

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the community of Benjamin Rush Middle School, will provide for the students:

1. A positive atmosphere for the progression from elementary to secondary school while encouraging a desire to learn.
2. Opportunities to reach their academic, social, and emotional potential.
3. Instruction to assist in the development of skills needed to become productive members of society.

I.C. 20-33-2-3 ATTENDANCE

In order to receive the maximum benefits from the educational process, regular school attendance is required. However, if a student must be absent from school, use the following procedures:

EXCUSED ABSENCES

To receive an excused absence, a phone call is required from a parent/guardian before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the absence (phone no. 932-2968), or a note is needed from a parent/guardian upon return to school. An admit slip to class is issued when the student returns to school. An admit slip to class is issued for an excused absence. Excused absences include those due to illness, injury, family death, quarantine, or prearranged absences approved by the principal or principal's designee. Students should have each teacher sign the admit slip when the student returns to class. Students are expected to make up all work missed for an excused absence and are responsible for getting assignments from their teachers.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

After a student has been absent seven (7) days in any semester, a doctor's note will be required for each absence thereafter, or an explanation from the doctor as to the reason that regular school attendance cannot be maintained. In order to make up class time missed by excessive absences, students will be assigned Thursday Night Detention, In-School Suspensions, or Out-of-School suspensions. If no effort is made to correct the excessive absence problem, the student may be suspended out of school and recommended for expulsion. The Rush County Prosecutor's Office and the Rush County Probation Department will be notified if a student continues to be habitually absent from school, as well as the Department of Child Services.

PREARRANGED ABSENCES

Circumstances may dictate that a student may be absent from school for reasons other than illness. These unusual situations need the attention and approval of the principal ahead of time with a written explanation/authorization from the parent/guardian. Examples of a prearranged absence are: medical or dental appointments, funerals, serving as an election day worker, serving as a page at the Indiana General Assembly, field trips or activities requiring students to leave school grounds, and family business.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

An unexcused absence admit slip is issued to the student for the following: unapproved absence, truancy, or failure of

parent/guardian to write a note or call the school. Teachers should sign the admit slip when students return to class. A zero will be given for any unexcused absences. Any make-up work is the responsibility of the student.

A student not in school is expected to remain at home or be under the supervision of a parent/guardian. Students not in school during the day are excluded from extracurricular activities. Special situations must get approval from the principal.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Students are required to check with the front desk if they need to leave the grounds for any reason. Students leaving school without approval are considered truant. Any student leaving school must have permission also from his/her parent/guardian.

TARDIES

Students are counted tardy when they arrive to school or class late. Students may also be counted tardy if they arrive to class without necessary materials to participate in learning activities and need to return to their lockers for those materials. Students will be warned when they receive five tardies in a semester. Office referrals will be written for every three additional tardies thereafter. Consequences for cumulative tardy referrals are as follows:

Number of cumulative referrals per semester:

1 – 3	After-School Detention
4 – 6	Thursday Night Detention
7 – 8	In-School Suspension
9+	Out-of-School Suspension

TRUANCY

A student not in school and not meeting the criteria of an excused absence is considered truant. Information concerning student absence must be received by 10:00 a.m. and is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. A student who is considered truant will be assigned In-School Suspensions. A student out of class without permission from the principal, assistant principal, or without a pass from the teacher to whom he/she is assigned is considered truant. A student who is truant four times is considered a habitual truant. A habitual truant under the age of eighteen will not be issued a driver's license or a learner's permit as recorded in I.C. 9-24-2-4, Section 2, and as is indicated in the "Message to Parents." The principal will notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles upon the student's fourth instance of truancy. Students who are truant will be assigned an In-School Suspension for each day they are truant. Students will be suspended out of school if they become a habitual truant. If no effort is made to correct the truancy problem, the student will be suspended out of school and be recommended for expulsion. The Rush County Prosecutor's office and the Rush County Probation department will be notified if a student becomes habitually absent from school.

