Blackwell High School

Student Handbook 2026-2027



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BHS ACT Code #370340
Website: www.blackwell.k12.ok.us

FOREWORD

This handbook is prepared to help you in understanding the organization, traditions, policies and activities of the school. Properly studied and followed, it should assist you to better enjoy the opportunities afforded by your school. We hope never to dull your enthusiasm to be individualistic and original, while at the same time, your conduct must fit into the society in which you find yourself existing.

We hope and trust your years at BHS will be enjoyable as well as profitable for you. Help us help you derive the most benefit from the opportunities at hand. The principal, staff, and student council are anxious for your physical, social, and mental welfare.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Blackwell Public Schools is to join efforts with the parents and community in providing a safe productive learning environment which promotes critical thinking across the curriculum while integrating learning technologies, improving self-esteem, and encouraging lifelong learners.

BELL SCHEDULE

GAINS-0 Period	**7:50- 8:15**
1st Period	**8:20- 9:10**
2nd Period	**9:15-10:05**
3rd Period	**10:10-11:00**
4th Period	**11:05-11:55**
LUNCH	**11:55-12:30**
5th Period	**12:35- 1:25**
6th Period	**1:30- 2:20**
7th Period	**2:25- 3:15**

THE MAROON SPIRIT

"The Maroon Spirit is the Past, the Present, and the Future of Blackwell High School. It is the years of traditions piled up by thousands upon thousands of strong, eager, intelligent, aspiring youths. It is the efforts, the struggles to get there, the rebuffs, the heartaches, the injuries, the disappointments - and the successes. It is every game learned and won or lost. It is studies, lessons and their application. It is high moral standards: honor, fair play, respect for the rights of others. It is accomplishment in the academic, the physical and the practical. It is leadership - and intelligent followers. It is the pride and the joy in the Worthy. It is the spirit of Democracy and the present and the forward-upward fascinations of the future. It is all the little kindnesses and courtesies, and both the little and the overwhelming loyalties. It is more than these. It is a joyous living Presence symbolized in conduct, in colors, in movement, and in properties."

"Each hour, each day, each year, many Blackwell High School youth emblazon the Maroon Spirit with finer and deeper essentials of greatness. Each year the colors of the Maroon Spirit are brighter and brighter. Today Blackwell High School has a glowing Spirit to make more brilliant with deeds and aspirations. Today, the whole world calls for the Maroon Spirit to strengthen Democracy and to promulgate the doctrines of Christianity."

Blackwell Public Schools shall not discriminate or deny entrance to any program, or activity on the basis of sex, race, color, handicapping condition, religion, or national origin.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Certain assignments may permit, encourage or require the use of AI systems and tools. In each case, it will be clearly stated in the assignment or specified by the teacher. Use beyond the specified guidelines of the teacher or assignment should be understood as prohibited. It is each student's responsibility to assess the validity and applicability of any AI output. Unless otherwise noted, students should not use AI. Students should not upload or input any personal, confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information into any AI tool. Offenses or violations of this Policy will be addressed by the teacher and administrative staff. Unapproved use of AI will be considered cheating and/or plagiarism.

ASSEMBLIES

1. Assemblies should have an acceptable purpose.
2. Assemblies should involve as many students as possible.
3. Assemblies should be of an instructional or inspirational nature.
4. Assemblies shall not include scenes that tend to depict or make light of immorality, vulgarity, or immodesty
5. Take-off characterization scenes of faculty members or students may lead to some hard feelings and therefore will not be used.
6. All programs must be scheduled with and approved by the sponsor and principal.

Seating assignments for assemblies:

Front center section	Seniors
Middle center section	Juniors
Front right (south) section	Sophomores
Front left (north) section	Freshmen

ATTENDANCE

IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY ALL STUDENTS.

Oklahoma state law regarding attendance: regular attendance meaning that they are in school at least 90% of the instructional days offered through our school calendar. **This is required by the state of Oklahoma and may be found on OSDE Resources for Accountability and State Attendance Guidelines.**

*Blackwell High School will adhere to the OSDE requirements of 90% or better for attendance. There will NOT be make up time for random absences, cut classes and/or general missing school. It is **IMPERATIVE for each student and parent to be mindful of absences.** Again, BHS will adhere to the 90% required attendance to receive credit for classes.*

DISTRICT ATTORNEY TRUANCY PROCEDURE:

1. Parents MUST be contacted about ANY and EVERY unexcused absence.
2. After the 2nd unexcused absence, the school may send a written warning informing the parent that any further violations will be reported to the District Attorney for possible criminal charges.
3. Upon the 3rd unexcused absence. The school will forward a letter to the District Attorney detailing the student's situation. The notice to the D.A.'s office must include the following information: the child's name and date of birth, as well as the parent(s) full name, address, date of birth, and place of employment, if known. The notice to the D.A.'s office should also have attached a copy of the written warning that was sent to the parent(s).
4. Upon receipt of the letter from the school, the District Attorney will promptly send a letter to the parent informing them of their legal obligation, and that criminal charges will be filed upon further violations. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the school. Please include an email address if you would prefer a copy of the letter to be sent electronically.
5. If further absences occur after the District Attorney's letter is sent, the school will submit to the District Attorney all attendance records for the semester and an AFFIDAVIT for criminal charges. There must be an affidavit for each parent. The District Attorney will then file a deferred prosecution agreement or misdemeanor charges. Thereafter, all further absences will be reported to the District Attorney for additional charges.

It is the parents' and students' responsibility to keep up with school absences. Attendance count can be found on the student's **Wen-Gage/Sylogist link at http://blackwell.k12.ok.us**.

AB = Absence Excused (guardian contacted the school; work can be made up)
→ *AB absences count against the 90% required state mandate for attendance UNLESS waived by the Oklahoma State Department of Education OSDE policy.*
AU = Absence Unexcused (no guardian contacted the school; work cannot be made up)
→ *AU absences count against the 90% required state mandate for attendance.*
EA = School activity absence (15 days TOTAL)
→ *EA absences DO NOT count against the 90% required state mandate for attendance.*
→ *EA schoolwork MUST be picked up BEFORE the absence, due the day of return.*
*If the activity does not permit work to be picked up prior to the event, then the normal absence procedure will be used. ****

Doctor notes: Students will have **seven school days** to bring a note(s). After that notes will NOT be accepted. Any Medical or Mental Health appointments by a certified provider.
Funerals : Can be excused and NOT part of the 90% with proper documentation of a death and attendance for an immediate family member.

