

**Blackhawk Christian School
Parent-Student Handbook
Secondary School
2022-2023
Index**

Vision for Students.....	1
Introduction.....	1

	PAGE
GENERAL INFORMATION	1
Academic Divisions and Class Sizes	1
Technology Responsible Use	1
Directory Information	1
Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy.....	2
Fundraisers.....	2
Lost and Found.....	2
Matthew 18	2
Parent Communication	2
Parent Messages to Students	3
Parent-Teacher Conferences	3
Parental Visits.....	3
Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect	3
Safety and Security	3
School Delay or Closing	4
School Hours	5
Sexual Harassment	5
Student Lunch Policy	5
Student Records and Transcripts	5
Student Transfer / Withdrawal	6
Visitors and Volunteers	6
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	7
Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	7
Alternative Enrollments.....	7
BCS Medal of Honor.....	7
College Admissions Testing	8
Course Drop / Add Policy	8
Repeating a Course	8
Grading Scale	9
Graduation Requirements	9
Homework Policy	9
Honor Roll.....	10
Interim Reports	10
Media Center/Technology Help Desk.....	10
Promotion and Retention.....	10
Ranking of Students	10
Report Cards	11
Semester Exams	11
Transfer Credits	11
Acquired Credits in PE and/or Fine Arts.....	11

	PAGE
ATTENDANCE POLICY	11
Student Responsibility.....	11
Parental Responsibility.....	12
School Responsibility – Parental Notification	12
Absences	12
Absences Counted as Present	12
Excused Absences as Present.....	12
Unexcused Absences	12
Truancy.....	12
Pre-arranged Absences.....	12
Excessive Absences	13
Absences and Student Activities Participation.....	13
Cutting Class.....	13
Leaving School Ground without Permission	13
Make-up Work / Requesting Homework	13
Sign Out / Sign in Sheet.....	13
Tardiness / Late to Class	13
HEALTH SERVICES	14
School and Health Services	14
Medication Policy.....	15
STUDENT SUPERVISION	17
<i>“Partnering with Parents”</i>	17
Appearance Code.....	17
Corporal Punishment.....	18
Code of Conduct.....	19
Harassment	21
Personal Property.....	23
Sexual Activity and Student Pregnancy	24
Student Employment/Work Permits	25
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	25
Athletics.....	25
Other Student Activities.....	27

Blackhawk Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, nationality, or ethnic origin in its admission, education, financial, or employment policies.

VISION FOR STUDENTS

It is the vision of Blackhawk Christian School that its graduates will be educationally and academically prepared for the next level of education or vocation. They will have a love of learning and desire to continue to grow intellectually. Their lives will give evidence of the fruit of the Spirit and of a desire to glorify God in all that they do by loving and serving others, and by increasing in their knowledge of God and His Word. Possessing a Biblical worldview, BCS graduates will seek to advance the Kingdom of God and to serve God through their local church.

INTRODUCTION

The Parent-Student Handbook is revised and produced annually and is intended to provide information to both students and parents that should assist in the home-school partnership by keeping all parties informed of school-related policies. Our school board reviews and approves this document annually. It is expected that parents and students will review and be accountable for the information contained herein at the start of each school year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Academic Divisions and Class Sizes

BCS is divided into four divisions: Preschool Academy, Primary, Intermediate, and Secondary.

- 1) **Preschool Academy:** age 3 through 5 years old by August 1st. Preschool Academy target class size with 2 teachers: 10-16. Extended Care target class size with **2** teachers: 14-20
- 2) **Primary K-1:** Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by August 1st.
- 3) **Intermediate 2-6:** Target class sizes: 2nd-3rd grade = 20-24; 4th - 6th = 26-28.
- 4) **Secondary:** Middle school (grades 7-8) and high school (grades 9-12). Individual class / course sizes generally range from 25 to 30 students depending upon the subject.

2. Technology Responsible Use

Student technology expectations are detailed in the Responsible Use Policy document on the BCS webpage.

3. Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that BCS, with certain exceptions, obtain written parental consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a child's educational record. However, BCS may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless parents have advised the school to the contrary in accordance with school procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow BCS to include this type of information from a child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include: a playbill, showing a student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; recognition lists such as Honor Roll and graduation programs; and athletic rosters showing weight and height of team members. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. BCS does not release directory information to the Armed Forces without the student's or parent's permission.

Parents who do not want BCS to disclose directory information from their child's education records without prior written consent must notify the school in writing each year by the **first day of school**. BCS has designated the following information as directory information: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in officially recognized student activities including athletics, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors, and awards received, the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

4. Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy

BCS has a policy of providing equal opportunity and admits students of any race, color, gender, or national origin. All rights, privileges, programs, services, facilities and student activities are made equally available to all students in the school.

5. Fundraisers

BCS is committed to limiting the number of times our parents and supporters are asked for financial support. Toward that end, fundraising is monitored as follows:

- A. Annual BCS-wide Major Fundraising Events: Fundraising activities that anticipate raising more than \$1,000 must be approved by the School Board as a part of the BCS Development plan. Approved activities currently include Benefit Dinner / Auction (November) and Jogathon (May).
- B. Braves Booster Club (BBC) Golf Outing: This annual fundraising activity is intended to provide financial support for Athletics beyond their general budget allocations. Additionally, the Golf Outing is intended to enhance these programs' overall quality while promoting BCS school spirit.
- C. Other Fundraising Activity – anticipated to raise less than \$1,000: Any additional project or program-focused fundraising activities by student organizations (e.g., athletic teams, fine arts groups, clubs, individual classes, etc.) must be approved and supervised by Administration.

Also:

- 1) Box Tops for Education: sponsored by General Mills provides money to BCS for each box top coupon collected. Box tops can be dropped off at either of the school offices.

6. Lost and Found

- 1) Lost and Found is located on a table in the athletic hallway; books are given to the library, and jewelry-type items are in the office. Items not claimed are periodically removed from the building.
- 2) Items found that are labeled will be returned to their owners.

7. Matthew 18 Principle

Handling Conflicts: "Matthew 18 Principle"

It is our intention that our BCS family, staff members, parents and students will address conflicts by applying the "Matthew 18 Principle". This Biblical principle encourages us to go directly to the one with whom we have conflict. If the conflict can be resolved, it ends at that level. If it is not resolved, the parties are encouraged to seek a solution by going to the next person in authority. Simply stated, when a conflict begins in the classroom, a student or parent should approach the teacher first, principal second, Head of School third; and, as a last resort, the school board. It is expected that all BCS staff, parents and students will follow this Biblical principle.

8. Parent Communication

BCS makes it a priority to communicate with parents regularly. The following are specific means of communicating important information to our parents and community. In addition, parents are always welcomed and are encouraged to contact any BCS staff and / or stop in to discuss any matters.

- 1) THE BRAVE: BCS Preschool Edition and Primary School Edition
- 2) CHALKMARKS: BCS intermediate school weekly publication to inform parents of school-related information and upcoming events.
- 3) BCS WEBSITE: www.blackhawkchristian.org
The BCS website is the go-to place for school information: basic school information, school schedules, athletic schedules, back issues of Chalkmarks, Accelerated Reader booklists, as well as library resources available from home.
- 4) POWERSCHOOL: <http://blackhawkchristian.powerschool.com/public/>
PowerSchool is a student information system providing a flow of information between parents, teachers, and students. BCS uses PowerSchool to report grades, attendance, and

to communicate with parents. Parents and students are each given unique user names and passwords to access their portal.

- 5) CONSTANT CONTACT: email communication, as needed, to families.
- 6) BLACKHAWK MINISTRIES MOBILE APP: The app contains a school tab that is an information center designed for current BCS families. It provides access to school calendars, PowerSchool, lunch ordering, and other information parents may need.
- 7) NAVIANCE STUDENT: is the primary tool used by the secondary guidance and academic services departments to communicate guidance information. Both students and parents have access and may find career testing results, career planning tools, transcript request processes, and college planning information.
- 8) SCHOOL MESSENGER: is mass communication tool used by the school to deliver messages to parents. Messages may be delivered through text or pre-recorded voice messages.

9. Parent Messages to Students and Teachers

Parent messages may be left at the school offices to be given to students at a convenient time. Messages to teachers are best left via email using the teacher's first initial and last name @ blackhawkchristian.org (e.g. jrich@blackhawkchristian.org). Messages may also be left via the school office phone system voicemail. Emergency, time-sensitive messages should always be communicated through the school office, as students are prohibited from using their phones during class.

10. Parent - Teacher Conferences

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled following the first grading period. However, conferences are not limited to that time. Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is encouraged. Parents are encouraged to use PowerSchool to monitor their child's academic progress. Either teacher or parent may initiate a conference.

11. Parental Visits

Parents of current BCS students who wish to visit their child's classroom during the school day may submit that request through the school principal. The request should include the specific reason for the visit to allow the school to determine whether a classroom visit is the proper step. Once approved, the parent, teacher, and principal will arrange the appropriate date, time, and duration of the visit.

12. Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

BCS administration and teachers are required to adhere to the state and local child protection requirements of reporting to local officials should it come to our attention that a student may be experiencing neglect or abuse.

13. Safety and Security

Indiana state accredited schools are required by law to annually certify to the IDEOE that emergency preparedness plans have been reviewed and revised. BCS maintains office and classroom Emergency and Safety Manuals for all school staff members. BCS performs monthly drills for fire, severe weather, lockdowns, lockouts, earthquakes and annual evacuation. Emergency, safety and security procedures are reviewed each year with staff and students under the leadership of the School Safety Coordinator and the building principals.