HEALTH SERVICES

The school maintains health services for all children so they may attend school with the best physical, mental, and emotional health attainable to facilitate learning.

Immunization records are maintained on all students and parents must show proof that each child's immunizations are complete for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A & B, meningitis, and varicella. The measles, rubella, mumps, and varicella vaccines must have been given on or after the first birthday. Records must indicate the month/day/year of each dose of vaccine given. Students who have not attended Rush County Schools previously must present proof, upon enrollment, of immunizations as listed above.

If a child's immunizations are not in compliance with the minimum requirements, the school nurse will inform the parents and may grant a waiver of not more than 20 days during which time the child is required to become in compliance.

Parents who object to their child having immunizations must sign an "Objection To Immunization" form yearly. These are available from the school principal and/or school nurse. Objections to immunizations can only be accepted if the objection is for religious or medical reasons.

To keep your child's school health record up-to-date, please notify the school nurse if he/she receives additional immunizations during the school year.

Vision screening is done for students in grade eight, new students, and any student the teacher suspects is having a vision problem. Those students failing the screening test are referred to their optometrist or ophthalmologist for further evaluation. Any child already wearing glasses should remain under the supervision of his/her eye care professional.

Children who have head lice must have their heads treated with a preparation which will kill the lice, and nit removal must be evident.

In conjunction with physical education classes, heights and weights are recorded on all students in grades seven and eight. Results are indicated on the child's health record.

Immediate first aid is provided in the event of illness or injury at school. If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she is to check into the clinic or office. **Except for dire emergencies, the student should obtain a pass to the clinic from his/her teacher.** Any student bypassing the clinic will be charged with an unexcused absence. In the event of serious illness or injury which necessitates the student leaving school, parents are contacted by school personnel to assume responsibility for their child's care. The school does not carry health or accident insurance for students.

NO MEDICATION WILL BE GIVEN TO A CHILD WITHOUT PROPER CONSENT

The school nurse or her designee, and/or personnel in the school office, should be notified of all medication brought to school.

If it is necessary for a student to take medication during the school day, the medication must be provided to the school by the parent. It is preferred the parent BRING the medication to school and NOT SEND it with the child on the school bus.

The student will be required to go to the clinic to receive the medication.

Any student needing to take prescription medication during the school day must have Form A12062, Parts I and II, completed. These are available from the school nurse, in each principal's office, and online. Prescription medication must be in the original container with a current label indicating the child's name, medication name, dosage, time to be given, and prescribing physician's name. If medication is to be taken for only a short period of time (less than two weeks), the prescription label indicating physician, student's name, medication, and instructions is sufficient for Part I of Form A12062.

All over-the-counter medication, such as Tylenol and cough syrup, must have Form A12062, Part II, completed and signed by the legal custodian. A letter from the parent may be substituted for the form as long as it includes the same information as listed on the form. Over-the-counter medication must be in the original container. If a student needs to carry emergency medicine, i.e. inhaler/epipen, on his/her person, Form A12062, Parts I, II, and III must be completed and on file. Cough drops are considered medication.

Any student needing specific medical treatment(s) during the school day must have physician's orders and instructions and parental permission forms on file. Specialized medical equipment needed for the treatment(s) must be provided by the parents.

NO MEDICAL TREATMENTS WILL BE GIVEN TO A CHILD WITHOUT PROPER CONSENT

The school nurses are available for consultation and recommendation. Diagnosis and treatment are prescribed by the student's family health care provider.