Truancy as indicated here includes an absence of one or more periods in the school day without parent notification. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school by phone when a student is to miss one or more classes. Without this notification, the absence will be considered truant. For an extended absence (more than one day) the parent or guardian should continue informing the school of the reasons for the student's absence each day. **Any student leaving a class without the permission and consent of the teacher will be considered a truancy and will not be permitted to turn in any work or receive credit for any work turned in for that period.**

It shall be unlawful for any child who is over the age of sixteen (16) years and under the age of eighteen (18) years, and who has not finished four (4) years of high school work to neglect or refuse to attend and comply with the rules of some public, private or other school, or receive an education by other means for the full term the schools of the district are in session. Any parent, guardian, custodian, child or other person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined up to seven hundred fifty dollars ($750).

All students must check out through the office or the absence will be treated as a truancy.

Students will not be allowed to quit going to class because they are failing, they don't like the teacher, they are not getting anything out of it, etc. Students will attend all classes they are enrolled in or be subject to consequences.

Students who see a doctor the day of an activity may participate in the activity that day provided they are in school part of the day and have a doctor's note. Students who are ill and not in school for afternoon classes will not be allowed to participate in an activity that day. Absences just before or after a school activity by students participating will be checked thoroughly.

TARDIES:
Unexcused tardies are given if your reason is not of an excusable nature. Most tardies are unexcused. Tardies will result in the student serving lunch detention. Other or additional consequences may be necessary if tardies continue. Tardiness between classes may be penalized with detention or ISS.
A student who fails to attend an assigned detention period for tardies will have time doubled.

IF A STUDENT IS MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LATE, IT WILL BE AN ABSENCE NOT A TARDY.
A student is considered tardy when he/she is not in the classroom ready to begin class when the tardy bell rings. Any student who is late to class due to being with the principal or counselor will need a pass from that individual to enter the classroom. If a teacher detains a student, he/she must have a note from that teacher with the date and time the student left the previous class. If the student enters without a pass, the tardy is unexcused.

Leaving School During the School Day:
Students are required to be at school the entire day unless their schedule notes otherwise. Under no circumstance shall a student leave campus **or drive his/her vehicle** during school hours (except lunch) without consent from parents or school staff and signing out properly. Students will be required to provide written or verbal permission from parents/guardians/school staff to leave school. Students are required to properly check-out through the front office by signing out in the check-out/in logbook. Parents and students are further required to verbally inform school staff when signing-out that they are leaving and why.
DO NOT LEAVE WITHOUT CHECKING OUT PROPERLY:
Students who will not be returning after lunch must check out prior to going to lunch. Should an unforeseen event prevent a student from returning after lunch, the parents must notify the school immediately. Students who do not check out properly will be considered truant and appropriate actions will be taken. *A student who leaves school without prior permission from parents or school staff will be subject to consequences.* The parent must notify the school prior to the student leaving, not *after* the child has left.

AUTOMOBILE - SAFETY AND REPUTATION:

The safety and reputation of the students at Blackwell High School is always uppermost in our minds as we plan for a school year. There has been a very evident need to solve the traffic problem caused by the unnecessary driving of our students during lunch and just prior to the beginning of school in the morning.

All vehicles parked on school grounds must be registered in the office.

All school zones are protected by a 20 miles per hour speed limit. Speed limit of 10 miles per hour in the parking lots should be observed.

Students will park in school parking lots only–fieldhouse or south parking lot. The north circle drive and administration parking lots are for school employees, school business, and visitors. Do not park on city streets.

1. The parking lot shall be used as intended. Thoughtfulness and courtesy should prevail as we enter, park, or leave the area. Reckless driving on campus will not be tolerated.
2. Students will not sit in their own cars or in any other car after they are parked on or near the school campus.
3. Lock your car; protect it and its contents.
4. Students are **not** to park in fire lanes.
5. Students shall park properly and in authorized areas.
6. Student vehicles are subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, weapons, stolen property or other contraband might be present in the vehicle.
7. Students should not expect the right to privacy in vehicles parked on school grounds.
8. Driving personal cars to school is a privilege. The school will retain the right to control vehicles on the school campus. ***Driving privileges can be suspended***.

Students parking in school parking lots do so at their own risk. Blackwell Public Schools will not assume any liability for damage to vehicles or theft of vehicle or contents to vehicles parked in school parking lots.

AWARDS:

There are many awards to be presented to students throughout the year. These awards and honors are given to students for outstanding work in different fields. Plan your work and behavior so that you may be a candidate for one of the following awards: The Maroon Spirit, Miss BHS, Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Boy's State, Girl's State, National Honor Society, State Honor Society, FFA and FCCLA Awards, Athletic Awards, Speech Awards, Music Awards, and Attendance Awards.

Scholarships from many sources are available to deserving students. Many are based on scholastic attainment, others on various abilities and honors. Many other honors, awards and scholarships go to students who have proven themselves in the various fields of endeavor.

BACKPACKS:

Backpacks are allowed . NOTE: *Since we are one to one with Chromebooks appropriate school items are permitted in the backpacks.*

BULLYING:

Olweus (1996) defined bullying as when a student is **repeatedly exposed** to negative actions on the part of one or more other students. Rigby (1996) identified bullying in a similar fashion as “repeated oppression, psychological or physical, of a less powerful by a more powerful person or group of persons” (p.15). Typically, bullying includes direct behaviors such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, and stealing. However, some bullying is indirect, isolating students socially by intentionally excluding them or spreading rumors about them (Banks, 1997; Olweus, 1993,1996; Rigby, 1996).

Bullying at Blackwell High School will not be tolerated **.** Please be advised that strong disciplinary action will be taken including but not limited to suspension or expulsion. BPS board policy FNCD-R contains all bullying regulations.

BUS BEHAVIOR:

Students that live 1 and 11/2 miles or more from his or her school are eligible to ride the bus. Transportation is considered a service, not a requirement. Discipline problems on a bus will be handled in the following manner:

1. The bus driver will report unacceptable student behavior to the appropriate building principal in writing on the form provided. Parent will be notified.
2. The second offense will result in suspension from the bus for ten school days.
3. The third offense will result in suspension from the bus for forty-five school days
4. The fourth offense will result in suspension from the bus for the remainder of the current school year.
5. ** School administrators have the authority to adjust or modify consequences.

CAFETERIA AND LUNCH FACILITIES:

ALL STUDENTS will receive **FREE** lunches this school year.

Students are to eat in the study center - no other campus locations without prior approval. All disposable items must be placed in the proper containers provided. You may eat at home or elsewhere if you are able to do so in the allotted time. *Tardiness because of lunch or car trouble is not excusable*.

