

# Brown County Middle School Student Handbook 2021-2022



## Table of Contents

Brown County Middle School Staff	3
Brown County Middle School Mission Statement	5
Bell Schedule	5
Cheating/Dishonesty/Plagiarism	6
Academic Fees	6
Grading	6
Requesting Teachers	7
School Day and Class Load	7
Attendance	7
Excused Absences	8
Pre-Arranged Absences	8
Unexcused Absences	9
Attendance Required for School Activities	9
School Dances	9
Library	10
Lost and Found	10
Lunch and Breakfast Programs	10
Athletics	11

**Brown County Middle School**  
**2021-2022 Student/Parent Handbook**  
**BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**STAFF**

Superintendent  
Assistant Principal  
School Secretary  
Athletic Director  
Transportation Secretary  
Athletic Secretary

Dr. Lan Eberle  
Alex Ebbing  
Megan Lawson  
Dave Phelps  
Casey Perry  
Melissa Markert

**BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**CERTIFIED STAFF**

Ms. Kim Dormire	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Ms. Kim Root	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mr. Aaron Llewellyn	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Ms. Jennifer Keller	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mr. Tom Moran	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Social Studies
Ms. Julie Kallenbach	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> ELA
Ms. Molly Babb	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> ELA
Ms. Lori Jackson	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Math
Mr. Ben Yingling	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Science
Mr. Dave Phelps	Physical Education/Athletic Director
Ms. Jolene Hall	Special Education
Mr. Eric Jones	Physical Education/Special Education
Mr. Wyatt Gard	Band
Mr. Rob Tynan	Vocal Music
Mr. James Planting	Art
Mr. Chris Miller	Agriculture
Mr. Dave Woodruff	8 <sup>th</sup> Health
Ms. Tish Rowlands	Special Education
Ms. Cassie Kindhart	Speech Therapist
Ms. Kathy Yingling	Library/ Intervention
Ms. Megan Woodward	FACS
Ms. Jennifer Van Giesen	8 <sup>th</sup> Math 1
Ms. Sandy Prather	MS Title 1

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Mr. Jonathon Thomas	Day Custodian
Ms. Karrie Leenerts	Evening Custodian
Ms. Rhoda Herald	Cafeteria
Ms. Tammy Kendrick	Cafeteria
Mr. James McKay	Head of Maintenance
Mr. Chad Roley	Maintenance
Ms. Lori Roberts	Paraprofessional
Ms. Amanda Ketchum	Paraprofessional
Ms. Marsha Bolton	Paraprofessional

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

HEATH FULLERTON, PRESIDENT	BETH BOYLEN
JENNIFER BLAESING– VICE PRESIDENT	JOHN EICHELBERGER
JAMES BLAKELEY - SECRETARY	DAWN HUGHES
	TODD KOCH
DR. LAN EBERLE-SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	

## Brown County Middle School Student and Parent Information

Dear Parents and Students of Brown County Middle School,

The teachers and administration extend our sincere welcome to all Brown County Middle School students for the 2021-2022 school year. We look forward to this new year and want it to be one in which you grow not only intellectually, but socially and emotionally as well. Success and growth in these areas this year will be contingent, to some degree, on the information contained within this handbook. Please read it thoroughly. It contains policies and rules designed to create a safe and productive learning environment for all students.

The handbook serves as a guide and is not meant to be all-inclusive. Rather, it represents the current status of the rules, practices, and policies at Brown County Middle School and is subject to change. We expect each student to abide by these rules and policies that have been established for the benefit of all who attend BCMS.

Have a great year and I look forward to working with you as the Brown County Middle School Assistant Principal.

Alex. Ebbing  
Assistant Principal

### BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

To develop a well-rounded student who is eager to learn, self-confident, and a productive member of society. We will pursue this mission by challenging each student to reach his/her potential while promoting a safe and caring environment. Our staff, in cooperation with parents, will prepare students for success in today's and tomorrow's world.

