

BC

BEARS

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2024-2025

BLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

176 EAGLE'S ROAD

P.O. BOX 9

ROCKY GAP, VIRGINIA 24366

Ph. 276-928-1100

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

As we prepare to embark on this new journey together, I want to take a moment to express my enthusiasm for the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead. Whether you're returning to familiar hallways or stepping into a new classroom for the first time, this year promises to be filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments.

Many improvements have happened over the summer:

- ✓ New floor and paint in the Cafeteria
- ✓ New classrooms for the 6th grade wing
- ✓ Completion of the Bard Units
- ✓ Numerous classroom changes/locations

A few new staff changes:

- ✓ Mr. Walker as Principal
- ✓ Mrs. Bailey as Assistant Principal
- ✓ Mr. Travis Reed as Athletic Director/Sped Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Guzy as Middle School Math Teacher
- ✓ Mr. Blevins as the new GoTech Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Blessing 6th grade Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Rasnake 6th grade Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Arney PE Teacher
- ✓ Ms. Moye PE Teacher

✓ Mrs. Belcher SPED Teacher

BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Bland County Schools is to provide a safe and challenging environment where students will be given the opportunity to learn and acquire skills necessary for a responsible and productive life while developing an appreciation for their community.

Bland County Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, or age, in its educational programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Mr. Mike Grim, Supervisor of Special Services, Bland County School Board, 361 Bears Trail, Bastian, VA 24314, (276) 688-3361.

All Career and Technical Education opportunities are offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

BLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

Morning Arrival 7:50 am – 8:25 am	
7:45 – Duty Teacher Arrive (7:45 – 8:15)	
7:50 – 8:25 Students Arrive/Breakfast	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students eating breakfast will report to the cafeteria upon arrival.2. Students who do not wish to eat breakfast must report to the gym3. Students will sit in designated areas in the gym (6th/7th grade on the bleachers on the right as you enter the gym)4. Students are not allowed in the hallways/classrooms until the bell rings at 8:255. No food is allowed in the gym	
Regular Schedule	
Tardy	After 8:30
1 st Period	8:30 – 9:20
2 nd Block	9:25 to 10:55
3 rd Block	11:00 to 1:00
Lunches	1 st lunch 11:00 – 11:30 HS/Afternoon Votech
	2 nd lunch 11:55 – 12:25 6 th /7 th grade
	3 rd lunch 12:30 – 1:00 HS/Morning Votech
4 th Block	1:05 – 2:35
5 th Period	2:40 – 3:30
After School	3:30 – 3:50 Students not riding 1 st load buses must remain in the gym until shuttle buses arrive

2024-2025 BELL SCHEDULES

Regular Schedule

1st - 8:30 to 9:20	50 minutes
2nd - 9:25 to 10:55	90 minutes
3rd - 11:00 to 1:00	90 minutes class time plus 30 minutes lunch
4th - 1:05 to 2:35	90 minutes
5th - 2:40 to 3:30	50 minutes
1 st lunch - 11:00 to 11:30	HS/Afternoon Votech 30 minutes
2 nd lunch - 11:55 to 12:25	6th/7th graders 30 minutes
3 rd lunch - 12:30 to 1:00	HS/Morning Votech 30 minutes

Two-Hour Delay

1st - 10:30 to 11:00	30 minutes
2nd - 11:05 to 12:10	65 minutes
3rd - 12:15 to 1:45	60 minutes plus 30 minutes lunch
4th - 1:50 to 2:55	65 minutes
5th - 3:00 to 3:30	30 minutes
1 st Lunch - 12:15 to 12:45	HS/Afternoon Votech 30 minutes
2 nd Lunch - 12:50 to 1:15	6th/7th graders 25 minutes
3 rd Lunch - 12:20 to 1:45	HS/Morning Votech 25 minutes

1pm Dismissal

1st - 8:30 to 8:55	25 minutes
2nd - 9:00 to 9:55	55 minutes
3 rd - 10:00 - 10:55	55 minutes
4 th - 11:00 - 12:30	60 minutes plus 30 minutes lunch
5th 12:35 to 1:00	25 minutes
1 st lunch - 11:00 to 11:30	HS/Afternoon Votech 30 minutes
2 nd lunch - 11:35 to 12:00	6 th /7 th graders 25 minutes