Outside doors are kept locked during normal school hours. Students and visitors arriving after school begins must enter at the door of the school office (Secondary -Door #3 Primary-Door #12 and Intermediate-Door #1). All persons entering the building during school hours must be identified before being allowed entry. Parents and visitors must sign in at the school office and obtain a visitor's badge that must be worn while in the school building. Those same visitors must sign out at the school office and return the visitor's badge.

A crossing guard at the State Blvd. light is provided before and after school by the City of Fort Wayne.

The BCS Administration Team will make every effort to communicate to BCS parents the necessary information in case of an Emergency Action (not drills) taking place at the school. The primary means of this communication will be in the form of a Text Alert. Parents may sign-up for the BCS Text Alert at the BCS web page. The necessary information given on a Text Alert will be as follows:

The buildings involved in the action	"All BCS"
The emergency action	"Lockout"
Reason for the action	"Robbery in Georgetown"
Parent action required	"No parent action is needed"
Notification reminder	"Further notifications when available"

It is important to refrain from contacting (calling or texting) the school or the school staff for information or updates during the Emergency Action. It is vital that all staff not become distracted by extra communication and be able to receive necessary, important safety information and directions. The PK-12 BCS staff is instructed not to respond to outside cell phone calls or texts during an Emergency Action unless specifically ordered by the BCS Administration Team.

Important Terms and definitions:

Lockdown – A threat has been identified in the building and danger is imminent. Students and staff are locked in rooms giving the appearance that no one is in the building. No one is allowed to enter or leave the building.

Lockout – Danger is NOT imminent in the building. A threat has been identified in the neighborhood. All outside doors are locked. All students and staff are secured indoors. All classroom doors are locked and closed, but teaching continues inside as normal. Known visitors are allowed to enter the building and students may leave the building when safe.

Shelter in Place – Students and staff have located to their interior safe areas due to natural or man-made danger outside the building.

Building Evacuation – Students and staff have left the building due to an alarm or identified danger in the building. Students are kept in classroom groups outside until further instructions are given (Example: fire alarm).

Off-sight Evacuation – Due to safety or security reasons, students and staff have been moved to another safe and secure location. The first off-sight evacuation is the other BCS campus (Example: natural gas leak in the building).

14. School Delay or Closing

The administration will determine if a school closing or delay is necessary due to inclement weather or facility problems. Administration shall take into account decisions made by Fort Wayne Community Schools and the other private and public school corporations in Allen County. In the event of school closings or delays, announcements will be made on local radio and TV, announced as Blackhawk Christian School. Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up to receive BCS School Messenger text alerts that will inform them of delays, closings and other school emergency information.

15. School Hours

Preschool Academy	8:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. 12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	For AM Session For PM Session
Primary (K-1)	8:00 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	
Intermediate (2-4)	8:10 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	First Dismissal
Intermediate (5-6)*	8:10 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Second Dismissal
Secondary (7-12)	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	

*and those siblings/carpoolers in grades 2-4 riding with them

Two Hour Delay Schedule

Preschool Academy	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	For AM Session For PM Session
Primary (K-1)	10:00 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	
Intermediate (2-4)	10:10 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	First Dismissal
Intermediate (5-6)*	10:10 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Second Dismissal
Secondary (7-12)	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	

*and those siblings/carpoolers in grades 2-4 riding with them

16. Sexual Harassment

Students who believe they have observed or become aware of a school employee or another student behaving in a sexually harassing manner are required to report the matter promptly to school personnel. All complaints will be promptly investigated.

17. Student Lunch Policy

BCS has a closed lunch policy. This means students from other schools are not allowed to come and BCS students are not allowed to leave during our lunch period. Exceptions to this policy must include parental and school administration pre-approval. Such approvals are generally granted for lunch with the student's parents, pastors, youth pastors or other significant adults. Upon returning to school, students are expected to sign back in at the school office and return to class on time. Blackhawk Christian School serves hot lunches and an unlimited salad bar available for purchase. BCS uses staff and parent volunteers to assist in the serving of food. Students must order lunches or milk online each month for the following month through our website. Payments must be made online.

18. Student Records and Transcripts

BCS maintains a permanent record file on each student. It includes academic, health, disciplinary, and attendance records. Material in each student's file is confidential and shall be accessible only by permission of the school administration. Information on the student's permanent record will be made available to:

- 1) parents and students upon request of the parents
- 2) school employees on a need-to-know basis
- 3) prospective employers upon receipt of written parent / student authorization
- 4) colleges, universities and military services upon the student's written request
- 5) another school as a result of withdrawal or transfer

Disciplinary records are defined as suspension and expulsion documents. Minor offenses are not considered part of the permanent record. The records are property of BCS and will not be released if financial accounts are not current.

Transcripts may be requested at the high school by requesting on-line through *Naviance Student*. It is not customary to give official high school transcripts to parent or students. BCS will send transcripts directly to the designated destination. Students and parents may request an unofficial copy of their transcript.

19. Student Transfer / Withdrawal

Parents desiring to transfer or withdraw a student must initiate the process by contacting the school principal. Students must obtain a *Student Withdrawal Form* from the school office. This form must be completed and signed by the principal. The withdrawal is incomplete and no academic records will be released for any student until the proper documentation is completed and all financial obligations have been met.

20. Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers are vital to the culture and operation of Blackhawk Christian School and are utilized on a daily, weekly and as-needed basis. BCS defines a volunteer as any adult who will interact directly with students during school hours, including field trips off campus. Visitors are defined as adults who visit a classroom or school function without direct student interaction. In an effort to keep our school and students safe, BCS will use the following guidelines for checking in visitors and evaluating volunteers.

1. Visiting Schools and/or Classrooms - Parents, patrons and other guests are welcome to visit our schools with the following parameters:
 - a. Upon arrival all visitors (including parents/guardians) must proceed immediately to the school office, obtain a visitor's badge, and check in with the building principal or principal's designee.
 - b. Prior to departure, all visitors (including parents/guardians) must proceed to the school office to check out.
 - c. All visitors to classrooms must receive prior approval from the building principal at least one day prior to the requested visitation.
 - d. In order to protect students' confidentiality and avoid unnecessary interruptions to instructional time, classroom visitations must be brief and are available only to the parents/guardians of the children who are enrolled in that classroom.
 - e. Non-BCS students are only allowed to visit during the school day with BCS administrative pre-approval. Prospective students may visit classrooms and shadow a current BCS student upon pre-approval by BCS administration.
2. Visiting During Lunch Time
 - a. Prior to the visit the parent/guardian or approved visitor must complete a background check, as this visit will include direct student contact. (Note: A background check may take up to a week to complete.)
 - b. A student's parent/guardian, who has completed a background check, must call the school office at least one day in advance to schedule a lunch visit.
 - c. Upon arrival and departure, all visitors (including parents/guardians) must proceed immediately to the school office and check in and out with the building principal or principal's designee.
 - d. If the visitor is someone other than the parent/guardian, the request for a lunchtime visit must come from the student's parent/guardian.
 - e. Visitors are not permitted on the playground during recess.
 - f. Recent BCS graduates may visit current students during lunch with BCS administrative approval.
3. Volunteering at BCS
 - a. We encourage you to voluntarily contribute your time and talents to improve and enrich our students' education.
 - b. Parents do not need a background check for attending "public" events at the school.
 - c. Parent/Volunteers need a background check if they are:
 - i. Volunteering in the school
 - ii. Chaperoning a field trip
 - iii. Having lunch in the school cafeteria
4. Background Check Policy for Volunteers - In an effort to keep our school safe, volunteer candidates with criminal background checks containing the following charges will not be permitted to volunteer at BCS:
 - a. Child abuse or neglect charges
 - b. Felony charges within the last 5 years, convictions in the last 10
 - c. Battery charges within the last 5 years, convictions in the last 10

- d. Drug charges within the last 5 years
- e. Two or more alcohol related charges within the last 5 years*
- f. Any charge currently pending

*Any alcohol or driving-related charges within the last 7 years will prohibit a volunteer from driving BCS students on a BCS-sponsored trip or extra-curricular activity.

Anything not listed but determined to be a risk to students will be reviewed prior to approval.

**Note: Blackhawk Christian's Volunteer Policy is built on what we believe is the perceived welfare and protection of children. Our policy is crafted to give administrators and parents clarity on volunteer positions within the school where there will be student contact. While the standards are meant to be clear and concise with deviations rare, BCS does recognize that there could be a situation that needs further understanding and communication. If you would like to share your unique story with our Head of Schools, please contact that office for a "BCS Visitors Appeal Form" to open up further dialogue. The BCS Human Resources Committee and Head of Schools would review the form and provide a final decision typically in a thirty day window.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

1. Advanced Placement (AP) and Concurrent (Dual) Credit Courses

Students may enroll in AP courses in their junior or senior years after having completed the appropriate published prerequisites for each AP course. It is expected that the AP exam be taken when offered toward the end of the academic year. If the state provides payment for the exam, all students will take the exam. If payment is required by the student, taking the exam is optional. Students in their junior and senior years may also enroll in concurrent courses at BCS. These dual credit courses are college level courses taught by BCS faculty during the normal school day. Students may receive both high school and college credit for these courses. Students must pay the additional tuition determined by the partnering college to receive college credit for the course.