CANCELLATION DUE TO WEATHER:

On days when inclement weather may cause school to be closed for the day, a callout will be sent to all students and parents; local media will be informed.

CELL PHONES:

Oklahoma House Bill 1276 bans personal electronic devices from bell to bell in the school day. According to this bill, "Bell to bell" means the time between the first bell ringing at the start of the school day to begin instructional time (7:50 am) until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day to end instructional time (3:15 pm). "Personal electronic device" means a personal device capable of connecting to a smart phone, the Internet, or a cellular or Wi-Fi network, or directly connecting to another similar device. Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, smart watches, smart headphones, laptops, tablets, and smart glasses. Personal electronic devices do not include school-issued or school-approved devices that are specifically limited for use in classroom instruction.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE:

Students are required to inform the office if there is a change of address or phone number. A student's demographic information must always be kept current: it is the parent or legal guardian's responsibility to keep the school informed of any changes during the school year.

CHILD FIND:

If you know of a handicapped child, age 0-21, who is not receiving services call: Director of Special Services, 405-363-2570, or write Blackwell Public Schools, 201 E. Blackwell Ave., Blackwell, OK 74631.

CLUBS:

The Student Council will charter student clubs. Student Council, club officers, faculty sponsors and the principal guide club activities. Club operations and functions have a definite place in education for a democratic way of life. Your participation and leadership will help us to continue this phase of our educational program.

CLUBS-LISTED:

The following clubs have been sanctioned by the Blackwell High School Student Council: Student Council, Pep-Club, FCCLA, FFA, TSA, Book Club, Academic Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the National Honor Society.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT:

Concurrent classes will be credited as per BOARD POLICY, in the following list. All classes taken in concurrent enrollment will be Tran scripted on the High School transcript with the grade received on the college transcript. All grades received from the college will be counted in the student's GPA.

- College Algebra----------1-unit Algebra III or college Algebra
- General Biology----------1-unit Biology
- English Comp I----------½ -unit English IV
- English Comp II----------½-unit English IV
- Chemistry I--------- ----------1-unit Chemistry
- American History to 1877-------1-unit American History
- American History from 1877----1-unit American History
- American Federal Government—1-unit American Govt.
- Intro to Speech----------1-unit High School Speech

**Seniors who take College English Composition in place of Senior English IV will be required to take Comp I for first semester English IV and Comp II for second semester English IV.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the office immediately when a class has been dropped.

****Elective courses in college will be transcripted as elective courses in high school.**

DANCES, including PROM:

It is the intention that school dances are fun and safe; therefore, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. All out of school guests must be enrolled in a high school and have prior approval before attending BHS sponsored dances.
2. Any student or guest with an odor of alcohol on them or showing signs of drug use, i.e. slurred speech or unusual eye appearance or movement, will be cited by the security officers and suspended from school according to policy.
3. Disrespectful attitudes or behavior directed toward parents or school officials will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the dance and or suspension from school.
4. Fighting or any disruptive behavior that would create a need for intervention by school officials or security will be cause for removal from the dances. School policies will be in effect, and appropriate action will be taken in determining consequences for the disruptive behavior.
5. Public display of affection or sexually suggestive dancing is considered inappropriate behavior for school dances. Students who persist in those kinds of behaviors will be removed from the dances.
6. No re-entry to dances will be allowed if a student leaves the event.

DELIVERIES:

No deliveries will be accepted after 1:00 p.m. Blackwell High School will **not** be responsible or accountable for deliveries (balloons, flowers, etc.).

DISCIPLINE POLICY:

The Blackwell Board of Education believes that a school's primary goal is to educate-not to discipline. However, education includes establishing norms of social behavior and assisting students in understanding and attaining those norms. When the behavior of an individual student comes into conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions are necessary for the benefit of the individual and the school. The teacher of a child attending Blackwell Public Schools has the same rights as a parent or guardian to control and discipline that child while the child is in attendance or in transit to or from the school or while participating in any school function authorized by the school district.

Each student shall be treated in a fair and equitable manner. Disciplinary action will be based on a careful assessment of the circumstances surrounding each infraction.
The following are some examples of these circumstances:

1. The student's attitude
2. The seriousness of the offense
3. The effect of the offense on other students
4. Whether the offense is physically or mentally injurious to other people
5. Whether the incident is isolated or habitual behavior
6. Any other circumstances which may be appropriately considered

Standards of behavior for all members of society are generally a matter of common sense. When, in the judgment of a teacher or administrator, a student is involved or has been involved in unacceptable behavior, appropriate remedial or corrective action will be taken. The following examples of behavior are not acceptable in society generally, and in a school environment particularly. The involvement of a student in the kind of behavior listed below will generally require remedial or corrective action. These examples are not intended to be exhaustive and the exclusion or omission of unacceptable behavior is not an endorsement or acceptance of such behavior:

1. Arson
2. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against another person because of but not limited to his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation by making or transmitting or causing or allowing to be transmitted, any telephonic, computerized or electronic message.
3. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against any person because of but not limited to his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation by broadcasting, publishing or distributing or causing or allowing to be broadcast, published or distributed, any message or material
4. Cheating
5. Conduct that threatens or jeopardizes the safety of others
6. Cutting class or sleeping, eating or refusing to work in class
7. Disruption of the educational process or operation of the school
8. Extortion
9. Failure to attend assigned detention or other disciplinary assignment without approval
10. Failure to comply with state immunization records

11. False reports or false calls
12. Fighting
13. Forgery
14. Gambling
15. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying
16. Hazing (initiations) in connection with any school activity
17. Immorality
18. Inappropriate attire
19. Inappropriate behavior or gestures
20. Inappropriate public behavior
21. Indecent exposure
22. Intimidation or harassment because of but not limited to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation, including but not limited to: (a) assault and battery; (b) damage, destruction, vandalism or defacing any real or personal property; or threatening, by word or act, the acts identified in (a) or (b).
23. Obscene language
24. Physical or verbal abuse
25. Plagiarism
26. Possession of a caustic substance
27. Possession of obscene materials
28. Possession, without prior authorization, of a wireless telecommunication device
29. Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon and related instrumentalities (i.e., bullets, shells, gun powder, pellets, etc.)
30. Possession, use, distribution, sale, conspiracy to sell or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages (as defined by Oklahoma law) and/or controlled substances
31. Possession of illegal and/or drug related paraphernalia
32. Profanity
33. Sexual or other harassment of individuals including, but not limited to, students, school employees, volunteers
34. Using racial, ethnic or sexual epithets
35. Theft
36. Truancy
37. Use or possession of tobacco in any form
38. Use or possession of missing or stolen property if property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school
39. Using racial, religious, ethnic, sexual, gender or disability-related epithets
40. Conduct occurring outside of the normal school day or off school property that has a direct and immediate negative effect on the discipline or educational process or effectiveness of the school
41. Vandalism
42. Violation of the Board of Education policies, rules or regulations or violation of school rules and regulations
43. Willful damage to school property
44. Willful disobedience of a directive of any school official
45. Vulgarity

In administering discipline, consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment to ensure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary action teachers and administrators will be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities. The faculty may consider consultation with parents to determine the most effective disciplinary measure.