LOCKERS

A locker is provided for each student to store books, materials needed for class, coats, umbrellas, etc. A student who uses a locker that is the property of a school corporation is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or the locker's contents. Students are not to share lockers or store personal items in any other student locker but their own. Students sharing lockers or storing items in a locker other than their own will be subject to disciplinary action. (BRMS Student Handbook, Level 2, Number 8). At no time should students decorate the outside of any locker. Only school associated groups, i.e. sports/clubs, may attach anything to the outside of any student locker. A principal may search a student's locker and the locker's contents at any time. A law enforcement agency may, at the request of the school principal, assist a school administrator in searching a student's locker and the locker's contents. At no time are lockers to be used to harbor illegal substances, stolen property, weapons, or any items that are prohibited by school rules, corporation rules, or state laws. Although the school respects privacy, there are instances when locker searches or the search of persons becomes necessary for the safety of the school, protection of property, etc. A locker search may or may not be handled in the presence of the student.

The principal or member of the administrative staff may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to utilize trained dogs for a search.

LUNCH

There are two 30-minute lunches that are scheduled by grade level during the students' 5th period class. Students should check the daily schedules in the front of their student handbooks to determine lunch times. Lunches and lunch assignments are subject to change at any time.

A. The following rules pertain to student conduct:

1. Students are to enter the cafeteria in an orderly manner and select their seat for the day. Lunch supervisors will dismiss students by tables to line up for lunch.
2. All students are responsible for keeping their table and area clean. Sponges are provided for cleaning up spills.
3. No food is to be taken out of the cafeteria.
4. Any student failing to follow the rules and guidelines set for the lunchroom may be assigned a seat for an undetermined amount of time.

B. All students will have a lunch account and an assigned number. The students are encouraged to make payments to the accounts in the morning prior to the start of school. Students wishing to pay cash on a daily basis may do so. Significant negative lunch account balances shall not be permitted. A significant negative lunch account balance is any balance owed in excess of \$15.00. If a student has a significant negative lunch account balance, s/he shall be provided a regular reimbursable meal that follows the USDA meal pattern, the cost of which shall continue to accrue to his/her negative lunch account balance. Furthermore, if a student has a negative lunch account balance, the student shall not be permitted to charge any breakfast, à la carte food or beverage items. Benjamin Rush has a closed lunch, and students are not permitted to leave the school grounds for lunch.

FOOD AND DRINKS

Food is to remain in cafeteria area only. Students may possess a water bottle. All water bottles must be clear and contain only water. Students may not bring water bottles into the Computer Labs. Students must abide by individual classroom policies. Allowing students to carry around a water bottle is a privilege. Misuse may lead to that student being unable to have a water bottle in class. Glass bottles are not to be permitted in the building. Students requiring food or drink, beyond water, for medical reasons, should obtain permission in advance from the school nurse and/or administrator.

REPORT CARDS

The school year is divided into two semesters with each semester containing two nine-week periods.

GRADES

The following scale will be to calculate student GPA:

A+ 4.33	A 4.00	A- 3.67
B+ 3.33	B 3.00	B- 2.67
C+ 2.33	C 2.00	C- 1.67
D+ 1.33	D 1.00	D- .067

FINAL EXAMS

Students are required to take final exams in all their classes at the end of each semester. The final exams will be scheduled daily by subject areas and will take place during a three-day period prior to the end of each semester. Classes that are project-based or assessed on performance will be required to assign projects or performances during final examination times. The student's final examination grade will count no more than ten percent of the student's final grade.

HONOR ROLL

Students who receive the grade of A or B in all classes have attained Honor Roll status.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be sent out after four weeks of each nine-week period. These reports are designed to help students and to keep parents informed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM

Any observation made by a teacher that gives an indication of an attempt to cheat or plagiarize will be treated as an incident of cheating.

Penalty:

1st Offense -: Documentation of the incident by the instructor with the administration. Automatic "0" for the assignment, and the parent notified by letter, email, and/or phone call from instructor.

Additional Offenses-: Automatic "0" for the assignment and student will be placed at Level 3 of the General Student Conduct.

STUDY TABLES

Study Tables are available to all students who need help with homework or just a quiet place to study. Study Tables are available from 3:20 to 4:20 on Tuesday and Thursday each week and supervised by a BRMS teacher.