### BCMS SCHEDULE OF CLASS TIMES

REGULAR DAY WITH 3:00 PM DISMISSAL		2:00 DISMISSAL DAY		11:30 DISMISSAL	
5 <sup>TH</sup> – 8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE		5 <sup>TH</sup> – 8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE		5 <sup>TH</sup> – 8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	
PERIOD 1	8:00-8:47	PERIOD 1	8:00-8:39	PERIOD 1	8:00-8:27
PERIOD 2	8:50 – 9:37	PERIOD 2	8:42 – 9:21	PERIOD 2	8:30 – 8:57
PERIOD 3	9:40 – 10:27	PERIOD 3	9:24 – 10:03	PERIOD 3	9:00 – 9:27
PERIOD 4	10:30 – 11:17	PERIOD 4	10:06 – 10:45	PERIOD 4	9:30 – 9:57
PERIOD 5A (1 <sup>ST</sup> HALF)	11:17 – 11:47	PERIOD 6	10:48-11:27	PERIOD 6	10:00-10:27
PERIOD 5B (2 <sup>ND</sup> HALF)	11:47 – 12:17	PERIOD 5 (1 <sup>ST</sup> HALF)	11:27-11:57	PERIOD 7	10:30 – 10:57
PERIOD 6	12:21 – 1:08	PERIOD 5 (2 <sup>ND</sup> HALF)	11:57 – 12:27	PERIOD 8	11:00 – 11:20
PERIOD 7	1:12- 1:59	PERIOD 7	12:30 – 1:09		
PERIOD 8	2:03-2:50	PERIOD 8	1:12 – 1:50		

## ACADEMICS

### **Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating is misrepresenting another person's work as one's own or allowing one's work to be used in such a manner. Students are expected to perform their own work. Any situation where a student is found to be cheating or plagiarizing may result in no credit for the particular test/assignment and the administrator and parents will be notified of each incidence of cheating. Repeated cheating/plagiarism incidents may result in a failing grade for the course and/or administrative imposed consequences and may impact participation in school activities/athletics. Additional consequences will be administered if continues incidents occur.

### **Academic Fees**

-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Certificates will be granted when all fees have been paid.

### **Grades**

It is important that students get off to a good start academically. You can help your child develop good learning and homework habits by providing him/her a quiet time and place to study and read.

We are here to help your child become prepared for life's challenges. We will go to great lengths to help our students, but the responsibility is ultimately his/hers. Failure to assume this responsibility and complete the assigned work is the leading cause of failure. Please create a partnership with your child's teacher which will help your child succeed.

Our grading system is as follows:

A	90-100	Superior		S	Satisfactory
B	80-89	Very Good		P	Progressing
C	70-79	Average		N	Not Meeting
D	60-69	Passing			
F	Below 60	Not Passing			

**Note:** The grade given at the end of the semester is the grade that will be recorded on the permanent record. Students who continue to perform below average work with unsatisfactory effort and poor attendance may be considered for retention in the same grade for the next school year.

All students are required to successfully pass an examination on the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois prior to being promoted to high school.

The above requirements may not apply to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program.

The district provides 5 days advance notice to parents prior to offering any class or course in sex education and/or recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse to pupils in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The district provides that such pupils shall not be required to take the course if their parent/guardians submit written objection.

Math I taken during the eighth grade year will appear on the high school transcript and count toward a student's high school G.P.A. If a semester grade of B- or above is not attained in Math I, the course will be retaken in high school. All students completing Math 1 their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year are eligible to retake the course their freshman year if they feel it would be beneficial.

### **Standards-Based Scoring and Reporting for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

In addition to letter grades on your child's report card you will find specific information regarding how they are progressing toward meeting standards. The purpose of this type of information is to create a more specific, accurate and understandable description of student learning.

### **Requesting Teachers**

Due to the difficulty of scheduling and limited number of places available, students/parents may not request teachers.

### **School Day and Class Load**

The regular school day for students is 8:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. A standard class load consists of six (6) academic subjects and physical education.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **ATTENDANCE/ABSENTEEISM**

The **Illinois School Code** requires: Whoever has custody or control of any child between the ages of seven and seventeen years shall cause such child to attend some public school in the district wherein the child resides the entire time it is in session.

Section 26-2: "Any person having custody or control of a child who is below the age of 7 years or above the age of 17 years and who is enrolled in any of grades 1 through 12 in the public school, shall cause him to attend the public school in the district wherein he resides when it is in session during the regular school term." This statute defines a chronic truant as any child who has been truant from school 5% or more of the previous 180 school days.