In considering alternatives or disciplinary action, the faculty/administration of the school district will consider the alternatives listed below. However, the school is not limited to these alternative methods, nor does this list reflect an order or sequence of events to follow in disciplinary action. The Board of Education will rely upon the judgment and discretion of the administrator to determine the appropriate remedial or corrective action in each instance.

1. Conference with the student
2. Conference with the parents
3. In-school suspension
4. Detention
5. Referral to counselor
6. Behavioral contract
7. Changing student's seat assignment or class assignment
8. Requiring a student to make financial restitution for damaged property
9. Requiring a student to clean or straighten items or facilities damaged by the student's behavior
10. Restriction of privileges
11. Involvement of local authorities
12. Referring students to appropriate agency
13. Corporal punishment
14. Suspension
15. Lunch detention
16. Other appropriate disciplinary action as required and as indicated by the circumstances

Disciplinary action taken against a student who violates the School District’s prohibitions concerning low-point beer, alcoholic beverages or a controlled dangerous substance, will be in accordance with school board policy.

Parents or guardians and the students residing in the Blackwell Public School District shall be notified at the beginning of each school year that such policy is in effect. A copy of this policy will be made available to parents or guardians upon request at any time during the school year.

Parents, guardians, and students residing in this school district are also advised by means of this policy statement and by the student handbook that students in this district shall have no reasonable expectation of privacy rights towards school officials in school lockers, desks, or other school property.

DRESS CODE:

Dress regulations for Blackwell High School students are based on personal cleanliness and respect for others. If a student’s appearance is indecent by a teacher/staff member the student will be referred

to the office for appropriate action. Grooming and personal hygiene shall be directed toward making the student neat in appearance, healthy in body and in mind and acceptable to peers and others.

1. Baseball caps are the only allowed headcovering allowed in common areas and only in classes as allowed by the teacher; religious exemptions are allowed. This includes hoods of sweatshirts worn on the head.
2. Glasses with tinted lenses (or sunglasses) will only be worn in the school building if they are prescribed by orders of a physician.
3. Shirts worn by all students must have sleeves, cover the shoulders and back and must overlap at the waist. Any top that shows cleavage will not be allowed.
4. Shorts and skirts must be of length at mid-thigh. No holes above mid-thigh.
5. Bicycle shorts, spandex shorts, tight fitting shorts, tights-leggings must have a shirt that extends to mid-thigh, boxer shorts, pants/shorts with holes above the knees and all types of abbreviated shorts are prohibited.
6. Students must wear shoes.
7. Lewd or obscene patches, drawings or sayings are not permitted nor items advertising or promoting alcohol, tobacco or drugs. Pants, shorts or skirts should not display printing, writing or any form of communication across the seat of the garment or any other location deemed inappropriate.
8. Any style of dress or paraphernalia that can be linked to gang activity will not be permitted.
9. No pajamas will be worn in the building.
10. No sagging permitted.
11. Any clothing that interrupts the educational process will be prohibited.

*****Any clothing that is considered inappropriate by the principal or staff members, the student will be asked to change or face other disciplinary measures. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in other punishments. (Any type of clothing that is a distraction to others will be considered inappropriate).***

DRUGS & ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

It is the policy of the Blackwell Public Schools that the use of alcohol or illicit drugs is illegal and harmful to high school students. Students will be given appropriate information concerning the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use.

Controlled Dangerous Substances, Illicit Drugs, Mood-Altering Substances, and Alcohol

1. Use of illicit drugs and mood-altering substances and unlawful possession and use of alcoholic beverages and controlled dangerous substances is wrong and harmful.
2. Students are prohibited from using, being under the influence of, possessing, furnishing, distributing, selling, conspiring to sell or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution or alcoholic beverages, beer, controlled dangerous substances, illicit drugs, or other mood-altering substances at school, while in school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored event, including school-sponsored trips from the time the student leaves campus until he or she returns with the sponsor.
3. “Illicit drugs” includes steroids and prescription and over-the-counter medications being used for an abusive purpose, i.e., when they are not used in compliance with the prescription or directions for use and are not being used to treat a current health condition of the student. “Mood-altering substances” includes paint, glue, aerosol sprays, and similar substances.

DRUG TESTING

Illegal and performance-enhancing drug use of any kind is incompatible with the physical, mental, and emotional demands placed upon participants in extra-curricular activities and upon the positive image these students project to other students and to the community on behalf of the Blackwell Public School District. For the safety, health and well-being of students in extra-curricular activities the Blackwell Public School District has adopted a policy of random drug testing for use by all participants in interscholastic extra-curricular activities in grades 7-12. Students will be given this policy prior to participation**. SEE ADDENDUM FOR SPECIFIC POLICIES ON DRUG TESTING**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY:

At Blackwell Public Schools, we believe in creating a learning environment where students are focused, connected, and ready to succeed. To support this vision, and in response to Senate Bill 139, which requires all public school districts in Oklahoma to prohibit student use of personal electronic devices during the school day we are implementing a new district-wide ***Personal Electronic Wireless Communication Devices Policy–Board Policy***.

All students will be expected to keep personal electronic devices turned off and out of sight during the instructional day (first bell to last bell).
These electronic devices includes:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches/smart glasses
- Earbuds/headphones
- iPods or other personal streaming/music devices
- Any device that connects to the Internet or cell network

Students can bring devices to school at their own risk, but usage is only allowed before school and after dismissal. Blackwell Public Schools and/or BHS employees are not responsible for any electronic devices brought to the school. During the day, students who need to contact a parent/guardian may request to use an office phone. Likewise, families needing to reach students should call the school office.

Any deviation in policy will be at the discretion of BHS administration.