AGENDA BOOKS

Recognizing the difficulties that the middle school child often has in learning organizational skills, the agenda books are used to help students develop these skills. Student agenda books are to be filled out every day. Parents may check the agenda book on a nightly basis to keep updated on the child's homework and to enable the parent to keep informed of what a child is doing on a daily basis in school.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

DRESS CODE:

Students are responsible to dress and exhibit grooming habits that are in good taste and suitable for school. The school considers the appearance of students relating to grooming and dress as an important factor for an effective and desirable atmosphere for learning. Student dress reflects the quality of the school, student attitudes, and community expectations. **Some types of clothing and grooming habits are disruptive to the educational process and dangerous to the student or others. Students who violate the dress code may be offered**

acceptable dress by the school, or they may be placed in ISS until proper dress can be obtained.

The following guidelines have been established and are within compliance of the School Board Dress Policy.

The following are considered inappropriate for school:

1. Bare midriffs or tank tops. Necklines should be appropriate and shoulders must be covered.
2. Clothing or jewelry which advertises, displays, or refers to nonprescription drugs, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages. Any clothing that mentions or depicts violence, defamation of individuals, groups, or organizations, or is of a sexual nature is not appropriate for school.
3. Torn pants, shorts, or jeans cannot be worn without something worn underneath to cover the skin at a point below mid-thigh to the knee. This applies to the front and back of the leg.
4. Hats, hoods, bandanas, coats, or sunglasses are not to be worn in the building and should be removed when entering the building and placed in student lockers.
5. Skirts/shorts are to be in good taste and decency. The length of these garments must be below the mid-thigh.
6. Wearing chains, spiked bracelets/anklets, pierced body parts, or other potentially harmful accessories are not appropriate for school.
7. Alterations to appearance that disrupt the normal operation of the school should not be worn.
8. Baggy jeans or pants must be fastened at the student's waist by a belt. Pants are not to be worn below the hips.
9. Any shoe equipped with wheels or other devices are not to be worn because of safety concerns.
10. Book bags, backpacks, coats, and jackets are to be placed in lockers in the morning and should not be carried into the classrooms.

****Clothing and items associated with gangs are not to be worn in school or on school premises. Students wearing or displaying such items will be asked to remove them. The wearing of such items either by color, by item, or by arrangement may be cause for suspension. Repeated occurrences may warrant a recommendation for expulsion. Coaches and instructors of extracurricular activities may establish specific guidelines for their activity.**

PASSES FOR STUDENT CONFERENCES/HALL PASSES

All students are to be issued a pass whenever they leave the classroom. It is recommended that agenda books be used for this process.

GENERAL STUDENT CONDUCT

The BRMS discipline plan is intended to provide guidelines by which students are to conduct themselves. This plan may include, but is not limited to, the specific violations/consequences listed below nor does it limit discipline decided by the administration.

While it is the school's responsibility to provide information about expected behaviors, it is the student's responsibility to read the information in the student handbook.

Level 1

BEHAVIOR:

1. Failure to follow class rules
2. Failure to follow repeated staff member instructions
3. Failure to come to class prepared
4. Failure to complete homework in class

CONSEQUENCES

- Teacher intervention
- Parent/Guardian contact by teacher
- Academic Recovery

Level 2

BEHAVIOR

1. Dress code violation
2. Public display of affection
3. Possession or use of cellular phones and other electronic devices
4. Running and/or horseplay
5. Classroom and/or educational disruption
6. Failure to follow instructions
7. Inappropriate use of food or candy. Students are not to chew gum in school.
8. Sharing lockers
9. Excessive Level 1 offenses
10. Disrespect to fellow student, i.e. Name Calling
11. Misuse of Technology (ie: Inappropriate internet searches, emails, sharing passwords, etc.)