ATTENDANCE

Bland County's Attendance Policy states, "Except as otherwise provided by statute, all residents of Bland County between ages of 5 and 20 are entitled to attend the free public schools of the county and are further entitled to the appropriate educational opportunities in the schools. Compulsory school attendance is required for all children who have reached their 5th birthday by September 30 and who have not passed their 18th birthday." "Students are expected to be in attendance for all 180 scheduled instructional days each year unless they are ill, have a legitimate family emergency, or have an extenuating circumstance which warrants the school principal's approval of the absence." "When a student is unable to attend school, the parents/guardians are requested to notify the school that their child will be absent and state the reason for the absence."

Definitions

- Absent means a student not being in attendance in regularly scheduled classes. Approved school-related activities do not count as an absence.
- Present means a student being in attendance in regularly scheduled classes.
- Tardy means a student not being in his/her assigned class when the class begins.
- Early dismissal means a student leaving class or school early.

Excused Absences

1. An illness or incapacitating condition of the student or of immediate family member which requires the temporary help of the student. A written parental explanation is required.
2. A death in the immediate family. (Parents, step-parents, guardians, grandparents, brother/sister, stepbrother/sister, aunt/uncle, husband/wife, child, or other relative living in the same household).
3. Recognized religious holidays/events. Parents must apply in writing to the principal ten days prior for a student to be excused. Such applications must include a statement from the church.
4. Required court appearance. A student may be excused from school for a required court appearance. A written note from appropriate authorities must be provided.
5. Extenuating circumstances. The principal has the authority to determine if a student absence was the result of an extenuating circumstance.

Unexcused Absences

Any absence not verified by a doctor's statement and not fitting the five definitions of an excused absence listed above. Absences for out-of-school suspension or other non-educational activities are unexcused.

Make-Up Work

Upon return to class after an excused or unexcused absence, students shall be informed of the work they missed, the teacher shall assign the make-up work, and determine when the work will be completed (generally three days). All graded work such as tests or quizzes that must be done at school shall be completed before or after school, during lunch, or during another appropriate time. At no time is a student to miss additional class time to make up missed work.

Failure of the student to make up work for either an excused absence or unexcused absence may result in the student not receiving credit for the work not completed.

FOLLOW-UP OF ABSENCES

1. Teachers will keep an accurate record of daily absences by students.

2. The school will make a reasonable attempt to contact a parent/guardian of each student who is absent and obtain an explanation for the student's absence where there is no indication that the student's parent/guardian is aware of and supports the absence. A log will be kept of call attempts.
3. After three (3) unexcused absences, the school will send a letter home reminding the parent/guardian of the number of absences and the importance of good attendance.
4. Upon a fifth (5th) unexcused absence, and in accordance with Virginia law, a parent conference will be scheduled to develop a plan to encourage student attendance.
5. If a sixth (6th) unexcused absence occurs, the school administrator will schedule a conference with the student and parent/guardian within a 10 day period in an attempt to resolve the student's noncompliance with the compulsory attendance law. The school may include community service providers to assist the student and family with the issue of noncompliance.
6. If an eighth (8th) unexcused absence occurs, the Principal shall enforce the compulsory attendance rules by either or both of the following: (i) filing a complaint with the juvenile and domestic relations court alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in § 16.1-228 or (ii) instituting proceedings against the parent pursuant to § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262.

In filing a complaint against the student, the Principal shall provide written documentation of the efforts already undertaken to resolve the pupil's absence. If the student's parents have joint physical custody of the student and the school has notice of the custody arrangement, then both parents shall be notified at their last known addresses. The Principal shall contact the Superintendent when a student is referred to the court for failure to comply with the compulsory attendance regulations. 7. If a student is absent for more than ten (10) days during the school year, whether the combination of absences are excused or unexcused, a doctor's note will be required for 11th and all subsequent absences for the absences to be considered excused. The procedure for three (3) unexcused absences will be followed. The family will be invited to school for a conference. Additional absences will be considered unexcused and the procedures listed in (4.-7.) above will be followed. Extenuating circumstances will be considered in the application of this policy. 8. If three (3) or more unexcused absences occur in any grading period, the student will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular events or field trips during that grading period. Extenuating circumstances will be considered in the application of this policy.