2. Alternative Enrollments

It is the desire of Blackhawk Christian High School that all of its students take full advantage of the entire Christian education available at BCS. Juniors and Seniors may alter their schedule to allow for enrollment in college courses for high school credit, attendance at the FWCS Career Academy, or enrollment in Professional Career Internships (PCI). Students must receive approval for any of the alterations in their normal schedule from administration.

Students applying for early dismissal to pursue other educational opportunities must pay the full tuition for the entire school year. Students attending college for high school credit are responsible for all costs from the college or university.

Students desiring high school credit for college course work must have transcripts sent to BCS. Grades received for any course work completed outside BCS for high school credit may be included in the calculation of the student's grade point average.

It is expected that all BCS enrolled students take courses required for graduation at BCS as the schedule allows. It is also expected that enrolled students follow the normal sequence of classes as published unless granted approval from administration.

3. BCS Medal of Honor

The BCS Medal of Honor award is given each year at the graduation program to a graduating senior as selected by the faculty. The selection is based upon a demonstration of excellence in all four of the following areas as described below:

- 1) Spiritual Maturity: clear profession of faith in Christ. There exists evidence of a prayer life, obedience and submission to authority, respect to peers and adults, and growth and improvement in the Christian life.
- 2) Christian Service: servant leadership at BCS and in a local church ministry evidences a heart of service.

- 3) Academic Commitment: understands his/her stewardship responsibilities in academics, and has been committed and diligent in pursuit of their best academic work. Student must have at least a 3.0 GPA.
- 4) Student Activities Leadership: student has been active and involved in student activities / school life and provided leadership or has made a significant positive contribution to the school in this area.

4. College Admissions Testing

The practice ACT is administered each year and offered to all 10th and 11th grade students. The PSAT is administered each year and offered to all 10th and 11th grade students. The ACT and SAT test are also administered at BCS each semester. BCS will provide information to families regarding test dates and costs.

5. Course Drop / Add Policy

Students may add additional classes to their schedule any time up to 2 weeks into a new semester.

Students are encouraged to attempt courses that challenge them without great risk. Students may withdraw from a course, unless the course and grade are necessary to retain eligibility, within the second week after the second grading period (second or fourth quarter) for the course without penalty or record. Students who withdraw after the second week of the second grading period for the course will receive a "W" (withdraw). A "W" is equivalent to an "F" and will be calculated as part of the student's GPA and class rank. This policy applies to all courses, traditional and online, that are part of the student's approved academic schedule.

Athletes using an Ingnitia online course to meet athletic eligibility requirements may not drop the course during that semester.

If a student determines a need to add or drop a class to or from their schedule, the following procedure must be followed. Obtain a drop/add form from the office. Fill out the appropriate information along with a parent signature and submit the form to the high school office. A BCS school administrator may email a parent to verify approval of the class schedule change. Schedule changes made during the summer or prior to the beginning of semester two may be initiated by a student or parent email to the student's guidance counselor.

6. Repeating a Course

A course recorded on a student transcript may be repeated upon student or parent request under the following circumstances:

1. Credit Recovery: Any course that resulted in a semester grade of "F" or "W" may be repeated for credit. Both grades will be included on the transcript and both grades will be calculated as part of the student's cumulative GPA and student rank.
2. Raise any semester grade below a C in order to qualify for the Academic Honors Diploma. Both grades will be included on the transcript. Only the second grade will be calculated as part of the student's GPA and student rank.
3. Raise any semester grade to help raise the student's cumulative GPA to 3.0+ in order to qualify for the Academic Honors Diploma. Both grades will be included on the transcript. Only the second grade will be calculated as part of the student's GPA and student rank.
4. Raise any semester grade below a C-. Both grades will be included on the transcript. Only the second grade will be calculated as part of the student's GPA and student rank.

The selection of repeated courses will be determined by the BCS Administration. Possible options include regularly scheduled BCS classes, approved online classes, and approved summer school classes. This policy applies to any courses included on the student's transcript.

7. Grading Scale (Grades 7-12)

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>% Scale</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>% Scale</u>	<u>GPA</u>
A	93-100	4.0	C	73-76	2.0
A-	90-92	3.7	C-	70-72	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	83-86	3.0	D	63-66	1.0
B-	80-82	2.7	D-	60-62	0.7
C+	77-79	2.3	F	59-below	0.0

8. Graduation Requirements

There are three diplomas that a student may receive upon graduation at BCS: the general diploma, the Core 40 diploma, and the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma. The general diploma is the minimal diploma recognized by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). It requires the minimal amount of credits (40) with the minimal amount of requirements. The general diploma may only be issued after consultation of administration, parent(s), and student.

The Core 40 diploma is the minimal diploma recommended by the IDOE for most students. It must be obtained unless specifically waived by the administration, parent(s), and student. The Core 40 diploma requires a minimum of 42 credits. The Core 40 student is required to have more math, science, and social studies credits.

The Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma is offered to encourage students to select more rigorous courses during their high school years and to better equip them academically for the competitive world of higher education. Students must take a minimum of 47 credits that include more upper level math and science courses as well as credits in a world language and the arts. Students must earn an overall GPA of 3.0 as well as have no semester grade below C.

Specific graduation requirements and required courses for each diploma are published each year for each high school graduating class and are posted on the BCS website. Parents and students should be aware that the diploma type may affect state awarded financial aid for post-secondary education. Please see the IDOE website for the current student aid policy.

Students beginning with the graduating class of 2023 must complete the new IDOE Graduation Pathway Requirements in order to earn their diplomas. Information regarding these new requirements may be found at <https://www.doe.in.gov/graduation-pathways>.

Students are expected to complete four years of high school in order to graduate with a BCS diploma. Unusual circumstances may develop which might require a need for a student to request an early graduation. For such circumstances the student's family must submit in writing to the Secondary School Administration their desire for their student to graduate early, stating the reasons for the early graduation and the graduation plan. Requests for early graduation will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If an early graduation plan is accepted, students may not participate in the graduation program. Students who are not in the fourth year of high school may not be recognized as a senior and participate in senior class activities.

9. Homework Policy

Homework is an important component of completing the academic process at BCS. Homework is assigned to help reinforce classroom instruction, develop a strong work ethic, and provide additional educational rigor. Because completing homework well and in a timely fashion is an important discipline for developing personal learning, work habits, and time management, it is expected that homework be completed on time as assigned.

All homework assigned will be evaluated in some fashion. Some homework may be evaluated in class through discussion, review, or Q & A, while other homework may be evaluated for a grade. Graded homework submitted late may receive no or partial credit. A teacher may drop at the end of the grading period one or two low homework grades. Homework not completed neatly may be returned to the student for resubmission or not accepted.

Because homework is the least monitored of all assignments, it receives the least amount of value of the final course grade; however, the value of the learning experience should not be diminished. Quality homework completion usually leads to better quiz and test scores. Students

absent from class may be required, when asked, to make-up graded homework. Make-up work is to be completed in a length of time equal to the number of days absent, plus one. BCS hopes that each parent and student will place a high value on the excellent completion of all homework assignments.

10. Honor Roll

Students are recognized for academic achievement with the following notations:

- 1) HIGHEST HONORS HONOR ROLL - All grades earned in the quarter are equal to or above an A-
- 2) HONOR ROLL – All grades earned in the quarter are equal to or above a B-

11. Interim Reports

Interim Reports are grade reports that are issued during mid-quarter or whenever is deemed necessary by the teacher. An Interim Report is a communication tool to inform student and parent of an academic issue or accomplishment. Teachers are required to issue an interim report after the fifth week of the quarter (interim week) if a student is receiving any grade below a C. Parents are reminded to monitor their student's grades through PowerSchool.

12. Media Center/Technology Help Desk

The media center exists to provide a collection of media to support the curriculum, to serve students through print and electronic resources, to help students become independent media center users, and to encourage, in students, a genuine faith and a development of a Christian worldview. The media center is open for student use during school hours. Because the media center is limited in its resources, students are encouraged to supplement their educational needs by becoming a patron of the Allen County Public Library.

13. Promotion and Retention

Students in grades 7-8 are promoted by faculty and administration based upon classroom work during the academic year. If a student obtains three failing grades in a semester or year-end average in major subjects or if the classroom teacher and administration believe it would be in the best interest of the student, the student may be retained in the current grade level.

High school students who fail courses will not receive course credit and may be required to retake those courses to recover the credit lost.

Students who continue to fail semester courses may be asked to withdraw from BCS. In such cases, the student and parents will be assisted in finding an appropriate educational setting.

14. Ranking of Students

Class rank is determined by using Percentage Grade Average (PGA) calculated at the end of each semester and finally at the end of the 3rd quarter of the eighth semester. All course work counts in the calculation for class rank. Two categories of weighted classes exist. The following courses receive an additional 5% added to the quarter grade: third-year foreign language and all college level (AP and BCS concurrent/dual) courses. **(Highest possible quarter and semester grade is 105%)** All other courses are non-weighted.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian: The highest Percentage Grade Average (PGA) over 15 quarters determines the school's Valedictorian. The second highest Percentage Grade Average (PGA) over 15 quarters determines the school's Salutatorian. Candidates for both must attend BCS their entire junior and senior years (7 quarters) in order to be eligible for Val/Sal. Candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian must complete as a minimum the *Valedictorian and Salutatorian track* in order to be considered. Only course grades from initial course enrollment will be calculated as part of the student's GPA and class rank. Courses may not be repeated nor semester grades improved as part of the Val-Sal track.

