrupt the classroom or school learning environment. NATURAL HAIR COLORS ONLY (No Kool-Aid hair coloring).

Boys are prohibited from wearing any form of facial hair (mustaches, beards, goatees, long sideburns).

### **NOTE:**

The administration reserves the right to amend the dress code policy as needed or as new fashion fads occur. Students violating the school uniform policy may be sent home, assigned detention, GASP and/or suspended from school. Student names should be written on the inside label of all uniform items. Any other writing or drawing on uniforms is prohibited.

## **Class Rules**

- A. Be prompt and prepared
  - a. Be on time.
  - b. Bring needed materials to class.
  - c. Bring completed assignments to class.
- B. Respect authority
  - a. Listen carefully to authority.
  - b. Follow directions promptly.
  - c. Accept responsibility for your behavior.
- C. Display attention to learning
  - a. Remain on task.
  - b. Allow others to remain on task.
- D. Respect the rights of others
  - a. Use appropriate voice and language.
  - b. Listen to speakers.
  - c. Respect the opinion of others.
  - d. Refrain from harassment.
- E. Respect property
  - a. Respect the property of others. If you find items that do not belong to you please turn items into the office. Keeping items that are found and do not belong to you will result in serious consequences.
  - b. Respect your own property.
  - c. Use materials and equipment appropriately.
- F. Display appropriate social skills
  - a. Handle conflicts maturely.
  - b. Display courtesy.
- G. Be cooperative.

## Halls

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while changing classes unless they have been granted permission. Any student found out of his/her assigned area without permission will be subject to detention or GASP.

## Assemblies

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful at all school activities. Each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable behavior in assemblies includes whistling, uncalled for clapping, boisterousness and talking during a program. Students are to sit with their teacher during all assemblies. Students who do not display appropriate behavior during an assembly will not be allowed to attend assemblies for the semester and will receive appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the administration.

## School Sponsored Trips, Special Activities, Events

Students that have maintained good attendance, good behavior, and have not been suspended from school or the bus during the semester or assigned detention and/or GASP for the last two school weeks prior to the field trip or event will be eligible to go on the trip or participate in the event. Each grade level may have specific guidelines for certain trips that will be sent home with the students in the permission slip before a trip. If overnight or out-of-town trips are taken, the administration will establish and enforce specific guidelines for the trip.

## Breakfast and Lunch Expectations

- A. Be prompt and prepared
  - 1. Be on time.
  - 2. Wash hands.
  - 3. Wait in line appropriately.
  - 4. Have money for purchased meals or snacks.
- B. Respect authority
  - 1. Follow directions of those in charge.
  - 2. Treat the cafeteria staff with respect.
- C. Respect the rights of others.
  - 1. Keep voices at a proper level for inside.
  - 2. Allow others to eat without disturbance.
- D. Respect property.
  - 1. Dispose of food properly.
  - 2. Treat the school property and equipment appropriately.
- E. Display appropriate social skills.
  - 1. Interact with others appropriately.
  - 2. Display an appreciation for the efforts of the cafeteria staff.

All students should purchase food or bring a nutritious meal from home. Meals from restaurants must be in unlabeled containers. Canned or bottled soda, fast-food drinks, and energy drinks are not permitted. Each student should pick up around their eating area and dispose of trash in the proper place. Students are not allowed to take food or drink from designated areas. All behavior, conversation, and table manners are to reflect careful consideration of others. Visiting other areas once seated is not allowed. Misbehavior during breakfast or lunch may result in disciplinary action. When offered, students may purchase concessions ONLY during the lunch break! Call 549-5256 for school lunch/breakfast prices or any issue concerning your child's lunch account.

## **Lunch Detention**

Lunch detention will be held during the student's designated lunch break. Students will bring their lunch to the assigned room location.

Students who fail to attend assigned detention may be placed in GASP the next school day.

## **GASP- Guided Alternative to Suspension Program**

GASP is a program designed to keep students in school after a suspendable offense rather than sending them home. The student may continue his school work in a quiet, isolated environment monitored by a school paraprofessional. The student is counted as present during his/her stay in GASP and is not penalized academically. The student will:

1. Be placed in GASP from 1-5 days depending upon offense and/or the number of offenses.
2. Report directly to the GASP room upon entering school grounds.
3. Complete academic work in silence.
4. Eat alone separate from normal lunch time.
5. Be scheduled for the restroom twice daily.
6. Clean own area upon leaving GASP room.
7. Receive additional time if he/she disturbs the environment or breaks any rules in the GASP room.

Severe disruption of the GASP room will result in out-of-school suspension.