CONSEQUENCES

- Lunch Detention
- After-school Detention

Level 3

BEHAVIOR

1. Petty theft
2. Minor destruction of school or private property
3. Leaving class without permission/Out of assigned area
4. Continual classroom/educational disruption
5. Use of inappropriate, obscene, or vulgar language or gestures
6. Insubordination
7. Excessive Level 2 offenses
8. Conduct constituting an interference with school purposes
9. False Reporting
10. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

CONSEQUENCES

- After-school Detention
- Thursday Night Detention
- In-School Suspension

Level 4

BEHAVIOR

1. Hazardous conduct which may be harmful to oneself or others
2. Theft of school or personal property

3. Failure to serve assigned Thursday Night School
4. Excessive Level 3 offenses
5. Disrespect to staff members
6. Verbal abuse of a student (including racial slurs)

CONSEQUENCES

- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension

Level 5

BEHAVIOR

1. Major destruction of school or private property (vandalism)
2. Use or possession of tobacco or a look-a-like. Use or possession of Inhaled Vapor Devices (i.e. E-Cigarettes, Vap-pens etc... Law enforcement may be notified.
3. Threats, intimidation, bullying, or harassment of another student
4. Fighting, Assault, or Battery
5. Possession of a pocketknife
6. Verbal abuse of a staff member
7. Sending, possessing, viewing, or sharing material of sexual nature including electronic form
8. Major theft of school or personal property
9. Excessive Level 4 offenses
10. Excessive Office Referrals/Substantial Disobedience
11. Possession of matches, lighters, or any other combustible materials including fireworks
12. “Depantsing” or attempting to “Depants” another student
13. Indecent exposure

CONSEQUENCES

- Out-of-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension with Recommendation for Expulsion
- Law enforcement may be called.

Level 6

BEHAVIOR

1. Possession or conspiring to possess a firearm, weapon, or look-alike firearm or weapon or any explosives/explosive devices
2. Possessing, using, selling, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, stimulant, depressant, barbiturate, alcoholic beverage, marijuana, intoxicant of any kind, or any item that closely resembles or is represented to be any of the foregoing items
3. Possession of drug paraphernalia
4. Causing, attempting to cause, or planning to cause physical injury or bodily harm to school employees, students, or others
5. Major theft of school property
6. Threat to staff member
7. Unlawful activity on school ground or at school activities during weekends, holidays, school breaks, and summer periods
8. Any misconduct in I. C. 20-33-8-14

CONSEQUENCE

- Out-of-School Suspension with recommendation for expulsion. Law enforcement may be called.

Level 7

BEHAVIOR

1. Possession of a firearm
2. Possession of a deadly weapon

CONSEQUENCE

- 10-day suspension pending expulsion for at least one (1) calendar year. Law enforcement authorities may be notified. I. C. 20-33-8-14

MEDIA CENTER RULES AND USAGE

The mission of the BRMS Library is to provide students and teachers with access to materials in a number of different formats, to provide support for the school's curriculum, to educate students in the use of information technologies, and to foster a love of reading.

The media center is open before school, during lunch and after school for all students. Students are welcome to use the media center at anytime during the school day with a pass from a teacher. Books, digital material, magazines, reference materials, and audio books are available to students. All materials should be returned promptly. Students who have overdue materials for more than ten days will not be allowed to check out any other materials until their overdue issue is resolved. Fines are assessed for any damaged or lost items. If lost items are returned after payment has been made, the media center has the option to refuse acceptance of item. Students will not be allowed to check out other materials until the lost item(s) is found or paid for. Students who habitually lose or damage materials will be limited to using materials in the library only. Damaging or destroying media center materials or furnishings may result in disciplinary action.

CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

Possessing or using on school grounds during school hours an electronic device, a cellular telephone, or any other telecommunication device in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function is prohibited (see Level 2, Number 3 BRMS General Student Conduct).

It is preferred that cell phones are left at home; however, student will not be disciplined if the following are followed:

Middle School students must turn off and put away cell phones upon entering the building. Students must leave cell phones off and in their lockers until they are dismissed at the end of the school day. Cell phones must never be on during school hours without specific permission by school personnel.