15. Report Cards

Report cards are distributed to students quarterly. The report card will show the percentage grade and letter grade for each quarter and semester. An Incomplete (I) is given only when the student has not completed all required assignments for the quarter evaluation. It is desired that incompletes be resolved within two weeks.

16. Semester Exams

Students take final semester exams in each appropriate subject. The exams are summative in nature and count as 10% of the student's semester grade. Some courses require a different semester exam policy which will be communicated to the students prior to semester exam week.

17. Transfer Credits

The secondary school accepts transfer credits from all schools as deemed appropriate by the administration. Transfer letter grades are converted to the following percentages:

A = 97%, A- = 91%, B+ = 88%, B = 85%, B- = 81%, C+ = 78%, C = 75%,
C- = 71%, D+ = 68%, D = 65%, D- = 61%, F = 59%.

18. Acquired Credits in PE and/or Fine Arts

Acquired Credit is a credit given for a regularly identified course acquired through an alternate activity completed outside the regularly identified course (example: PE II credit given for activity completed on an organized basketball team).

One high school credit must be obtained from the normal BCS curriculum and classroom experience in PE I and/or the Beginning Fine Arts. Transfer students may count credit given to them from another accredited or accepted school.

One credit each in PE or Fine Arts may be acquired in order to complete a graduation diploma requirement by the following experiences:

Full and complete participation in a BCS interscholastic athletic team will count as one credit for PE II.

Full and complete participation in a BCS Drama or Musical production may count as one credit for Theatre Arts. Student will register for credit with the Director of Academic Services.

Participation in athletic or fine arts activities outside of BCS may be considered for credit upon application through the Director of Academic Services.

An appropriate BCS teacher in PE or Fine Arts will be responsible for giving a grade for the credits acquired outside the regular classroom. Letter grades for acquired credits will be converted to a percentage grade using the same percentage as transfer credits.

Acquired credits for PE and/or Fine Arts may be given retroactively to any currently enrolled BCS student who acquired the experience during the high school years. Apply with the Director of Academic Services.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A direct relationship exists between success in school and attendance. To ensure that students are in regular attendance, Indiana School Code and BCS board policy require that all students attend daily unless they are officially excused. Good attendance is a shared responsibility of students, parents and school. Attendance expectations are as follows:

Student Responsibility

Students are expected to be in school and in assigned area. Personal appointments and obligations should be planned for times outside the instructional day when at all possible.

Parental Responsibility

It is the parent's responsibility to call the school to report the child's absence by 8:30 a.m. the day of the absence. Parents need to call when the absence has been pre-arranged with administration. If no parental note or call is received within two days after the absence, the absence will be considered "unexcused" until parental verification is received in the school office.

School Responsibility – Parental Notification

If a parent has not called the school by 8:30 a.m., BCS personnel will make a "reasonable attempt" to call the parent that day to document the absence and to assure each child's safety. (This notification cannot always occur as time constraints and non-working telephone numbers may prevent verification.)

1. Absences

- 1) Absences Counted as Present
 - a) Serving as a page in the Indiana General Assembly*
 - b) Students grades 7-12 serving at polls on Election Day with prior approval of principal *
 - c) Court appearances requested by subpoena, probation officer or court officer *
 - d) National Guard Duty for not more than ten (10) days per school year *
 - e) Post-secondary visits when pre-arranged through administration (per policy below)
 - f) Per Indiana School Code
- 2) Excused Absences (Principal may request verification)
 - a) Personal illness
 - b) Medical appointments
 - c) Death or serious illness in the immediate family
 - d) Family vacation / parental need with prior approval of principal (see pre-arranged absences)
 - e) Hazardous road conditions per parental judgment and / or per principal
 - f) Other absences as approved by the principal
- 3) Unexcused Absences
 - a) Absence due to truancy.
 - b) Other reasons not defined as excused in BCS attendance policy.

"Unexcused" absences result in a 2% per day grade reduction of current 9-wk grading period.

4) Truancy

Truancy is defined as an absence from school without school authorization or parental consent and will be addressed as follows:

- 1st **Truancy:** parent conference and 2% grade reduction of current 9-wk grading period per class missed.
- 2nd **Truancy:** parent conference to determine solution and 2% grade reduction of current 9-wk grading period per class missed. Student may be referred to Head of Schools for request for expulsion.

5) Pre-arranged Absences

a) Post-Secondary Visitation

Students are allowed two (2) school days each of their junior and senior years for the purpose of visiting post-secondary campuses or career interests. Students must notify the school office and arrange their visitation at least one week prior to the visit. Students will be "counted as present" at BCS if they have an appointment with a school official and have a parent or parent-approved adult with them. Visitations after May 1st will be allowed only at the principal's discretion. Exceptions to this policy may be approved upon parental request.

b) Pre-Arranged Absence Requests

BCS recognizes that there are circumstances whereby a student is needed at home or a family vacation can only be scheduled during the school year. The principal will review all requests and make an excused / unexcused determination based upon the following:

- a) request is made at least five (5) days prior to the requested days
- b) student's attendance falls within the 10-day per semester absence expectation

- c) dates do not conflict with BCS semester exam dates and state achievement testing dates
- d) other factors at principal's discretion

6) **Excessive Absences**
When a student reaches a total of ten (10) days of absence for any reason during a school semester, a parent contact will be made to discuss the circumstances to determine any appropriate course of action. Absences after ten (10) without a doctor's note or pre approval from school administration will be considered unexcused.

2. Absences and Student Activities Participation
A student must attend school on the day of an athletic contest or other student activity in order to participate. Depending upon the circumstances, a student who is absent for part of the school day may be allowed to participate at the discretion of school administration.

3. Cutting Class
Cutting class is defined as failure to report to class or assigned area without an approved excuse. Students are expected to be in their assigned area unless excused by school personnel. Cutting class is addressed as a disciplinary issue.

4. Leaving School Grounds Without Permission
Students are to remain on school grounds unless a parental permission slip has been provided to the school office. Leaving school grounds without permission is addressed as a disciplinary issue.

5. Make-up Work / Requesting Homework
Assignments and tests missed due to excused absences may be completed for credit. Students in grades 7-12 are responsible to request assignments upon returning to school. Make-up work is to be completed in a length of time equal to the number of days absent, plus one. Assignments made prior to the student's absence are due as scheduled. Parents are encouraged to e-mail their student's teachers for information regarding assignments due to an absence.

6. Sign Out / Sign In Sheet
Any time a student has a note to leave the building for any reason; the student must have permission from administration prior to signing out through the School Office. Students leaving without permission will be considered truant.

Students reporting to school late or returning after appointments outside of the building must sign in through the School Office or be considered truant.

7. Tardiness / Late to Class
Tardy: Students are considered tardy if they are not in their first period class by 8:00 a.m. or to their first scheduled class if on an adjusted schedule.
Consequences: (per quarter)
1st and 2nd Tardy: Student given a pass to class and reminded of the arrival time expectation
3rd Tardy: Parent contacted
4th and Subsequent Tardies: A lunch detention will be assigned the same day of the tardy. Disciplinary action may also be taken at the discretion of the principal. Further disciplinary actions may include loss of driving privileges to and from school, morning detentions, athletic penalties, and up to and including "request for expulsion".

Late to Class: Students are considered "late to class" if not in their assigned classroom at the start of each class period after first period.
Consequences: (per quarter)
1st and 2nd Late to Class: Student accepted into class and reminded of the arrival time expectation
3rd Late to Class: Parent contacted
4th and Subsequent Late to Class: A lunch detention will be assigned the next day of the tardy. Disciplinary action may also be taken at the discretion of the principal. Further disciplinary

actions may include loss of driving privileges to and from school, morning detentions, athletic penalties, and up to and including “request for expulsion”.

HEALTH SERVICES

The physical health and welfare of each student is a high priority at Blackhawk Christian School. Please keep your child at home when he/she is ill, for your child's sake and for the sake of other children. (Never send your child to school with a fever or a contagious condition.) A student needs to be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. The school personnel will take care of any student who is ill or injured at school. Parents will be asked to pick up ill or injured students if they are unable to return to class or have a fever of 100° or more. There may be times that a parent will be asked to pick up a student when his temperature is less than 100° if the student is having other symptoms that indicate he should not be in school.

A cot is available to rest if a student is feeling ill, but it is limited to one class period in the secondary school unless deemed otherwise necessary by the health service personnel.

BCS reserves the right to suggest that a parent or legal guardian seek medical attention for the student if a student is coming to the office repeatedly with similar complaints.

1. Immunization Policy

BCS will follow the guidelines for immunization set forth by Indiana law. Documentation of immunizations occurs by submitting a photocopy of the student's immunization records, by completion of the school form by a physician, and from records forwarded from the previous school the student attended. Indiana law provides exemption to immunization by Religious Objection or Medical Objection. A parent or guardian must sign the religious exemption form yearly. A physician statement and signature must be filed yearly as well for students who have a medical condition that prohibits being immunized for vaccine preventable diseases.

2. Vision and Hearing Screening

The school nurse coordinates screenings for visual acuity and hearing testing with an audiometer during each school year. Visual acuity is conducted for all students enrolled in the 8th grade, and students suspected of having a visual defect. Hearing tests will be conducted for all students enrolled in the 7th and 10th grades, new students, and all other students suspected of having hearing defects.

3. Head Lice

Students found to have cases of lice are not to be admitted to school and school functions until they have been treated for head lice. Prior to readmission, students will be inspected and found to be lice free. If an excessive amount of nits are found, the student will return home. Students readmitted to school may be inspected on a daily basis for the first week and twice a week the following two weeks. After two weeks, the school nurse will determine if a student needs to be seen on a weekly basis. The school reserves the right to inspect all students when cases of lice occur. The school nurse, designated school personnel, or trained volunteers will be used to conduct inspections. In order to control cases of lice, the school may conduct random lice checks periodically.