GRADE CLASSIFICATIONS:

The following represents the minimum number of credits that determines how a student is classified:

9th Grade	fewer than 5
10th Grade	5
11th Grade	12
12th Grade	18

GRADING SCALE:

Blackwell High School will use the following grading scale to award letter grades:

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C:79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0

1. All classes will earn a maximum grade point of 4 for an "A", 3 for a “B”, 2 for a “C”, 1 for a “D”. Grades will be figured by semester.
2. This plan will be used for figuring class standing and academic honors, including valedictorian, salutatorian, National Honor Society, and State Honor Society and honor rolls.
3. The valedictorian will be selected from the graduating seniors who have the highest cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) and have completed 4 advanced courses during their 9-12 grade years. Advanced classes will be: any course designated as AP (Pre-AP courses DO NOT count towards advanced courses), any upper-level math taught at BHS **above Algebra II**, any college course in a core subject that counts towards the student’s HS GPA. A college-level course may be taken in place of a course that is taught at BHS. Example: a college level math class may be taken in place of an upper-level math course that is taught at BHS. College English, Comp 1 and 2, may replace English IV.
4. **To be recognized as a Valedictorian or Salutatorian at Blackwell High School, a student must have been enrolled as a student for at least FOUR semesters at BHS.**

Some career tech classes could be substituted for the math credit and the other concurrent enrollment class. The administration will approve the substitutions. A remedial college level math class will not count towards an advanced math class.

GUIDELINES FOR 8TH GRADERS RECEIVING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT:
Approved high school courses taken during the 8th grade year will be used in figuring high school grade point averages and high school academic honors. A credit will be given as an earned credit and the grade placed on the high school transcript.

ELIGIBILITY (EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY):

SEMESTER ELIGIBILITY:

1. A student must have received a passing grade in (5) five classes required for graduation during the semester. OSSAA eligibility rules are used.
2. If a student does not meet the scholastic standard stated above, he/she will not be eligible to participate during the first (6) weeks of the next term he/she attends.
3. A student who does not meet the scholastic standard stated above may regain his/her eligibility by achieving passing grades in all subjects he/she is enrolled in at the end of a (6) six-week period.

WEEKLY ELIGIBILITY:

1. Scholastic eligibility for students will be checked after three weeks of each semester and each succeeding week thereafter.
2. A student must be passing in all subjects in which he/she is enrolled. If a student is not passing all subjects enrolled in at the end of a week, he/she will be placed on probation for the next one-week period. If a student is still failing one or more classes at the end of his/her

probationary one-week period, he/she will be ineligible during the next one-week period. **The ineligible period will begin on Monday and end on Sunday.**

3. O.S.S.A.A. scholastic eligibility standards are required of all students participating in extra-curricular activity programs.
4. Seniors will follow the OSSAA rule regarding 12th grade academic eligibility. The rule can be found in the OSSAA Rules and Regulations Handbook under Constitution/Rules Rule 3 Sec. 3 Part A.

A student who has lost his/her eligibility must secure passing grades in all his/her classes in order to regain eligibility. A student regains eligibility with the first class of a new one-week period.

ENROLLMENT, GRADES, EXAMINATION:

For admission to Blackwell High School, a student must be a resident of the school district or have a legal transfer, (must be living with parents or legal custodian) and must be willing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by our school. Out of district transfer policies can be found on the Blackwell Public Schools website (http://blackwell.k12.ok.us).

You are responsible for re-enrolling in classes in which you have failed. Check your credits for graduation. Be sure you are keeping up with requirements.

College bound students must complete all classes required for admission to Oklahoma Colleges and Universities as set by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Please see your counselor for advisement in this area.

FIGHTING:

Fighting will not be tolerated at school and the students will be suspended. The police will be notified of any fights and may issue citations to those involved.

GRADUATION DECORUM:

- ALL attendees must have a ticket, this includes lap babies as each person counts for the occupancy per the fire marshall.
- No air horns will be allowed.
- The aisles must be clear and everyone seated during the ceremony.
- Please remain seated until all graduates have exited the building so everyone can enjoy cap toss.
- Remember this is a formal ceremony and not a sporting event.

Under no circumstances will graduates be permitted to display any item outside the graduation gown or cap that does not have prior approval. This includes decorating the tops of the caps. Proper attire at the graduation will consist of the following:

Boys: Dress pants, **clean** shoes, socks, shirt with collar and a tie
Girls: Dress or dress pants, dress shoes **(no flip flops)**.

(any graduate who deviates from the listed appropriate attire **will not** be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremonies, except Native Americans displaying tribal regalia).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULING:

In order for a student to receive a diploma at Blackwell High School, he/she must meet all requirements for graduation as set forth by the Blackwell Board of Education. **A student may not participate (walk) in the graduation ceremonies if he/she has not met all requirements for graduation**. AGAIN: All credits must be earned to be allowed to walk/participate in graduation.

The following units/credits are required for high school graduation.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY/WORK READY CURRICULUM

4 Units English---to include:

Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course for college admission.*

**BHS encourages students to take full advantage of our AP and Senior Level English courses which offer a more comprehensive curriculum.*

3 (4*) Units Mathematics—Taken in grades 9-12 Limited to:

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, AP Statistics, or any course with content and rigor above Algebra I and approved for college admission. **Class of 2030 and beyond*

3 Units Laboratory Science Limited to:

Physical Science, Biology I, and any laboratory science with content and rigor above or equal to Biology and approved for college admission.

3 Units History and Citizenship Skills to include:

One unit of American History, one half unit of Oklahoma History, one half unit of Early American History and one half unit of Government, one half unit of Economics.

****Each student will meet the state requirements for financial literacy****

2 Units of the same Foreign Language, or 2 units of Computer Technology

1 Unit of Fine Arts such as music, art, speech or humanities.

1 Unit of Health (will be offered in conjunction with another course)

Elective Courses to meet the 25 unit graduation requirement set by the Local Board of Education.

ACT class and rationale: As Blackwell High School is graded by the State Of Oklahoma in part based on ACT scores and scores can dictate entrance and/or if remedial classes must be taken for students, we are attempting to give every students, preferable their sophomore year, a chance to be in an ACT prep class. We want every BHS student to have the very best chance to score well on the ACT.

FAFSA–graduating seniors must either apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or formally opt out of the requirement.

NCAA DIVISION I REQUIREMENTS: 16 CORE CLASSES ARE NEEDED TO MEET NCAA REQUIREMENTS. IF YOU THINK YOU MAY ATTEND COLLEGE AND ARE IN SPORTS, CHECK WITH COUNSELOR AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TO MAKE SURE YOU MEET REQUIREMENTS.

*Foreign Exchange students will not be able to graduate from Blackwell High School

EARLY GRADUATION:
A student who meets all graduation requirements as set forth by the State of Oklahoma and the Blackwell Board of Education may be allowed to graduate in less than four years.