If an administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that a cell phone might have proof of violated discipline codes beyond possession of a cell phone, only the administrator or designee may search the contents of the phone in compliance with search and seizure regulations.

The school is NOT responsible for cell phones and other electronic devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen.

Electronic readers may be used for reading purposes ONLY! These may not be used to access the internet, games, etc. Devices may be required to be turned off at teacher discretion.

STUDENTS ARRIVAL/DISMISAL FROM SCHOOL

Students should not arrive at school until 7:50 a.m. Upon arriving at school, students should report directly to their designated assembly area unless they are eating breakfast. Bicycle riders are to ride on the right hand side of the road and watch out for walkers. Bikes are to be parked in the bike racks in front of the building. Students walking to school should stay off the lawns and use the sidewalks. Students who walk to school should NOT walk to the high school for purposes of boarding a bus. Students who ride a bus home will be dismissed first. Bus students should quickly exit the building, remain on the sidewalks, and board your bus. Walkers, bike riders, students being picked up by a car, and any students who are staying after school for athletics and extracurricular activities should dismiss on the second bell. Students who walk, ride bikes, or are picked up by a car should remain on the sidewalks while leaving school grounds and never cross the car pick-up lane in front of the building.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Social events sponsored by the school or the school's student groups are open to BRMS students only. The administration and faculty at Benjamin Rush Middle School do not encourage dating for social events. Any BRMS student serving an In-School or Out-of-School suspension will not be permitted to attend any school-sponsored social event.

I.C. 20-33-8-8 DUTY AND POWERS OF SCHOOL CORPORATION TO SUPERVISE AND DISCIPLINE STUDENTS

Sec. 8

- (a) Student supervision and the desirable behavior of students in carrying out school purposes is the responsibility of:
 - (1) a school corporation; and
 - (2) the students of a school corporation.
- (b) In all matters relating to the discipline and conduct of students, school corporation personnel:
 - (1) stand in the relation of parents to the students of the school corporation; and
 - (2) have the right to take any disciplinary action necessary to promote student conduct that conforms with an orderly and effective educational system, subject to this chapter.
- (c) Students must:
 - (1) follow responsible directions of school personnel in all educational settings; and
 - (2) refrain from disruptive behavior that interferes with the educational environment.

INTERNET USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All students who request access to Internet resources through Rush County Schools, whether using computers, modems,

and/or phone lines owned or controlled by Rush County Schools or not, will complete and sign an Internet Use Agreement with Rush County Schools. In the case of individuals under the age of 18, parental consent and signatures will be required before access will be granted. Rush County Schools requires the permission of and supervision by the school's professional staff for a student to use a school account or resource to access the Internet. It is the policy of the Rush County Schools that the cost of any materials secured utilizing the Internet is the responsibility of the individual user or, in the case of a person under the age of 18, the person who authorizes the network account. This authorization extends to any financial obligation that may be incurred when utilizing the network as a source for goods or services. In no circumstances will Rush County Schools be liable for any unauthorized purchases made utilizing accounts secured through or equipment owned by Rush County Schools. The signatures on the agreement are legally binding and indicate the party (parties) who has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully, and understand(s) their significance.

The smooth operation of the Internet network relies upon the proper conduct of the net users who must adhere to strict guidelines. Rush County Schools does not assume responsibility to the Internet community to enforce accepted standards of net protocol and its obligation to recommend the termination of a user's network password and identification if it discovers ongoing and intentional misuse of the Internet resources.

Use of the Internet within Rush County Schools must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the corporation. Transmission of any materials in violation of any United States, state, or local regulation or law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene materials, or materials protected by trade secrets. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited. In addition, the following are prohibited:

- 1. to access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials.
- 2. to transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language.
- 3. to violate any local, state, or federal statute.
- 4. to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization.
- 5. to access another person's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
- 6. to violate copyright or otherwise use another person's intellectual property without his/her prior approval or proper citations.