TARDIES AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The student shall have his/her parents or guardians contact the school or send a note stating the reason for tardiness or for early dismissals. Excessive tardiness and early dismissals will be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action will be administered. **Students may not check out for lunch on a daily basis.**

10 point grading system

A Student Leadership Team will be implemented to assist in collecting student needs/concerns assessment data to be used for school improvement.

The mission of Bland County Schools is "to provide a safe and challenging environment where students will be given an opportunity to learn and to acquire skills necessary for a responsible and productive life while developing an appreciation for their communities". At BCHS our number one priority is

STUDENTS! We strive to provide the tools and resources to prepare for adult life in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Please note that I can be reached via telephone at 276-928-1100. If you must, leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. I can also be reached via email –

SIGNING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

- ☐ Students who arrive at school after the 8:30 tardy bell rings must sign in using Ident-a-Kid computer system at the main office and obtain a tardy slip.
- ☐ All notes are to be handed to the school secretary before first period.
- ☐ Parents picking students up must enter the office and use the Ident a Kid system to check students out.
- ☐ Student who drive to school and plan to check out for the day need to bring a note from their parent(s). The note should list the date and time the sign out will occur along with the reason for signing out. This note must also have a valid phone number where the parent can be reached for verification.
- ☐ Students who do not drive may not leave with a student who does drive-parent must sign out. ➤ Students may NOT sign out of school without a pre-approved note. A parent/guardian must come to school to sign student out.
- ☐ Students who drive and need to sign out for an **illness must first see the school nurse**, and then obtain parental permission via phone.
- ☐ Students who return to school after signing out must sign back in through the office immediately upon returning to campus.
- ☐ Students who leave school without following the sign-out procedures will be assigned a consequence ranging from In-School Suspension to Out-Of-School Suspension.
- ☐ **Students may not sign out for lunch.**

VISTOR'S POLICY

1. All visitors must report to the office to sign in using Ident a Kid system and obtain a visitor's pass.
2. Students who are expelled, receiving homebound instruction, or attending the alternative school should not be on school grounds unless prior arrangements are made with the principal.
3. Teachers should not receive visitors during the instructional day.

DRESS CODE

Bland County Student Code of Conduct states that "Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to; sagging and/or low-cut pants,

low-cut necklines that show cleavage, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, clothing constructed of see-through materials...”

- Shorts, skorts, dresses and skirts must be fingertip length.
- Tights, leggings or other types of hosiery must be accompanied by a fingertip length or longer top or dress.
- Clothing that displays promotions for illegal substances, contains inappropriate pictures or profanity will not be worn.
- Holes in pants or shorts must be lower than the mid-thigh.
- Hooded sweatshirts are permitted as long as the hood is not worn while inside of the building.
- Halter-tops, bare midriff and see-through apparel are not to be worn. Dresses and tops must have sleeves that are at least the width of a dollar bill. All tops/shirts must have backs and sides. Cleavage must be covered.
- All pants and slacks must be worn at the waist with no visible undergarments.
- Coats and hats are only permitted when entering or exiting the school building. Students are advised to wear sweaters or sweatshirts if they feel the need for additional warmth. Blankets are not permitted in school.
- Hats, caps, sunglasses, and any other head coverings are not to be worn in the building during the school day.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Discretion should be used as to the appropriateness and safety of certain types of shoes. Shoes with cleats may be worn.
- Attire that may damage school property or cause personal injury to others (such as chains or studded items) is not to be worn.
- Clothing that is suggestive, has a double meaning or innuendo, or suggests inappropriate ideas are unacceptable.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who are in violation of the dress code will be directed to correct the situation. (Students will be allowed to call home to secure clothing that complies with the code.) -Students who are unwilling to correct the situation will be subject to in-school suspension for one day on the first offense. -Students who have committed two or more dress code violations will serve in-school suspension or out of school suspension until a parent conference can be held with the school administrator.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

If a conference is desired, teachers should be contacted ahead of time to schedule a mutually convenient time. This may be during the teacher’s planning time, before school, or after school. Visitors will not be allowed to interrupt instructional time or demand to see a teacher during the school day without a scheduled meeting. Let us know your needs and we will plan a time to accommodate you.