Students completing graduation requirements at the end of the first semester will be included in that year's graduating class for any and all records. For students completing requirements at mid-term (December) the following guidelines will be used:

The student will be officially listed as a member of the Senior class of that school year and will be included on the senior panel for that class. A diploma will be issued in May of that school year. Transcripts will show a December graduation date in order to allow entry into college, etc.
The student will forfeit the right to participate in all extra-curricular and class activities for the second semester of that school year such as prom, senior assembly, athletics, etc., but will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

Students will not be permitted to declare for early graduation after the beginning of the last semester of their senior year. A student must inform the counselor before the beginning of the second nine weeks to be eligible for early graduation.

Underclassmen choosing to graduate before their traditional class will only be allowed to walk with the current class and will have their picture on the graduating class composite panel; however, they will not be considered a senior class member, and therefore excluded from all other senior class activities (i.e. awards, local scholarships, picnic, assembly, sunrise/sunset picture, etc.) as they are a graduating underclassmen.

HATS or OTHER HEAD COVER:

Baseball caps are the only allowed headcovering allowed in common areas and only in classes as allowed by the teacher; religious exemptions are allowed. This includes hoods of sweatshirts worn on the head.

HAZING:

It is the policy of the Blackwell Public Schools that no teacher or student group will be involved in hazing a student who is enrolled at Blackwell High School. Hazing during instruction or as a part of the eligibility to belong to any school group will not be condoned or tolerated.

HONOR ROLLS:

1. Superintendent's Honor Roll = All A's

2. Principal's Honor Roll = All A's and B's, nothing lower than a B.

OKLAHOMA HONOR SOCIETY:

The Oklahoma Honor Society will include students that are in the top 10% of their class academically for the last two semesters.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

NOTE: Schools establish their specific criteria for NHS, at BHS we strive for the 3.6 as it separates BHS from those lowering the standard. At 3.6 it is truly significant to achieve the honor of being in NHS.

National Honor Society seeks to recognize outstanding students in schools nationwide. At Blackwell High School, the National Honor Society membership is selected each spring after the first semester grades have been finalized. Any student in the sophomore class or above with at least a 3.60 cumulative grade point average is eligible for membership review. The Faculty Council reviews the credentials for each eligible student with respect to their achievement not only scholastically, but also in the areas of character, service, and leadership. The Faculty Council is made up of five faculty members and overseen by the chapter sponsor. Upon reviewing the eligible students' credentials, the Faculty council votes on outstanding membership candidates who are then asked to join the National Honor Society. Since the National Honor Society seeks to honor these outstanding students, it is also fitting to discuss dismissal from the organization. Members may be placed on probationary membership status under two conditions: 1.) the member accumulates two unexcused absences from chapter activities in one year or 2.) the member's cumulative grade point average drops below 3.60. The member placed on probation status due to unexcused absences must not accumulate more than one unexcused absence during the next semester. The member placed on probation status due to grade point requirements has one semester to bring the average back into favorable range above 3.60. Any member already on probationary status who fails to meet either of these criteria will have their membership revoked. Any member on probationary status may not run for office. Any member on probation at the time of graduation will not be able to wear NHS regalia to graduation exercises. Any violation of the law or serious violation of school policy will be grounds for immediate membership dismissal. Any member who has been dismissed from the National Honor Society can never again be considered for membership. Membership in the Blackwell National Honor Society shall be limited to students in the 10^{th}, 11^{th}, & 12^{th} grades. Students must have at least a GPA of 3.60 to apply for membership. Those applying for membership will then go to a vote of the local faculty council for approval. Membership will be approved for students that meet certain conditions of scholarship, citizenship, character, leadership, and activity participation.

INTERNSHIPS

Student internships are available for juniors and seniors who are in good standing at Blackwell High School. Internships are available on and off campus. These opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience will use on track indicators to measure student progress toward post secondary and career goals. All internships must be approved by Blackwell High School.

LOST OR DESTROYED BOOKS:

Lost or destroyed textbooks shall be paid for AT THE NEW PRICE FOR THE FIRST YEAR THE BOOK IS USED AND 75% OF THE NEW VALUE THEREAFTER.

MEDICATION:

No medication will be given or applied without the written permission of parents, and with a physician's instructions.

MESSAGES:

Student phone messages will be received only from a parent or guardian. Only those messages that constitute an emergency will be delivered. Classes will be interrupted only for an emergency.

MISS BHS, MAROON SPIRIT, AND QUEENS:

Standards for Blackwell High School kings and queens include interest in sports, honesty, sportsmanship, friendliness, loyalty to the school and the team, dependability, and cooperation with school officials and fellow students.

Miss BHS must have and maintain a 3.00 grade average. Miss BHS cannot step down to become queen or attendant of any sport. Miss BHS is the highest honor for a girl to receive at BHS. Runners-up to Miss BHS can become queen of a sport but not an attendant. Maroon Spirit must have and maintain a 3.00 grade average. Maroon Spirit cannot step down to become king or escort of any sport. Maroon Spirit is the highest honor for a boy to receive at BHS. Runners-up to Maroon Spirit can become captain of a sport but not an escort.

Athletic royalty will consist of the following: (1) Senior Queen and King, (1) Senior attendant and escort, (1) Junior attendant and escort, (1) Sophomore attendant and escort, and (1) Freshman attendant and escort.

The queen and king of a sport cannot go on to be queen or king of another sport. Senior attendants and escorts can go on to become queen or king of one other sport. They cannot be an attendant or escort of another sport that year. The members of the royal court for each sport will first be selected from the athletes of that sport. However, if a sport does not have an athletic candidate to represent their class, the list of those eligible for selection will widen to include Pep Club members of that class.

In the rare event that there would be no eligible athletes or members of Pep Club for a class, an underclassman candidate would be chosen for the royal court. If an underclassman should need to be chosen as King or Queen of a sport, they will still be eligible to become Maroon Spirit, Miss BHS or a runner-up to that honor. Candidates for Maroon Spirit and Miss BHS must have attended Blackwell High School three full semesters before selection.

The actual crowning ceremony and dress will be planned by the following people:

1. Pep Club sponsor
2. Queen and senior attendants

All plans must have the approval of the principal and sponsor(s) of the activity. Cost for clothes and crowning will be held to a minimum. This event is an educational experience and will be kept on this level.

ONLINE CLASSES:

Online classes will be offered per Local Board of Education Policy. We strongly encourage our students to attend school in person. Students choosing to attend Blackwell High School online full time will be ineligible to participate in all extracurricular activities. Online students who are deemed academically deficient at the end of a semester are subject to returning to on campus attendance for the next semester.