4. Communicable Disease

BCS encourages parents and teachers to instruct students to practice good hand washing, cover coughs and sneezes (“cough in your sleeve”) and to maintain good sleeping and eating habits that assist in maintaining healthy bodies.

Open wounds and cuts need to be covered for the student's protection as well as the protection of others. If wounds are draining and multiple dressing changes are needed or wounds cannot be covered, parents may be asked to keep that student out of school until the wound can be maintained at school. Exclusion from playing a sport would also apply.

As a rule, BCS will not give mass notification of communicable diseases. There may be a time when a classroom or sports team needs to be notified, but that is a rare situation. BCS will use guidelines set by the Allen County Board of Health and the Indiana Department of Health as to when and what is appropriate to notify parents of regarding communicable diseases. It will be the intention of BCS to keep situations confidential. BCS cannot control what is said from one parent to another. If there is an occasion when a parent requests for information to be given to parents of students in a particular class, this may be done without giving names. There may be individual cases (i.e. chemotherapy) that a physician will give written instructions to the school that a parent needs notification if certain communicable diseases are present at the school. On occasion, BCS may find it necessary to request a physician's written permission before a student may return to school after a communicable disease.

MEDICATION POLICY

The Indiana State law requires that schools observe certain regulations in administering medication to pupils. Written permission of parents and/or physician is required for all medication. In order to administer medicine to your child, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Over-the counter medication requires written permission from the parent or guardian, stating the amount of medication, the hours for administration, and the period of time medication is to be continued.
2. Prescription medications must be in the original container. The label will meet the requirement for physician's signature; however, the parent must either complete and sign the Student Medication Permit or send in a permission note with signature.
3. Send only the amount of medication needed for one to five days at a time for the student. (An exception to this would be a student on medication daily for a chronic disease. That student may bring a four week's supply (20 tabs) in a bottle with the prescription label.) Name of medication must be on the bottle.
4. The permission/instruction form may be obtained in the school office or on our website under Health/School Nurse/Medications.
5. The permission/instruction forms will be kept with the medication.
6. If for some reason your child is on more than one medication, each medication requires a form.
7. Dosage changes require written re-instruction not verbal notification from the student.
8. For those students on daily medication throughout the school year, the permission form is good for that school year.

Purpose for the Medication

The purpose of administering medication in school is to help each student maintain an optimal state of health to enhance his educational plans. MEDICATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN AT HOME WHENEVER POSSIBLE! Medications given during school hours should be only those necessary to provide the student access to his education program.

The intent of these guidelines is to reduce the number of medications given at school, yet assume safe, effective administration of medication for those students who require them.

Medication Protocol

Only those medications that are necessary to maintain the child in school and MUST be given during school hours shall be administered. The protocol for administration of medications is developed and managed by the principal and/or school nurse:

- A. Written instructions such as a medication authorization form is signed and completed by the physician and parent of the student who is to receive a prescription medication. A medication authorization form is signed by the parent/guardian of the student who is to receive an OTC (non-prescription) medication.
- B. Medications prescribed for a student (legend drugs) are kept in the original container with pharmacy label and student's name affixed. The pharmacy label can serve as the written order of a physician. OTC medications shall be brought in with the manufacturer's original label with the ingredients listed and the student's name affixed to the original package.
- C. All medications are kept in a locked area or in a tamper-proof container in the school or in an area designated by the principal.

- D. When a medication is to be administered at school, the student's parents will be requested to advise the principal and/or school nurse of the purpose of the medication, side effects, dosage, administration route, and the time. This information is discussed with the student and other staff assigned to administer medications.
- E. Effectiveness and side effects shall be assessed with each administration and documented as necessary. Documentation of effects for long-term medications should be summarized and written feedback provided to the licensed prescriber and parents/guardian at appropriate intervals.
- F. All permission for long-term medications shall be renewed at least annually. Changes in medication shall be documented by written authorization from a licensed prescriber.
- G. In specific cases, the school (at the direction of the principal and/or school nurse) may require the parents/guardian come to the school to administer medication for his/her child. The school may also work with the licensed prescriber and parents/guardians to adjust administration time to avoid the need for medications during school hours.
- H. For ALL medications administered, the school shall keep on file the written permission of the student's parent/guardian and the written order of a physician for legend drugs (for OTC medications, the written permission of the student's parents /guardian).

Administration of Medication

Access to medication shall be under the authority of the principal. Medications will not be given without proper written authorization.

- A. A school may not require a teacher or other school employee who is not employed as a school nurse or physician to administer medications, drugs, injectable insulin, or tests such as finger stick for glucose, breathing treatments, etc.
- B. If a school employee is not a practitioner or person licensed under IC 25-23 and the school employee is responsible for administering injectable insulin, glucose stick, breathing treatments, etc. the employee must obtain from a practitioner the training that the practitioner determines is appropriate for providing the service.
- C. The school shall keep on file the written permission of a pupil's parent or guardian and the written order of a practitioner.
- D. If compliance with sections B and C has occurred, a school administrator, teacher, or other school employee designated by the school administrator, who in good faith administers either:
 - 1. A non-prescription medication in compliance with the written permission of the pupil's parent or guardian;
 - 2. A legend drug (as defined in IC 16-18-2-199 and including injectable insulin) in compliance with the written order of a practitioner;
 - 3. A blood glucose test by finger prick or breathing treatment, etc., in compliance with the written order of a practitioner to a pupil is not liable for civil damages as a result of the administration except for an act or omission amounting to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.
- E. A school or school board is not liable for civil damages as a result of student's self-administration of medication for an acute or chronic disease or medical condition as provided under IC 34-30-14-6 except for an act or omission amounting to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

Documentation

All persons administering medications, whether prescription or non-prescription, shall document that a student received the medication on a daily log which includes; child's name, date, time, dosage, route, and signature of person administering the medication or supervising the child in self-administration.

Self-administration of Medication

The safety of the other school children must be taken into consideration if a student is directed to self-administer his/her own medication. The medication shall be kept in a locked area in the school office or area designated by the principal which is not accessible to other students. The student may then come to that area at the designated time to get his/her medication.

Discarding Medications

The parent/guardian is responsible at the end of the treatment regimen for removing from the school any unused medication that was prescribed for his/her child. This may be done for students in grades K-8 by removing medication himself/herself or by designating in writing an individual at least 18 years of age to do so. For students in grades 9-12 a parent may provide written permission for the student to do so. If the parent does not pick up the medication by the end of the school year, the school nurse or principal will dispose of and document that medication was discarded. Destruction of the medication is done in a manner that ensures that no other person can obtain possession of it. Medications should be discarded in the presence of a witness.

Dispensing of Medication

Preschool Academy

1. Preschool Academy staff does not dispense medication.
2. Exception to #1 above is that of inhalers and epi-pens.

K-12 School

All medications will be kept in the school office. These medications will be dispensed by the office personnel. The record of administration will be kept in the school office.

The exception to the above is that inhalers, diabetic supplies/medication and epi-pens for emergency use may be carried by the student. A permission form signed by the student, parent and prescribing physician is required. If the parent and/or school staff (principal, teacher or nurse) decide this is not appropriate for a particular student, arrangements will be made on an individual basis.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

“Partnering with Parents”

BCS is committed to sharing responsibility for student supervision with parents - their primary teachers. “Partnering with Parents” is at the core of our school mission statement. In no area does this become more significant than that of nurturing children from the early years through the teens and into young adulthood. Our ultimate shared goal is to develop self-disciplined young people who will exemplify Christ in their behavior and lives. Toward that end, BCS will partner with parents in this aspect of “equipping students for life”.

Parental Authority: It is expected that every student enrolled in BCS shall submit to the direct authority of their parent/guardian. This includes compliance with the parental established rules of behavior. Students who choose to remove themselves from their parental authority will forfeit the privilege of attending BCS.

School Authority: Students are considered under the school's authority while on school grounds and when in attendance at a school activity regardless of location. In addition, students whose behavior is in direct conflict with school standards (including but not limited to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, immoral sexual activity, inappropriate use of social media) are subject to disciplinary action by the school regardless of the location where the behavior occurred.

1. Appearance Code

As a school that seeks to exist for God's glory, it is important that we meet those standards in every aspect of our school culture. Our appearance should encourage concentrated study and in no way distract from the learning process. Therefore, our appearance code is defined by three specific standards: **modesty, appropriateness, and neatness.**

Modesty

First and foremost, a student's appearance should reflect his/her identity as a follower of Christ, created by God as male or female. Everything we do is an expression of our relationship with God. The Bible makes it clear that we are to be modest and treat our bodies with the utmost respect. It is important to note that what is "in style" is not always in accordance with the standards we seek to reflect. However, as Christians, we are called to be "different than the world". The following would not meet modesty standard:

- 1) Sleeveless shirts and tops
- 2) Visible undergarments
- 3) Tight fitting pants, shorts or tops – a long shirt/legging combo is appropriate when the shirt extends to cover the rear end and approach the middle of the thigh.
- 4) Shorts that are shorter than fingertip length
- 5) Dresses and skirts that are shorter than the top of the knee. If leggings are worn then dresses/skirts/shirts must extend to cover the rear end and approach the middle of the thigh. Slits are not to extend above the top of the knee.
- 6) Shirts that reveal cleavage, stomach, or back. Tops and shirts must be long enough to cover the waistline at all times.