Users should refrain from sending any material over the network that they would not want published on the front page of their local paper, a regional paper, or national newspapers. Users should be aware that it is a violation of network policy to attempt to log on the network using another individual or group's name and password. Misuse of names and passwords can result in the cancellation of network privileges and other

penalties. Malicious attempts to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any agency connected to the Internet backbone, including the loading of computer viruses or worms, is a violation of federal law.

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right; inappropriate use may result in the termination of the privilege. Internet activity which violates the rules and policies of Rush County Schools will subject the user to appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

Network etiquette expects that users abide by the following guidelines. These guidelines include, but are not limited to:

1. the use of vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate language is prohibited.
2. personal information such as home telephone numbers, names, and addresses should not be shared over the net.
3. all communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
4. any attempt to compromise network security is prohibited. Any user identifying a possible breach in security must notify a system administrator.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

LUNCH DETENTION

Lunch detention may be assigned to students who commit minor school and classroom violations. Students serving lunch detention are isolated from the rest of the student population. Lunch detention may also be assigned to students who refuse to complete assigned work and fall behind in their class work. These students will be assigned lunch detention and will be requested to complete their late and missing assignments. Students who complete their missing assignments will be dismissed from lunch detention and return to the general lunch population.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION

Students who are assigned to detention after school must report to the assigned area after the third bell with study materials and remain in this quiet study area until 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this detention period is to make up class time missed due to referrals of a minor nature. It is used as an alternative to suspension; therefore, attendance is mandatory. Failure to serve an after-school detention will result in a Friday Evening School unless mutually agreed to be rescheduled by a parent and administrator prior to the date and time of the assigned detention.

After-School Detention is held on Tuesday and Thursday. Parents are notified in advance in the event that a child is assigned to detention after school.

THURSDAY NIGHT DETENTION

Thursday Night Detention is held at Benjamin Rush from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. on selected dates during the calendar year. Parents of students assigned to Thursday Night Detention will be notified. Thursday Night Detention may be scheduled on another day of the week due to school vacation days or schedule conflicts of school personnel. Failure to serve a Thursday Night Detention is a Level 4 offense and will result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

REMOVAL FROM CLASS/ACTIVITY

A teacher has the right to remove a student from his/her class for "one" school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.

ISOLATED INSTRUCTION

Isolated Instruction allows teachers to keep students in an isolated situation and still require work to be completed.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

An In-School Suspension is served during the school day. Students are restricted from all extracurricular events and activities. Daily assignments, quizzes, and tests are requested from classroom teachers, and students are expected to complete these assigned tasks while in In-School Suspension. Any student who refuses to follow the rules and requests of the in-school instructor will be subject to out-of-school suspension.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A school principal or designee may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to ten school days. The student is sent home during an out-of-school suspension and becomes the responsibility of the parent during the school day. The student is not permitted on any school grounds or allowed to attend school functions, or participate in school activities. Students are responsible for acquiring and making up any assignments, quizzes, or tests they missed during the suspension.

The school may seek other alternatives to expulsion. Law enforcement authorities may be contacted, and a complaint may be filed by the school.

Procedures involving the removal of students from class activity, suspension, or expulsion are fully outlined in the "Message to Parents" included in this handbook.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BAND/CHOIR/MUSIC

Band, choir, and music are considered regular classes and not extracurricular subjects. Students are expected to attend performances, programs, and contests as a part of class requirements. Grades are given for daily classroom effort, singing or playing tests, written tests, and performances, with the performances being the greater percentage of the grade. Each performance or contest may count up to 50% of a student's grade for the nine weeks. Failure to attend may result in a failing grade. The responsibility for attending performances falls on the student and his/her parent/guardian. When granted an excused absence, an additional assignment might be required.

CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleading tryouts will be held in the spring of each year at which time students will be chosen to fill the 7th and 8th grade cheer teams.

Cheerleaders are required to cheer at all home contests and tournaments and must attend summer cheer camp.