CELL PHONES & OTHER MEDIA DEVICES

CHANGING BUSES

Any changes from the student's regular bus route home must be approved through the office. The student wishing to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop must bring in a note from his/her parents. This note will need to include a valid phone number so that the change in buses or stops can be verified. Bus drivers will not alter any student's regular transportation route without a "bus pass".

TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for their textbooks. The books are the property of Bland County Public Schools and must be accounted for at the end of the year. There is no initial charge for books; however, students and their parents are financially responsible for damaged and lost textbooks. Students should always check their book when issued and report any damage to the teacher in order to avoid paying a fine for book damage. Students are responsible for purchasing lost, stolen, missing or damaged books.

LUNCH PRICES

All Bland County Public School students will receive free lunches for the 2024-25 school year. However, if your student wishes to purchase additional items, they may do so. The prices are listed below.

2024-2025 Meal Prices

Elementary Students receive 1 free complete breakfast and 1 free complete lunch daily

High School Students receive 1 free complete breakfast and 1 free complete lunch daily

All extras can be purchased at the prices below

Breakfast Entrée \$1.50

Lunch Entrée \$2.00

Vegetable or Fruit \$1.25

Milk \$0.60

Breakfast Juice Cup \$0.60

Bread \$0.75

Cookie, Chips \$1.00

Juice Box \$0.75

Small Water \$0.50

Large Water \$1.00

Gatorade/Switch \$1.25

Ice Cream \$1.25 BCHS Cafeteria Only

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. Statistics show that students who are involved in school sponsored activities perform better in the classroom and demonstrate better attendance patterns. In order to be eligible, students must have passed a minimum of five courses for the preceding semester. Students who wish to participate on an athletic team must also have a current physical on file with the Athletic Director.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance is available and can be obtained at the beginning of the school year. The school does not sale insurance. Insurance can be purchased directly from Scholastic Insurance.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Should it become necessary for schools to close, the information will be reported through various media outlets such as television, radio and the internet. School information will also be presented using the Remind telecommunication system.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements, including information regarding the different diploma tracts, can be found on the Bland County Public School's webpage at <http://www/bland.k12.va.us> or at the Virginia Department of Education's website at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/index.shtml>.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

It is the policy of Bland County Public Schools that in order to participate in graduation activities, including Baccalaureate and the official graduation ceremony, seniors must have met all academic requirements qualifying them for a high school diploma prior to the scheduled date of the activities.

HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY

Students must pass the following number of courses in order to move up one grade in high school:

GRADES	COURSES PASSED/ CREDITS
8th to 9th	5
9th to 10th	10
10th to 11th	15
11th to 12th	20

SAT / ACT

It is important for students to start early in their high school career preparing for their future after graduation. Depending on the post-secondary institution, SAT and / or ACT testing is generally required for admission. Information regarding SAT/ACT testing can be obtained through the guidance office. The SAT and ACT websites provide valuable information to students and parents. SAT Website <http://sat.collegeboard.com/home> ACT Website <http://www.actstudent.org/index.html>

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Bland County High School is fortunate to have a full time guidance counselor and a part-time career coach. The school counselor is available to assist students with scheduling courses, determining diploma tracts, applying for college, applying for financial aid, applying for

employment, enrolling for college admittance testing, and addressing many other issues that could affect a student's performance in high school or life after graduation. Our school counselor also serves as a student needs counselor for social/crisis situations. The career coach is an employee of Wytheville Community College. The Coach is on campus to assist our Junior/Senior students with various aspects of determining employment interests, making career choices, and assisting with post-secondary educational needs. S/he will have arranged times to meet with students in groups and/or individual settings. It is important for students and parents to become active in planning for life after high school as early as possible in the student's high school career. Educational information is available to students and parents via the school's website, daily bulletin, guidance department, and newsletter.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

Some students are interested in continuing their education after high school while at the same time participates in athletics. Information regarding NCAA eligibility is available in the guidance office and online: http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html
http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html

It is important to note that in some instances the requirements for meeting NCAA Eligibility are stricter than Virginia Public School Graduation Requirements.