Appropriateness

Appropriateness can be defined as presenting oneself in a manner that fits the occasion. An appropriate appearance is one that does not distract from the educational process or draw excess attention to oneself. The following would not meet the appropriate standard:

- 1) Faddish extremes
- 2) Jewelry and makeup not worn in moderation and good taste
- 3) Body piercing jewelry (including nose rings, lip, eyebrow, and any other than earrings for girls). Students who choose to have such piercings may wear an invisible spacer or small stud jewels during the school day.
- 4) Profane, vulgar, lewd, or disrespectful messages on clothes
- 5) Athletic-style sweat pants
- 6) Hats, sunglasses, other headgear, and haphazard or distracting rubber bands (boys) in the school building
- 7) Shorts that are clearly designed to be athletic shorts. (Shorts may be worn from the beginning of school through Thanksgiving and once again after Spring Break)
- 8) Hunting or military clothes
- 9) Visible tattoos
- 10) Hair dyes that are not of natural color
- 11) Clothing meant for sleeping and lounging at home including pajama pants and house-shoes.

Neatness

Neatness can be defined as a look that is clean with clothes that are proper fitting and in good repair. The following would not meet the neatness standard:

- 1) Pants that drag on the floor and sag
- 2) Clothing that has rips, tears, or holes that expose skin above the knee or underclothing (patched holes and leggings underneath are acceptable for pants with rips above the knee)
- 3) Boys' hair that exceeds eyebrows
- 4) Facial hair that is not well groomed and neat.
- 5) Neat man-buns/ponytails are permissible

6) Corporal Punishment/Seclusion and Restraint

Blackhawk Christian School does not use corporal punishment (the physical striking of a student) to discipline students. However, school personnel may use reasonable physical force or restraint as necessary to end a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to take dangerous objects from students, for self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property. This policy is not intended to imply that BCS does not support parents who utilize appropriate corporal punishment as a means of disciplining their children.

Blackhawk Christian School believes a safe and healthy environment should be provided in which all children can learn, develop, and participate in instructional programs that promote high levels of academic achievement. As an Indiana accredited non-public school, state law requires that our school has a Seclusion and Restraint Plan. The purpose of the plan is to insure that all students and staff are safe in school, and that students who may have behavior crises are free from inappropriate use of seclusion or restraint.

Behavioral interventions for children must ensure all children are treated with dignity and respect. This environment should allow all children to be free from physical or mental abuse, aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety, and any physical seclusion or restraint imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience.

Seclusion or restraint shall not be used as routine school safety measures; that is, they shall not be implemented except in situations where a child's behavior or action poses imminent danger of physical harm to self or others and not as a routine strategy implemented to address instructional problems or inappropriate behavior (e.g., disrespect, noncompliance, insubordination, out of seat), as a means of coercion or retaliation, or as a convenience. Any use of either seclusion or restraint shall be supervised, short in duration and used only for the purposes of de-escalating the behavior.

Parents can access a full copy of our school's plan by request in the school office or by visiting our school's website.

7) Code of Conduct

BCS will provide a safe and orderly learning environment for all students and personnel. BCS staff will strive to model appropriate Christ-like behavior as an example for students. Students are expected to likewise grow in their development into self-disciplined young people who exemplify Christ in their behavior and lives. The behavioral expectations listed below are intended to define behavior that is both Christ-like and which will foster a safe and orderly learning environment for all students and personnel. The following behavioral expectations apply when students are in school or on school grounds and while students are traveling to/from or attending a school activity or event.

Students are Expected to:

- 1) Be in school on time unless excused by parent and administration.
- 2) Come prepared for class each day with the necessary materials.
- 3) Behave in a manner that allows and supports instruction and learning.
- 4) Behave and dress in a decent and modest manner.
- 5) Speak and behave truthfully and honestly.
- 6) Obey and show respectful behavior to all BCS staff members and adult supervisors.
- 7) Treat other students with dignity and respect.
- 8) Show respect and proper reverence in Chapel and Bible classes

Students are Prohibited from:

- 1) Bringing, or possessing at school, objects that have no educational purpose and may distract from class instruction. This would include: weapons, lighters, or matches.
- 2) Using or threatening physical force or violence that may cause injury to others.
- 3) Stealing or intentionally damaging school or others' property.
- 4) Using, possessing or being affected by tobacco, alcohol, vapes, or illegal drugs.
- 5) Possessing or using explosives, destructive devices, knives, deadly weapons or firearms.
- 6) Engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds whether school is in or out of session that either interferes with a school purpose or an educational function
- 7) Cheating, which includes plagiarism
- 8) Leaving the premises without parental permission
- 9) Gambling on school premises

- 10) Displaying inappropriate affection including holding hands
- 11) Speaking and writing (manually or electronically) inappropriately or with vulgarity.

Note: Building principals may specify additional "school rules" that apply specifically to their building.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The school reserves the right to submit students to a test for alcohol or illegal drugs. The school will use the threshold of reasonable suspicion in determining whether or not to administer a test. This can include, but will not be limited to physical symptoms, reliable eyewitness reports, verified online/social media information, and suspicious behavior. The school will not randomly test students or test students based on rumor or hearsay that cannot be substantiated. All tests must have the consent of the principal or Head of School to be administered.

Gang Activity Policy

It is the policy of Blackhawk Christian School to prohibit gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property or school buses or at school-sponsored functions. It is the policy of Blackhawk Christian School to prohibit reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about an act of gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

Interventions

The following levels of intervention are utilized by teachers, administrators and other school personnel as disciplinary measures to teach and encourage appropriate student behavior and to curb misbehavior. We believe in distinguishing between "youthful misbehavior" and "willful defiance." The former requires instruction, training and appropriate deterrents, whereas, the later requires a change of heart and will. We will address inappropriate student behavior in a manner that is progressive in nature: moving from lesser to more serious consequences as misbehavior is repeated and/or becomes more serious. The following is our general progression in addressing inappropriate behavior:

Level 1: Teacher/Classroom Intervention

- 1) Conference with student
- 2) Communication with parents
- 3) Detention: detaining student before or after school, or during lunch
- 4) Log actions in PowerSchool

Level 2: Administrative Intervention

- 1) Conference with student
- 2) Communication with parents
- 3) Detention: detaining student before school, after school, or at lunch
- 4) In-School-Suspension (removal from classroom for up to a day or more)
- 5) Restrict activity: denial of participation in school or extracurricular activities
- 6) School/community service: assignment of student to perform school/community service
- 7) Restitution: student assigned to make appropriate restitution for loss or damage
- 8) Probation Agreement
- 9) Other consequences as deemed appropriate by the school administrator

Level 3: Out of School Suspension (1-10 Days)

Out of School Suspension is the removal of a student from school for from one day up to ten days. During this period of suspension, the student is expected to complete all academic assignments, but may not attend or participate in any school activities without the specific permission of the building principal. Parents are expected to assure appropriate supervision and work in partnership with the principal to both restore the student's relationship(s) at school and establish behavioral expectations for the student's return to school.

Out of School Suspension Procedures

When the principal determines that a student should be suspended, the student's parent(s) will be contacted immediately. The student is afforded the following due process:

- 1) A meeting will be held prior to the suspension and the student will receive:
 - a) a written or oral statement of the student's misconduct;
 - b) if the student denies the conduct, a summary of the evidence against the student will be presented; and,
 - c) the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.
- 2) The meeting will precede the student's suspension except when the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situations, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
- 3) Following the suspension, the parents or guardians of suspended students will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, description of the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal. In addition, the principal will notify the student's parents by phone before the suspension is served.

Level 4: Expulsion

Expulsion is the removal of a student from school for the remainder of a semester or school year. The principal may make a "Request for Expulsion" to the Head of School for repeated and/or serious offenses.

Expulsion Procedures

When the principal requests the expulsion of a student, the student's parent(s) will be contacted immediately. The student is afforded the following due process:

- 1) Upon receiving the "Request for Expulsion," the Head of School will meet with all parties to consider the principal's request and the student's / parent's input.
- 2) Following such meeting, the Head of School will make a written determination ranging from the return of the student to school up to and including granting the principal's requested expulsion.
- 3) Every effort will be made to make a final determination within 10 school days of the student's alleged misconduct. The student will be suspended from school attendance during this period of time.

In the event of an Expulsion, parents may request a "review" of the Head of School's decision to the School Board Chair. The purpose of such review is to give the parents and student the option of being heard by board representation. In the event the School Board Chair determines that the Head of School's determination should be reconsidered, the two will discuss the matter with the full board and determine as a board whether the decision should be reconsidered. Otherwise, the Head of School's determination is considered final.

Tuition is due through the end of the month in which the expulsion takes place. The student may seek re-enrollment following expulsion through the interview process with the principal and Head of School.

Request for Withdrawal:

In the event that administration determines that a student's behavior does not comply with BCS expectations, but the student has not committed a specific behavioral infraction that would result in expulsion, the student may be asked to withdraw from BCS. In such cases, administration will work with the student and parents to determine a most appropriate and beneficial educational program.

8) Harassment

Anti-Bullying Policy

The School Board, administration, and faculty of Blackhawk Christian School in partnership with parents and their church seek to develop individuals who are growing toward maturity in Jesus Christ. This maturity is demonstrated in the life of a disciple who follows Christ by loving God, loving others, seeking justice, surrendering him/herself, pursuing knowledge and anticipating a future reunion with their Savior.