It is difficult for a child to learn if he or she is not consistently in the classroom. The student who is absent, for whatever reason, misses classroom content and activities and no amount of effort can recreate these educational experiences for children. Therefore, careful consideration should be made before a child is absent from school and concerned parents should not allow their child to miss school except for unavoidable reasons. Removing students from school for any reason is discouraged. Careful planning in accordance with the school calendar will ensure that the student's best interests are being served. Attendance rules and procedures are designed to develop students' punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. School is the primary occupation of students, and, as in any occupation, regular attendance is expected.

The Brown County School District shall not be liable for the educational progress of students who fail to maintain regular attendance habits, nor for the progress of students who are removed from the school for extended periods of time contrary to law or good educational procedure.

In accordance with **Policy 7:70**, administrators may excuse students for up to **9 days** annually (**includes single periods**). College visits (sophomores (1 day); juniors (2 days) and seniors (3 days) only), other "pre-arranged" absences, non-medically verified absences, etc., are included in the 9 days. Written notification will be mailed to the parents after the 7th absence. **Medical verification is then due on the 10th absence day**. Situations not included within the 9 days are as follows: **medically-verified absences, religious holidays, or a death in the immediate family**.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES** - Excused absences are absences for “valid cause”, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- o Death in the immediate family;
- o Family/home emergency (reviewable);
- o Court appearance (Court dates are excused absences if the student has a note from the probation officer or judge saying they were required to appear in court);
- o Religious observances;
- o Parent/Guardian indicating student is ill (reviewable);
- o Medical (a documented, health-related absence, i.e., medical or dental appointments);
- o school-sanctioned field trips;
- o Armed forces recruiter visit or enlistment-related activity (with official note)
- o Out-of-school suspension (Administrative removal from school property for a school day or portion thereof for violations of school disciplinary policies);
- o In-school suspension (an in-building administrative reassignment from a class period or periods for violations of school disciplinary policies).
- o Administrative approval;
- o Pre-arranged approved absences (see procedures below)

NOTE: The above absences are examples of “valid cause” absences, i.e., absences cited in the Illinois School Code and/or District #1 School Board policy.

**PRE-ARRANGED APPROVED ABSENCES** -Permission for a pre-arranged absence must be secured in the office at least **3 days** in advance of the absence. **Pre-arranged absences will be included in the 9 days of allowed parent-excused absences.** Pre-arranged absence could include the following:

- 1) Religious Program of Instruction or Conference – A parent/guardian must notify the attendance office approximately two weeks before the absences.
- 2) Family-Related/Family Time Absences – Parents/guardians should make every attempt to schedule family-related/family-time absences around the school schedule. However, when such trips must be made while school is in session, an application for pre-approved family-related activities will be reviewed and considered for excused status when students are absent from school. **These absences are to be reviewed by, but not limited to the following: an assistant principal and principal.** Pre-planned family-related/family time are limited to one per semester. Please refer to the school calendar if planning such an absence.

\* Pre-arranged absences requested by the parents or guardians are not to exceed five days per school year and may be excused with the permission of the principal for family time. At least **three school days** prior written notice is required to pre-arrange an absence. Schoolwork missed is to be made up according to the classroom teacher’s policy. Only family time or family-related absence qualify as excused absence. **Failure to pre-arrange in the required timeframe will cause the absence to be considered unexcused and all attendance penalties will apply.**

\* A day of school includes any part of a school day. For example, an excused absence under this section for an afternoon counts as one day of the five days allowed.



**\*Requests for an absence that would exceed five pre-arranged days in a school year, requests for students in danger of failing any class, and requests for absences for students who have extensive absences due to other reasons are not normally approved.**

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TRUANCY** - An unauthorized absence is any absence caused by a failure to follow prescribed school procedures or reasons not accepted by the school. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- o No phone contact with parent
- o Oversleeping
- o Missed school bus or lack of ride to school
- o Car trouble
- o Undocumented health-related absences
- o Non-approved family-related activity or pre-approved family-related activity days exceeding the pre-approval limit
- o Shopping
- o Working
- o Passport appointments
- o Animal appointments or animal illness
- o Weather-related reasons (raining, etc.)