**NOTE: IF THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR IS NOT CORRECTED AFTER MULTIPLE ASSIGNMENTS TO GASP, THE STUDENT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL.**

## **Student Discipline/Responsibilities**

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following activities:

1. Possessing or using any type of tobacco on or near school property (BPSB policy fines will be enforced)
2. Gambling, fighting, immorality, inappropriate sexual behavior, or extortion on or near school property
3. Being disrespectful to teachers or other school personnel
4. Damaging, defacing, vandalizing, or destroying school property or illegally entering school buildings
5. Eating or drinking outside of designated areas (No drinks or food can be brought onto Campus)
6. Loitering in an area of heavy traffic
7. Possessing or using matches or lighters on school property
8. Possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other drugs on school property, on school buses, and/or at any school-sponsored event, at any time, during or after regular school hours
9. Possessing or using any instrument capable of inflicting bodily harm
10. Bullying or making threats directed toward students, teachers, administrators, school board members, other school board employees, and/or school property
11. Selling candy or anything else that is not sanctioned by the school
12. Cheating
13. Taking items that are not your personal property
14. Possessing any type of pornography on school property
15. Inappropriate/illegal use of Internet/technology
16. Using aerosol and pump sprays for any purpose other than personal hygiene-use on school grounds

## Definitions of Minor and Major Problem Behavior

Minor Problem Behavior	Definition
Defiance/Disrespect/ Non-compliance	Student engages in brief or low-intensity failure to respond to adult requests.
Disruption	Student engages in low-intensity, but inappropriate disruption.
Dress Code Violation	Student wears clothing that is not within the dress code guidelines defined by the school.
Electronic Devices	Student uses a cell phone or electronic device during normal school hours of operation without authorization.
Inappropriate Language/Comments	Student engages in low-intensity instance of inappropriate language/comments.
Physical Contact/ Physical Aggression	Student engages in non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact.
Property Misuse	Student engages in low-intensity misuse of property.
Out of Area	Student is out of designated area(s) without intentional defiance.
Tardy	Student arrives at class after the tardy bell.
Other	Student engages in any other minor problem behaviors that do not fall within the above categories.

Major Problem Behavior	Definition
Abusive Language/ Inappropriate Language/ Profanity	Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling or use of words in an inappropriate way.
Arson	Student plans and/or participates in malicious burning of property.
Bomb Threat/ False Alarm	Student delivers a message of possible explosive materials being on-campus or near campus, makes a false 911 call, or activates a false fire alarm.
Defiance/Disrespect/ Insubordination/ Non-Compliance	Student engages in refusal to follow directions, talks back and/or delivers socially rude interactions.
Disruption	Student engages in behavior causing a major interruption in a class or activity. Disruption includes sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; intentional excessive noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.
Fighting	Student is involved in mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence.

Forgery/ Theft	Student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property or has signed a person's name without that person's permission.
Gang Affiliation Display	Student uses gesture, dress, and/or speech to display affiliation with a gang.
Harassment/Bullying	Student delivers disrespectful messages* (verbal or gestural) to another person that includes threats and intimidation, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes. *Disrespectful messages include negative comments based on race, religion, gender, age, and/or national origin; sustained or intense verbal attacks based on ethnic origin, disabilities or other personal matters.
Inappropriate Display of Affection	Student engages in inappropriate, consensual, verbal and/or physical gestures/contact, of a sexual nature to another student/adult.
Inappropriate Location	Student is in an undesignated area that is inappropriate (as defined by school).
Lying/Cheating	Student delivers message that is untrue and/or deliberately violates rules.
Physical Aggression	Student engages in actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.).
Property Damage/Vandalism	Student participates in an activity that results in destruction or disfigurement of property.
Skip class	Student leaves or misses class without permission.
Tardy (Excessive Tardies)	Student is late to class or the start of the school day eight times or more.
Technology Violation	Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by school) use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer.
Use/Possession of Alcohol	Student is in possession of or is using alcohol.
Use/Possession of Combustibles	Student is in possession of substances/objects readily capable of causing bodily harm and/or property damage (matches, lighters, firecrackers, gasoline, lighter fluid).
Use/Possession of Drugs	Student is in possession of or is using illegal drugs/substances or imitations.
Use/Possession of Tobacco	Student is in possession of or is using tobacco.
Use/Possession of Weapons	Student is in possession of knives or guns (real or look alike), or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.
Other Behavior	Student engages in other serious problem behavior not listed.

\*Major problem behavior results in an automatic office referral.

## Positive Behavior Interventions and Support at BMS

Benton Middle School will continue to implement the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Plan that was implemented during the 2006-2007 school year. Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a statewide program that strives to accentuate the positive behavior of students thus decreasing the occurrence of negative behavior. Benton Middle behavior expectations (**be safe, be ready, be responsible, be respectful**) will be taught to our students during the first week of school through the discussion of the school rules. Behavior expectations will be reinforced throughout the school year.