Definition

The bullying definition is provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual(s) believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits within this definition, he/she should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

Bullying is defined as intentional, repeated acts or gestures, including:

- 1) written communications transmitted; or
- 2) physical acts committed; or
- 3) any other behaviors committed;

by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student. (as defined by the Indiana Department of Education)

Principles

- 1) We are made in the image of God; therefore, every person has intrinsic worth, value and dignity. Each believer should assure that others are treated accordingly.
- 2) Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with everything and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35). Blackhawk Christian School takes bullying seriously and will support victims and their families when bullying is reported and verified.
- 3) Parents bear the primary responsibility to model and teach their children how to love others as God commands (I John 3:23; Deut. 6:6-7). Parents will equip children to live lives that demonstrate love and encouragement through appropriate training and accountability.
- 4) We teach that relationships inevitably involve conflict (Luke 6:27-28; James 4:1-3). Each student can expect inappropriate behavior to be confronted.
- 5) Humility and brokenness are essential to life in a Christ-centered community and will be encouraged and expected of staff, students and parents alike.
- 6) God calls individuals to overlook minor offenses as we love one another (Proverbs 19:11) and to seek justice (Micah 6:8).
- 7) Individuals can sin in word and action (Matthew 5 – 7, Ephesians 4 - 5).
- 8) Words have power and reflect the condition of one's heart (James 3: 1 – 12). When another person sins, the goal of the school is restoration and reconciliation.
- 9) Prayer accomplishes much (James 5:16).

A Christ-Centered Approach

We understand that it can be hard for school leadership to pinpoint the specific acts of bullying as they usually take place beyond direct supervision. We acknowledge that bullying can occur between classes, in hallways, on playgrounds, at lunch, and before and after school. This will require vigilance by staff and the support of parents in a compassionate pursuit of truth.

Therefore,

- 1) All staff will lead by example as they seek to love others as image-bearers of God. The school encourages positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.
- 2) Every staff member will take an active role and be diligent in observing inappropriate behavior.
- 3) We expect students to conduct themselves within their level of development and maturity.
- 4) Staff will partner with parents to bring out the truth of each situation and correct unacceptable behavior of students participating in any bullying act.

Proper Reporting and Response

- 1) All perceived bullying incidents should immediately be reported to a staff member. These reported incidents will be treated seriously and thoroughly investigated by school staff.
- 2) Consequences will be consistent with the Student Handbook.
- 3) Staff members are expected to document verified bullying incidents and share the information with their principal.
- 4) If the situation warrants, parents of both victim and perpetrator will be informed and summoned to the school for a meeting about the problem.
- 5) School staff will monitor the students involved to ensure that bullying does not resume or reoccur.
- 6) In severe instances, local legal authorities may be notified.

Confidentiality

Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain confidentiality during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person for reporting or participating in aggressive behavior will result in disciplinary action.

False Reports

Intentional false reporting of aggressive behavior will result in disciplinary action.

Bystanders

Bystanders are encouraged to attempt to constructively stop those involved in bullying and are expected to report the incident to a supervisory staff member.

Sexual Harassment

Students who believe they have observed or become aware of a school employee or another student behaving in a sexually harassing manner are required to report the matter promptly to school personnel. All complaints will be investigated.

5. Personal Property

- 1) Automobiles
Students may be granted privilege to drive motor vehicles to and from school with permission of the parents and school administration. The school may suspend a student's driving privilege as a result of driving and or other school behavioral infractions. All vehicles

must be driven with care on school property and parked in an approved area. Students are not to spend time in or around vehicles during the school day.

2) Cell Phones and School Telephone Use

Student Cell Phones: High School (Grades 9-12) students are permitted to use cell phones throughout the school hours but only during passing periods and lunch. Cell phones may not be used in the classroom at any time unless permission has been given to the student by the classroom teacher. Cell phone use is also prohibited in the hallway during class time unless permission has been given to the student by the classroom teacher or administrator.

The expectation is that cell phones will be kept out of sight during each entire class period. If a teacher hears or sees a student cell phone in use during the class period it will be confiscated and sent to the school office.

Middle school students are prohibited from using or having cell phones out at school during school hours (from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.).

Consequences: (per year)

1st – parent must come to school and collect the cell phone.

2nd - parent must come to school and collect the cell phone

3rd – parent conference with the principal with the cell phone given to the parent at the conclusion of the conference. Disciplinary action may also be taken at the discretion of the principal. Further disciplinary actions may include loss of cell phone privileges at school as well as morning and/or lunch detentions.

4th - parent conference with the principal with the cell phone given to the parent at the conclusion of the conference. Disciplinary action may also be taken at the discretion of the principal. Further disciplinary actions may include loss of cell phone privileges at school, morning and/or lunch detentions, and up to and including “request for expulsion”.

School Telephone: Students are not to use the office or other school telephones except in cases of emergency with permission from school personnel. Students are not to leave class to receive calls except in cases of emergency.

3) School Lockers

Each student is assigned a locker for the use of storing books and other personal school items. Only locks distributed by the school may be used on the lockers. Lockers are property of the school and may be inspected at any time without student or parental permission. Lockers are to be kept clean and free from writing. Pictures and other notes may only be mounted on the inside with material that can easily be removed. Book bags, gym bags, and lunch bags are to be kept in a hall locker, gym locker, or in the locker room if not being carried from one class to another. Coats are to be hung in a locker or on a hanger in the hall.

4) Students are not to use cell phones/cameras in locker rooms.

6. Sexual Activity and Student Pregnancy

Blackhawk Christian School is a religious institution providing an education in a distinct Christian environment, and it believes that its Biblical role is to work in conjunction with the home to mold students to be Christ-like. On those occasions in which the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home is counter to or in opposition to the Biblical lifestyle the school teaches, the school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, living in, condoning, or supporting sexual immorality; practicing homosexual lifestyle or alternative gender identity, promoting such practices, or otherwise having the inability to support the moral principles of the school.

Blackhawk Christian School believes that pre-marital sexual activity is forbidden by the scriptures and that those who do so are walking outside of God's plan for their life and inviting numerous

negative consequences. Due to this fact, we will intervene with students known to be involved in such activity. Such intervention will include input from the student(s) and the students' parents.

In the event of a resulting pregnancy, we will work with the student(s) and the students' parents to determine the most appropriate manner for continuing their education. Great care will be taken to acknowledge the continued spiritual and educational needs of the students involved, while maintaining a healthy school environment for the remaining student body. This decision will be at the discretion of school administration.

For a pregnant student wishing to be considered for continued enrollment at BCS, the process will be as follows:

- 1) **Establish Paternity:** The female must identify paternity of the child so that the father may be addressed in a similar manner as the mother, if a student at BCS.
- 2) **Confession and Repentance:** The students involved need to show authentic repentance and contrition for their sin and commit to avoid pre-marital sexual activity in the future. The confession will be as public as deemed appropriate for the situation.
- 3) **Continued Education:** This could potentially include:
 - a) Withdrawal from BCS and enrollment in another educational program
 - b) "Home Bound" instruction whereby the students continue course work from home with limited BCS teacher supervision
 - c) Some combination of course work taken at home, another institution and/or continued instruction at BCS.

The High School principal, with additional administrative input, will work with the student(s) and the students' parents to establish guidelines for student(s) participation in school activities. The student/parent will not bring their new child to BCS events and activities; exceptions would require pre-consent from the principal. Limiting student/parent activities is to ensure that BCS is not communicating to the student body that student parenting is a desirable student choice.

7. Student Employment/Work Permits

Students may obtain work permits in the high school office as allowed by the laws of the State of Indiana. A member of the BCS administration will act as an Issuing Officer as certified by the Indiana Department of Labor.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

We believe that all BCS student activities, including athletics, student organizations and clubs, are central to our educational instruction. We offer them for the express purpose of developing character: respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership, and sportsmanship. Under the leadership of our coaches and/or sponsors, participation affords our students an excellent opportunity to develop the life skills of hard work, self-discipline and team focus: skills that will "equip our students for life".

All BCS school related student activities must meet the following requirements in order to be sanctioned as an official student activity of Blackhawk Christian School:

- 1) There must be a coach, sponsor, or adult advisor assigned by administration.
- 2) The sponsor/advisor is responsible for all meetings and activities of the activity.
- 3) The club must establish a set of bylaws or policies approved by administration.

Athletics

"God is not looking for us to be the best, but to do our best every time." This motto captures the heart and soul of our athletic program. We desire to develop Christ-like character among our student-athletes and encourage them to nurture their God-given athletic abilities to their maximum potential.

School Colors: Blue and Gold

School Mascot: Braves and Lady Braves

High School Sports Offered:

Fall: Cross Country (boys & girls), Soccer (boys & girls), Tennis (boys), Volleyball (girls)

Winter: Basketball (boys & girls), Cheerleading (girls)
Spring: Baseball (boys), Golf (boys), Tennis (girls), Track (boys & girls)

Middle School Sports Offered:

Fall: Cross Country (boys & girls), Volleyball (girls)

Winter: Basketball (boys & girls),

Spring: Soccer (boys & girls), Track (boys & girls)

Sportsmanship: As a Christian school we value the need for good sportsmanship and remind everyone that high school athletics is an integral part of our educational program. Coaches, student-athletes and fans are encouraged to cheer in a positive manner for their team, show respect for opponents, and honor decisions made by officials. Our expectation is for coaches, student-athletes and fans to keep sportsmanship as a priority in all contests to bring honor to our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Academic Eligibility

Any student meeting the following requirements is eligible to participate in our athletic program:

- a) Maintain enrollment in a minimum of 6 courses
- b) Pass a minimum of six (6) credit hours per semester*
- c) Earn no subject grade below 60%
- d) Maintain a cumulative average of 73% or better

*The IHSAA requires that student-athlete (grades 9-12) **must** be passing 6 credit hours to be eligible. BCS applies the same standards to grades 7th and 8th.