OUTSIDE DRINKS:

Students will be allowed to bring water only **to class**. Outside food and drinks must remain in the Study Center. Any student violating this will incur immediate consequences.

PARTIES, PICNICS, TRIPS, ETC.:

All school parties, trips, picnics, etc. must have the approval of your sponsor and principal and be scheduled through the office. The plans and the directions of the sponsor must always be followed. We are responsible for your safe return on such school-sponsored trips, so we must have your full cooperation. All trips must have a faculty member or an adult in each vehicle used for transportation. Students are expected to return home in the same bus or car in which they went.

PAYMENT FOR DAMAGE:

Each student shall pay for all damage he or she may do to school property or property of other students within one (1) week after demand unless, by arrangement with the superintendent, payment is deferred until a later date. Failure to make such payment shall be cause of suspension.

PEP RALLIES:

Pep rallies, demonstrations, and campaigning will be limited generally to the school grounds and local facilities under supervision. Out of town activities and the painting of signs on public buildings will not be condoned.

PETITIONS:

A petition for any cause may **not** be circulated in any school building without the approval of the superintendent.

PROFANITY:

Blackwell High School expects students to be respectful, good citizens. Your behavior and language should reflect these expectations. A student may incur immediate consequences in the event of a violation.

PROM:

The Junior/Senior Prom is an event that is exclusively sponsored by Blackwell High School. For a BHS student to attend the prom, he/she must be currently enrolled and be classified as a junior or senior at Blackwell High School. No student who has been dropped due to lack of attendance or who is currently under suspension will be allowed to attend. This is a formal affair and dress must be appropriate for the occasion.

PROM REQUIREMENTS:

1) *Outside prom dates are allowed IF enrolled in a high school*
2) *Outside dates MUST be approved by BHS administration*
3) *Must be eligible in all classes*
4) *No major discipline issues*
5) *Must have completed ICAP*
6) *Must have 90% attendance*

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION:

Physical contact is prohibited at Blackwell High School. School is not the proper time or place for the display of public affection that may be considered inappropriate. Students in violation will be disciplined and parents notified.

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Any course change MUST be requested by the student within the first week of each semester.

SCHOOL SPIRIT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:

The traditions at Blackwell High School are legendary and extraordinary. The guiding principles of being courteous to our guests, showing positive school pride, and above all, exhibiting good sportsmanship to a high level is and will be our focus. School spirit is endorsed and encouraged by the faculty and administration. However, school spirit must and will be conducted in an appropriate and positive manner. Any behavior that is derogatory toward the opposing team or the officials will not be tolerated. The administration will determine if the behavior is unacceptable.

School spirit means loyalty to our school on every level. A loyal student body, individually and collectively, supports BHS in a manner that will continue to maintain long-established high standards.

SENIOR COLLEGE VISITATION POLICY:

A senior who plans to attend college after graduation is allowed two days to visit or enroll in the college of their choice.

These days will be considered school-sponsored absences **only** if the following guidelines are met:

- All visits must be set up and approved by the school administration.
- Seniors must have a written verification from the college upon his/her return to school.
- Parents must notify the office before the college visit.
- Seniors must meet the entrance requirements for the college he/she is planning to visit.

SERVICE ANIMALS:

Under ADA rules and Oklahoma Laws service animals that have specific training to perform tasks or duties for individuals of disabilities are permitted in public places, including schools. Neither the ADA or Oklahoma equal rights laws provide for an emotional support animal. Although they may provide some therapeutic comfort, they are NOT allowed in public spaces and are NOT covered under ADA or Oklahoma law. ONLY verifiable service animals will be allowed in BPS.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

State and federal law specifically prohibits sexual harassment. Title IX guidelines address harassment rules.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENT:

Any pupil guilty of immorality or **persistent violation of the regulation of a public school** may be suspended by the principal of each school. The suspension shall not extend beyond the balance of the current term and the succeeding term, provided the pupil shall have the right to appeal the decision of such principal teacher.

Be advised that students suspended in-house or out of house are not permitted to participate in any school activities for those days of suspension. The student will not be permitted to attend any school sponsored activities at home or away.

Grounds for suspension:

1. Violation of any City of Blackwell ordinance or state or federal law.
2. Violation of written school rules or board of education regulation.
3. Activities which interfere with or threaten the orderly functioning of school activities including classroom, extra-curricular and athletic activities.
4. Any activity, which is grounds for suspension. This shall include but not be limited to assault on a teacher, or destruction of his or her property, arson, or destruction of school property, active leadership in disruption, and direct refusal to follow a direct order from an administrator in time of school tension.

Suspension procedures:

1. Whenever an incident occurs that may lead to a suspension, the principal, assistant principal, or other appropriate administrator, hereinafter referred to as Administrator, shall investigate the nature of the alleged offense. Unless the pupil is unavailable or unwilling to discuss the incident with the Administrator, this investigation shall include a discussion with the pupil so that the pupil may be given an opportunity to be heard with respect to the alleged offense.
2. If the Administrator determines that grounds for suspension do exist, he shall proceed in the following manner.
    a. Immediately remove a student whose conduct disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school, endangers fellow students, teacher or school officials or damages property. Except in cases of disruption where circumstances make it vital that one or several pupils be removed from the school property immediately, no pupil, except a pupil over the age of eighteen (18) years, shall be released from school during the school day

without notifying the parent or guardian, hereinafter referred to as parent, in person or by phone.
   b. Within twenty-four (24) hours mail or hand deliver written notice to the student and parents of the reason or reasons for the removal from school and the suspension.
   c. In all cases the Administrator may determine that the suspension will be an in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to make up work during an out-of-school suspension and receive credit of the grade awarded with the exception of suspension due to possession of a firearm or weapon. Parents will be responsible to comply with the home-based individual plan. Assignments shall be completed and turned in to the teacher upon the student's return to school.
4. At the conclusion of a suspension, it is the responsibility of the Administrator to see that the pupil is informed that the suspension is terminated and he is eligible to return.