### Our PBIS History and Goals

During the 2005-06 school year, over 1400 referrals were written due to behavior infractions by Benton Middle School students. We began the Zero Hero program in 2006-2007 and implemented the Positive Behavior and Intervention Support System (PBIS). The number of major referrals has significantly declined each year with the 2020-2021 school year having only 170 incidents.

Our goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to further reduce referrals. We will look at our progress toward this goal during our PBIS team meetings each month and during our regularly scheduled faculty meetings. We will encourage our students and teachers to work together to meet this goal.

### Rewards for Good Behavior

- **Tiger Tickets**: Tiger Tickets will be distributed to students caught being safe, responsible, respectful and ready to learn by employees.
  - Teachers will issue Tiger Tickets to students for being ready, responsible, respectful and safe.
  - Students will place their Tiger Tickets in the appropriate grade level box near the cafeteria.
  - The issuing employee will write the student's name and their name on the front of the Tiger Ticket. Also, the employee will circle the positive behavior that the student exhibited in order to earn the Tiger Ticket.
  - The students whose names are drawn will be announced.
- **Zero Hero**: Each nine weeks, students who have received no detentions, referrals, assignments to GASP, or suspensions will receive a reward.
  - Students who have been Zero Heroes during the entire fall semester (1st 18 weeks) will be allowed to participate in an out-of-school activity such as bowling on the designated day. However, students may be assessed a fee to cover the charges incurred by the school for the event.
  - Students who have been Zero Heroes during the spring semester (2nd 18 weeks) will be allowed to participate in an out-of-school activity such as going to Party Central on the designated day. However, students may be assessed a fee to cover the charges incurred by the school for the event.
- **Positive Behavior Referrals**: Teachers have the opportunity to nominate students for recognition if they have exhibited outstanding behavior, choices, improvement, effort, etc. Students will receive a certificate and recognition from the school administrators.
- **Various other incentives are given throughout the year by the school and many others are given by the individual teachers. These are just a few of the ways that we will encourage the students to be safe, responsible, respectful and ready to learn. We will be emphasizing the good deeds that they do rather than the incentive that they will earn.**
- **Employee Rewards**: Employees can also be given Tiger Tickets by the administration. Prizes will also be given to the teachers whose names are drawn from the Tiger Tickets collected during each designated time period.

\*For minor behavior problems, teachers will make an attempt to correct the negative behavior by talking to the student and engaging help from the parents before formal discipline becomes necessary. We will utilize our counselors effectively to intervene and help teach positive behavior before formal discipline becomes necessary. Students with academic or discipline concerns will be assigned to a teacher to which they will report every morning and afternoon in an attempt to prevent problems from occurring (Check-In/Check-Out Program). Students and teachers are surveyed throughout the year concerning the effectiveness of our PBIS plan and changes are made based on those surveys. Tier II and Tier III interventions and rewards are also put in place for identified students.

**Request for Assistance:**

If you or your student needs to request for assistance at any time, please go to the Benton Middle School website and click on the icon “Need help? Click here!” The icon is located on the left side of the homepage. The icon is a link to the Counselor’s Corner website. Please fill out the “request for assistance form”, and a counselor will address your concern. You may use this form to request a parent/teacher conference, counseling session, behavior intervention, or any concern you may have that requires assistance.

**Tier II**

Students are identified through the Tier II Decision-Making Rubric for support with these types of behavior concerns: disruptive, disrespectful, disobedient, or anger-management. Once the student qualifies for Tier II interventions, the Tier II committee will implement one of the following interventions. The student will be reevaluated every six to eight weeks to determine the level of continued support.

**Interventions**

**CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT (CICO)**

CICO is a Tier II, group-oriented intervention, designed especially for students whose problem behaviors (a) are unresponsive to Tier I practices and systems, (b) do not require more immediate individualized interventions, and (c) are observed across multiple settings or contexts. CICO procedures and goals will be defined by the student’s team. The designated adult will receive a packet of information.

**INDIVIDUAL/SMALL GROUP COUNSELING**

Students will meet weekly with his or her counselor. One of our counselors will use techniques that alter behavioral patterns through positive reinforcement.





## MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I hereby agree I am the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ and understand various events and activities in which my child is participating may be photographed and videotaped by Bossier Schools and/or the news media for the purpose of publication, illustration or advertising in any manner and form. Parental consent will be implied **unless** the child's legal guardian signs and returns this form to the school office.

Please **exclude** my child from being included in all forms of media

Parent or legal guardian's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or legal guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child's school \_\_\_\_\_