All student-athletes' grades are reviewed at the end of each quarter and each mid-quarter, approximately every 4 weeks. If a student-athlete does not meet the above listed criteria, written notification will be made to the student-athlete and their parents by the Friday following each review.

The first failure to meet this standard will result in a two (2) week warning period, allowing the student-athlete to continue participating in practices and games.

If after the two (2) week warning period the student-athlete does not meet the above criteria, the second offense will result in a two (2) week probationary period, allowing the student-athlete to participate in practices but not in games.

If after the two (2) week probationary period, the student-athlete does not meet the above listed criteria, suspension period not allowing the student-athlete to participate in either practices or games. The suspension period will continue until the student-athlete meets the above listed criteria. When a student-athlete meets the above listed criteria they shall be declared eligible until the next four (4) week review.

If at any time during this process the athletic director, teacher, coach and parent all agree that progress is being made by the student-athlete towards eligibility; the student-athlete may be declared eligible immediately provided that IHSAA standards are being met.

2. Attendance Day of Contests

Student-athletes must attend school on the day of any athletic activity in order to participate. A student-athlete, who is absent for part of the school day, may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

3. Awards and Banquets

At the conclusion of each sport, coaches will determine the date and location of their awards banquet. Each coach by his/her own discretion will be provided a maximum of three awards for distribution to the members of his/her team. Any student-athlete who participates will receive a certificate of participation. Any student-athlete who participates in 25% or more of varsity competitions will receive the following:

- 1) 3" numbers for year of graduation
- 2) 6" chenille letter "BC"
- 3) Chenille patch indicating sport

Once a student-athlete obtains these awards, then a sport pin will be provided for each additional year of varsity participation.

4. Drug / Alcohol / Tobacco

When school administration determines a violation has occurred involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substance, the following action will take place:

- 1) The student-athlete will be suspended from participation on a team for a minimum period of 30% of the total competitions for that season. Should the occurrence happen with less than 30% of the total competitions remaining in a session, the portion left shall carry into the next sport season in which the student participates.
- 2) During the time of suspension, the student-athlete will participate in all required practices and will attend but not participate in games.
- 3) Any additional violation involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substance during the athlete's career will result in a loss of any future athletic participation at BCS.

5. Handling Problems / Solving Disputes

Any problem or dispute should be handled in a Biblical manner by applying the "Matthew 18 Principle". This principle encourages the offended party to go directly to the one with whom he/she has a problem. If the situation is not resolved, the offended is encouraged to seek a solution by speaking to the next person in authority. Simply put, a student-athlete or parent should approach the coach first, athletic director second, principal third and Head of School fourth. And, as a last resort, they would contact the school board. It is expected that all parents and student-athletes will follow this chain-of-command.

6. Physical Exam

All student-athletes are required by BCS and the IHSAA (Indiana High School Athletic Association) to have a physical exam completed and on file with the athletic office before practicing in any sport. Physical exams are the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her parents.

7. Pictures

A professional photographer will take team and individual pictures early in each season. These pictures are available for the student-athlete to purchase through the pre-paid envelope distributed by the coaches at least two days prior to the scheduled picture day.

8. Practice

A monthly practice schedule will be provided to student-athletes during their season. Practice schedules will be adhered to and all Wednesday practices will end by 5:30 p.m. Student-athletes must participate in 10 practices before being allowed to play in a game or 5 practices if coming from another sport. Athletes will not be allowed to join an athletic team after the first day of practice for that sport except by the approval of the Athletic Director.

9. Transportation

Athletes will be provided transportation to and from away events on one of our 15 passenger Activity Buses. The following guidelines will be followed by the coaches and players:

- 1) No midweek stops after games unless prior approval is obtained.
- 2) No secular music played on either radio or CD's.
- 3) Driver should have a cell phone for emergency purposes.
- 4) Students should be properly seated and seat belts worn.
- 5) Driver is responsible for obeying all speed and safety laws.
- 6) Upon completion of trip, all trash must be thrown away and windows closed and locked.
- 7) Each coach may enforce additional guidelines at his or her discretion.

Other Student Activities

1. Chapel Program

Chapel is an important time for the school community and the individual. It is a time in which this particular body of believers has the opportunity to worship and pray together as well as to be challenged by special speakers. Special chapels and days of spiritual emphasis occur throughout

the year as scheduled and as they become available. Special service days or projects are often planned as well. Regular chapel is held weekly and attendance to all aspects of the chapel program is required.

2. Clubs

Clubs play an important part of the educational process by allowing students to be involved in activities outside the normal school hours. A list of Clubs can be found in the athletic office and on the BCS website under athletics.

3. National Honor Society

Students in grades 11-12 meeting the scholastic, character, leadership, and service qualifications are eligible for election into the Timothy Chapter of the National Honor Society.

1) Eligibility

- a) Junior or Senior
- b) 88% Cumulative Percentage Grade Average (PGA)
- c) At least equivalent of one semester in attendance at BCS
- d) Completed and validated 20 hours of community service

2) Selection Process:

- a) Students notified of scholastic eligibility determined by PGA (88%)
- b) Students submit Student Activity Information Form regarding SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, and CHARACTER
- c) Faculty advisor lead a faculty team to complete application review and determine final selections
- d) Candidates are notified of their acceptance or non-selection to the NHS
- e) Selection process usually occurs in March-April with the NHS Induction Ceremony held in late April or early May

4. Performing Arts

1) Blackhawk Christian Theatre

Involving about 75 students the Blackhawk Christian Theatre mounts two full-scale productions each year: a play in the fall and a musical in the spring. Students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to audition for roles in either/both productions. Students are also encouraged to become involved in the areas of tech support, stage crew, stage management and house management. Students who earn at least 10 theatre points (approximately 100 hours of service) are invited to join the BCS chapter (#5242) of the International Thespian Society. New ITS members are inducted in a ceremony in the spring.

BCS offers two one-semester classes in Theatre Arts. Students may take either or both semesters, in any order. Theatre Arts 1 focuses on the actor's craft: voice and movement, relaxation, concentration, and character development. Theatre Arts 2 offers a concentration in the physical theatre, the process of mounting a play and a brief introduction to the history of theatre. Both courses meet daily for one semester.

2) Art

Two-Dimensional and Three-Dimensional Art are offered to Grades 9-12 as one semester classes designed to provide a broad range of art experiences for the beginning and advanced art student. Students study the elements of art and principles of design. Scholastic Art Magazine and internet resources (SmartBoard) are used as curriculum for instruction. The benefits of these courses include the development and strengthening of decision making, creative thinking, and time management. Three-Dimensional Art continues the study of art by learning about important art movements and the work of famous artists and their styles. Both courses meet daily for one semester. High school artwork is displayed seasonally in the hallways of the school, and at art shows in conjunction with school concerts. Field trips related to art topics are offered as they become available.

3) Band

Secondary Concert Bands are offered for full credit meeting one period daily. In addition to BCS school concerts in the Fall, Christmas, and Spring, band members may participate in ISSMA Solo & Ensemble, and Organization events, All-State, All-Region, and All-District honor bands.

4) Choir

Choir is offered in Secondary as an elective to fulfill part of the performing arts requirement: A 7th grade choir, 8th grade choir and high school choir meet one period daily. An Audition Choir for Grades 9-12 meets and, as its name implies, is a small a capella ensemble based on an entrance audition. Concert performances are scheduled for the Fall, at Christmas and in the Spring. ISSMA competition for solos/ensembles is in January/February.

5. Student Council

Student Council consists of the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice-President, and the class officers in each of grades 7-12. The Student Council is under the supervision of a Faculty Advisor. The activities and responsibilities of the Student Council consist of:

- 1) regular, at least monthly, meetings of class officers under the direction of the Student Body President and the supervision of the Faculty Advisor(s)
- 2) issues that relate to student life: offering suggestions and recommendations to school administration
- 3) endeavors to implement ministry and service opportunities in which the student body may participate
- 4) plan and oversee Homecoming festivities
- 5) lead the class in planning activities (i.e. class activities, dress down day, fundraisers, the banquet, senior trip, etc.)
- 6) communicate information from Student Council to classmates
- 7) motivate classmates to participate in all activities

Elections for the offices of Student Body President and Vice-President are conducted in the spring before school is dismissed for the summer. Any junior or senior student may hold either of these two offices after having been a student at BCS for at least one full semester. Student body officers must maintain academic eligibility. Class officers include the following positions and responsibilities:

- 1) President
 - a) conduct class meetings
 - b) represent class at student council meetings
- 2) Vice-President
 - a) assist the president in whatever capacity needed
 - b) represent class at student council meetings
- 3) Secretary/Treasurer
 - a) record notes of class meetings and maintain records
 - b) collect money brought in to homeroom/class
 - c) be responsible to make deposits with Financial Secretary in HS Office

Elections for class officers for the following year are conducted in the spring before school is dismissed for the summer. Class officers must have been a BCS student for at least one semester. Elections for 7th grade class officers are conducted in the fall of that year.