**NOTE: Any unexcused absence is reviewable by the administration.**

### **Attendance Required for School Activities**

Students must be in attendance for their 1<sup>st</sup> period class (more than 10 minutes missed counts as an absence) and remain in attendance for the remainder of the school day in order to participate in/attend school sponsored activities that occur outside of regular school hours. The only exceptions are: medical/dental related appointments (when notification of reason for absence is made by parent AND verified with written confirmation from the doctor/hospital/dentist (with appointment time listed) prior to the end of the school day); funeral of an immediate family member that has been pre-arranged with administration; or court appearance (when verified by note from court official), or other emergencies as approved by the principal.

### **Dances**

Throughout the school year 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may have an opportunity to have a school dance. Only 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade BCMS students and **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students from St. Mary's School in Mt. Sterling** will be allowed to attend. School appropriate dress is expected. School rules apply.

**Students who have accumulated 2 or more days of OSS or 5 or more days of ISS and those who have missed 5% or more of school attendance days (unexcused absences) for the school year may not be permitted to attend school dances, at the discretion of the principal.**

## **Library**

The Media Center is a resource center for students and faculty members. We have two library collections, one suitable for Junior High students and one for High School students. In addition, there are materials available for use by teachers. Students are expected to return their books on time. Students may be subject to disciplinary action if books are not returned in 2 months. Parents will be required to pay a replacement fee for lost or damaged books.

Middle School students may check out books for four (4) weeks and may renew those books once unless someone else has requested them. There is not a limit to the number of books that students may check out, as long as books are returned on time. Reference materials are not checked out to students, but students may request permission to have copies made.

Students must have a pass to go to the library. Students not having a definite need for library materials should not go to the library. The library is not set up to function as a study hall, lounge, or detention center. Students without a purpose for being in the library will be instructed to return to class.

Students are not allowed to have candy, soda, food, or gum in the library at any time for any reason.

The library's computers are for research, not games. Students without a research need will be instructed to return to class. Students are NOT allowed to personalize the library's computers at any time for any reason. A student's library/computer privileges can and will be suspended for misconduct or abuse of the library or library materials.

## **Lost and Found**

Students should bring any article found on the campus, in buses or at school-sponsored events to the office. A lost and found service will be maintained in the office. Items that remain in lost and found will be donated after Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring and at the end of the school year.

## **Lunch and Breakfast Programs**

The cost for middle school breakfast will be \$2.00 and the cost for middle school lunch is \$3.00. Milk will cost \$.50. Additional milk at lunch or milk for students bringing sack lunches may be purchased. The classroom teachers and/or the office will collect milk/lunch money. Please send money in an envelope with the student's name stating what the money is for and the amount enclosed. Lunches and extra milk should be paid for in advance.

We encourage students to eat lunch as this is vital for effective academic performance in the afternoon. A student may participate in the hot lunch program or bring a sack lunch from home. Menus are available at the beginning of every month and can be accessed on the district website, to make it easier for parents. Sack lunches should include a main entrée (sandwich, cheese and crackers, cheese stick), fruits and veggies. A bag of chips and a small dessert are a nice addition but please make sure that those treats are not the main components of the lunch. Soft drinks are not permitted at lunch. **Also, please do not send peanut products to school in lunches as we are a peanut free building.** Do not send food items that require an adult to prepare at school. If you send an item that needs to be warm, please warm it at home and put it in a thermos to send to school. A school lunch will be provided if the teacher discovers a child's lunch is missing vital nutritious components.

A computerized lunchroom accounting system is used to manage student accounts. Money that is collected is credited to each student's personal account. Then the account is debited with each day's purchase. Students whose accounts have negative balances on Tuesday night will get an automated phone call stating the amount owed. Parents will also get an e-mail on Friday afternoon if their student owes money.

Parents may make use of our on-line payment method for either credit or debit card payment, which is accessible through our Skyward Parent Portal. This should allow an easier method of payment for those of you who may not remember to send a check or cash with your child.

### **Athletics**

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The athlete must earn this privilege through dedication, desire and discipline. Without the pursuit of these, the athlete can in no way do justice to himself/herself or the school. The athlete must discipline himself/herself to be a good citizen and student in order to achieve athletic excellence. In order for the pursuit of athletic achievement and the character training of young people, the Athletic Policies need to be understood by the student athlete, parents, and school. These are found in the District Extra Curricular handbook.