Cheerleaders must meet the eligibility requirements for athletic participation, and are expected to follow all rules set by coaches.

BRMS GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To participate in athletics, a student must not have an “F” in any subject. If a student has received an “F” on the most recent nine-week report card, he/she is ineligible for games until he/she receives all passing grades on the next progress report. At semester, the second nine-week grades (not the semester average) will be used to determine eligibility for the current school year only.

Progress reports will also be used to determine eligibility. If an “F” is received on the progress report, the student will be ineligible for games until the failing grade is improved or passing.

Fall Sports – Cross Country, Football, Volleyball: The first nine-week progress reports will be checked to determine eligibility.

Boys Basketball: A student who has an “F” on a report card prior to the start of the basketball season are eligible to tryout and practice but are ineligible for games until the student has passing grades in all classes on the following progress report. If the student does not have passing grades at the next progress report, they will no longer be a member of the team. Second nine-week progress reports and second nine-week grades will be used to maintain eligibility.

Girls Basketball: The second nine-week progress reports will be reviewed. If there are any failing grades, the students’ progress in that class will be checked on the Monday of tryout week (the last week of the second nine weeks). If that grade is still an “F”, they are ineligible to play basketball – a spot will not be held for them. As in other sports, progress reports during the season will be used to maintain eligibility.

Wrestling: The second nine-week report card grades will be used to determine eligibility for stating the season. Progress reports will be used to maintain eligibility.

Spring Sports – Baseball, Softball, Track, and Golf: The third nine-week grades will be used to determine eligibility. Fourth nine-week progress reports will be used to maintain eligibility.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Athletic activities are considered extracurricular events. All participants are required to maintain their standing as good citizens in the school. Participants are expected to display habits and conduct that are representative of the school’s philosophy. Participation in athletics at Benjamin Rush Middle School is open only to B.R.M.S. students.

A student may participate in only one athletic activity at a time. This does not pertain to cheerleaders. An athlete or manager is not allowed to quit one sport to participate and try out for another sport. A person who quits one sport becomes ineligible until a new season begins.

1. Absence from school for any part of the school day without special permission from the principal eliminates participation. If a student athlete is absent five or more days due to illness or injury, a medical release from a doctor will be required before participation can continue.
2. Athletes become ineligible for participation the day they turn 16 years of age. If a student repeats a grade, he/she is ineligible for the first nine weeks of the semester. Passing grades are required to become eligible.
3. All students participating in athletics must have on record a parent/guardian signature stating that the student/athlete has adequate insurance or a signed statement that the parent/guardian assumes all financial responsibility.
4. A Permission to Participate Form must be completed and on file in the principal’s office before an athlete may start to practice.
5. A physical exam must be completed and on file before an athlete may start to practice.
6. All student athletes must conform to practice requirements as established by the team coach or sponsor.
7. Benjamin Rush Middle School will follow the Rushville Consolidated High School Athletic Code of Conduct.
8. Students who are academically ineligible may participate in practice, with the understanding that they will participate in academic study tables until academic eligibility is regained.

Participants are to attend all contests unless excused by the coach or sponsor. When attending an away contest, transportation to and from the event will be provided by the school.

NEW STUDENTS

For the purpose of the policy, the principal of a newly enrolled student shall oversee the development of procedures to obtain and review the attendance and discipline records from the student’s previous school(s), and shall treat such records as if the conduct of the student recorded therein had occurred within this school system. Similarly, the principal shall recognize a previous school’s designation or determination of truancy, and habitual truancy, as well as any suspension, expulsion, or exclusion for misconduct.

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The principal shall be deemed to have no authority or duty to sign an eligibility form to accompany the application for a person not enrolled in this public school system.

HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

Students with legal settlement within Rush County may transfer their status from home school and enroll in the Rush County Schools at any time. Placement into grade levels and/or courses will be the sole discretion of the building principal. The building principal may require assessments given by school personnel to assist with these decisions.