US MILITARY

Some students are interested in pursuits in the US Military after high school. Recruiters come by the school at various times during the year. If interested in entering the military after high school, information is available in the guidance office and online:

<http://www.usmilitary.com/http://www.usmilitary.com/>
<http://www.usmilitary.com/http://www.usmilitary.com/>

CAREER AND TECHNICAL

Career and technical training is important in the development of the skills needed for preparing for successful employment after high school or entrance into industry specific post-secondary education. A variety of career and technical courses are available at the school. Additional career and technical opportunities are available to juniors and seniors at the Tazewell County Career and Technology Center. Students tour the Technology Center during their sophomore year. Information about CTE courses is available in the guidance office.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are various scholarship opportunities available to students who desire to continue their education after high school. Students and parents are encouraged to seek and apply for multiple scholarships for financial assistance with post-secondary education. Information regarding scholarships is available in the guidance office. Information regarding Virginia Department of Education Scholarship opportunities is available in the guidance office and online:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/high_school/virginia_scholarships/index.shtm

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available online:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.html>

GRADING SCALE – NEW 2024

90 – 100%	Outstanding	A
80 – 89%	Above Average	B
70 – 79%	Average	C
60 – 69%	Below Average	D
0 – 59%	Not Passing Work	F

BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DUAL CREDIT COURSES & ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

STUDENT FEES, FINES AND CHARGES

The School Board charges student fees and takes action to recover funds for the loss of or damage to School Board property in accordance with the state and federal law. No fee may be charged unless it has been approved by the School Board. The School Board provides, free of charge, such textbooks as are required for courses of instruction for each child attending public schools. Consumable materials such as workbooks, writing books, and drawing books may be purchased by the School Board and either provided to students at no cost or sold to students at a retail price not to exceed seven percent added to the publisher's price. If sold, the School Board ensures that workbooks, writing books, and drawing books are furnished to students who are unable to afford them at a reduced price or free of charge. Fees are not charged to students for instructional materials, textbooks, or other materials used by a School Board employee that are not directly used by a public school student.

The following fees are charged.

Beta Club New Members: \$50

Beta Club Returning Members: \$10

FBLA Club Dues: \$25

FFA Club Dues: \$20

Junior Class Dues: \$50

Student Parking Fee: \$25

Summer School: \$75

Behind the Wheel: \$150-Students not enrolled in Bland County \$250

Spanish Club Dues: \$25

Chromebook Insurance Fee \$20

Fees may be charged for

- 1) optional services such as parking or locker rental;
- 2) student-selected extracurricular activities;
- 3) class dues;
- 4) field trips or educationally-related programs that are not required instructional activities;
- 5) fees for musical instruments, as long as the instruction in the use of musical instruments is not part of the required curriculum;
- 6) distance learning classes for enrichment which are not necessary to meet the requirements for a diploma;
- 7) summer school, unless the classes are required for remediation as prescribed by the Standards of Quality;
- 8) overdue or lost or damaged library books;
- 9) lost or damaged textbooks;
- 10) consumable materials such as workbooks, writing books, drawing books and fine arts materials and supplies; however, workbooks, writing books, drawing books and fine arts materials and supplies must be furnished to students who are unable to afford them at a reduced price or free of charge; fees may not be charged to students for instructional materials, textbooks, or other materials that are not directly used by a public school student;
- 11) the behind-the-wheel portion of the driver's education program;
- 12) a fee not to exceed a student's pro rata share of the cost of providing transportation for voluntary extracurricular activities; and
- 13) the preparation and distribution of official paper copies of student transcripts; a reasonable number of copies of official paper copies must be provided for free before a charge is levied for additional official copies; official electronic copies of student transcripts must be provided for free.

**Bland County High School
Student/Parent Handbook
Receipt/ Acknowledgement**

This page is to be torn off booklet and returned to Bland County High School Office with
all other required paperwork.

By signing below, I verify that I have received a copy of the Bland County High School Student/Parent Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. My child and I have reviewed the handbook and understand that we are encouraged to call the school with any questions that we may have about any of the rules or policies outlined therein.

Parent's Signature

Date

I have received a copy of the 2024-2025 Student/ Parent Handbook. I agree to abide by the rules and policies of Bland County High School.

Student's Signature

Date