Method of Appeal to a Committee:
The student suspended shall have the right to appeal the principal's suspension action by following the procedures outlined below:

If the suspension is for ten (10) days or less:

1. Short-term Out-of-school Suspensions (Out-of-school suspensions of Ten (10) or Fewer School Days)

The Board of Education recognizes that student out-of-school suspensions of ten (10) or fewer school days (“referred to as short-term out-of-school suspension") involve less stigma and require less formal due process procedures than are required for out-of-school suspensions of greater than ten (10) school days (referred to as "long-term out-of-school suspensions"). Appellate rights in such instances are satisfied in an effective and expedient manner by giving the student the right to appeal the out-of-school suspension decision to a committee composed of administrators and/or teachers or, alternatively, the right to appeal directly to the Board of Education. The composition of the committee shall be reserved to the District's discretion.

a. Right of Appeal

A student who has been suspended out of school for a period of ten (10) or fewer school days is entitled to all pre-appeal rights presently accorded by School District policy of students who have been suspended out of school for periods of greater than ten (10) school days. A student who has been given a short-term out-of-school suspension and that student's parent has a right to appeal an out-of-school suspension decision to a committee composed of administrators and/or teachers. A student with a short-term out-of-school suspension and his/her parent shall be informed by the principal of this right and the method of submitting an appeal. The parent and student shall also be informed of the right to forego an appeal to the committee and the related right to appeal directly to the Board of Education. However, the decision to appeal to the committee shall automatically, and without further notice, waive any right to appeal the student's suspension to the Board of Education.

b. Method of Appeal to a Committee (Suspension Review Committee or SRC):

An appeal to a committee can be requested by letter to the school principal, which must be received within five (5) days after the principal's out-of-school suspension decision will become final and non-appealable if a request is not timely submitted.

c. The student and the student's parent/guardian will have a right to be present at the hearing. The SRC will determine the guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of suspension.

d. The SRC may decide one of the following:

I. to sustain; to rescind; or to modify the suspension action.

2. *Right of Appeal (Long-Term Suspensions in excess of ten (10) school days)*

A parent or the student may appeal the suspension decision of the principal to the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education.

Method of Appeal to the Superintendent of Schools (Long-Term Suspensions):

a. An appeal can be presented by letter to the Superintendent of Schools.

b. If no appeal is received within (5) days after the principal's decision is received by the parent or student, the principal's suspension decision will be final.

c. The Superintendent of Schools should hold a conference with the parent or guardian as quickly as possible after receipt of the appeal. The conference will be held during the regular school hours, Monday through Friday, with consideration given to the hours of working parents whenever possible.

d. At the conference, the Superintendent of Schools will read the policy, rule or regulation which the student is charged with having violated and will briefly outline the conduct on the part of the student. The parent should be asked by the Superintendent of Schools if he/she understands the rule and the charges against the student.

e. At the conclusion of the conference the Superintendent of Schools will state whether he/she will terminate or modify the suspension. In all cases the parent will be advised of his/her right to have the suspension reviewed by the Board of Education. If the parent is in agreement with the Superintendent of Schools' decision, he/she will be requested to sign a waiver of review by the Board.

Method of Appeal to the Board of Education (Long-Term Suspensions):

a. An appeal can be requested by letter to the Superintendent of Schools or to the Clerk of the Board of Education.

b. If no appeal is received within five (5) days after the Superintendent of Schools' decision is received by the parent or student, the Superintendent's decision will be final.

Hearing the Appeal (Long-Term Suspensions):

a. The Board will hear the appeal as soon as possible. The Board's decision is final and non-appealable.

b. The parent and student will be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the hearing.

c. The parent and student will have the right to an "open" or "closed" hearing, at their option.

d. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the work schedule of parents.

TOBACCO:

Oklahoma Statute 1241 and 1242 make the sale or purchase of tobacco products by a juvenile a misdemeanor. Oklahoma Statute 2529 states that possession of tobacco products or simulated tobacco products by students on school property is prohibited. Possession, sale, and/or use of tobacco in any form is not allowed on the school campus. This includes the parking lot or any area that is school property. Students are not to carry or use any form of tobacco or simulated tobacco products, (VAPES) while on the school campus or while attending any school-sponsored activity at home or away. Students are not to have in their possession matches, lighters, rolling papers, artificial smoking items, e-cigarettes or any item related to tobacco or drug use. Should a student be in possession of tobacco or tobacco related items in any form during school hours or while on school property or at school-sponsored activities, strong disciplinary action will be taken. Additionally a referral to the school resource officer (SRO) could be made and legal action (Ticket) may be taken.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE:

Please be advised the BHS buildings and outside campus are monitored by twenty-four hour live video surveillance.

VISITORS:

All visitors must report to the main office upon arrival to campus. Your parents are encouraged to conference with teachers. If a guardian wants to conference with a teacher, an appointment must be made prior to the visit. Each teacher has a conference period daily for this purpose. Teachers cannot be called from class for conferences; therefore, to avoid unnecessary waiting, parents should call the school to make an appointment. Students are not permitted to bring infants or students from other schools to BHS.

WEAPONS POLICY:

Students are forbidden knowingly and voluntarily to possess, handle, transit, or use any instrument in school or on school grounds that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon. Any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no school-related purpose for being in school or on school grounds will be considered a weapon for purposes of this code. The following are examples of instruments ordinarily or generally considered weapons: knives of all types, guns, lead pipes, chains,

chuck-sticks, throwing stars, darts, metal knuckles, black-jacks, unauthorized tools, fireworks, explosives, or other chemicals. **The SRO will be notified.**

Policy Prohibiting Possession of Dangerous Weapons in School

1. In order to provide a safe environment for the students and staff of the Blackwell School District, the Board of Education adopts this policy prohibiting the possession of dangerous weapons and replicas or facsimiles of dangerous weapons.
2. Dangerous weapons, including but not limited to firearms, are a threat to the safety of the students and staff of the School District. In addition, possession of dangerous weapons, or replicas or facsimiles of dangerous weapons, disrupts the educational process and interferes with the normal operation of the School District.
3. For the foregoing reasons and except as specifically provided in paragraph M. below, possession by any student or employee of a dangerous weapon, as that term is defined in this policy, or a replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, while on school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a school bus or vehicle, is prohibited.
4. For purposes of this policy, “possession of a dangerous weapon” includes, but is not limited to, any person having a dangerous weapon: (1) on his person; (2) in his locker; (3) in his vehicle; (4) held by another person for his benefit; or (5) at any place on school property, a school bus or vehicle, or at a school activity with such person’s knowledge of the weapon’s location.
5. A dangerous weapon includes, but is not limited to, a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun, B-B gun, slingshot, bludgeon, blackjack, brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind, nun-chucks, dagger, bowie knife, dirk knife, butterfly knife, any knife having a blade of greater than two and one-half inches, any knife the blade of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, any pocketknife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position, any pocket knife with blade shorter than two and one-half inches that can be locked in place, razor, dart, ice pick, explosive smoke bomb, incendiary device, sword cane, hand chains, and any replica or facsimiles thereof or any item which is used to threaten harm or is used to harm any person.
6. Any student in possession of a dangerous weapon, or replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, in violation of this policy may be placed under emergency suspension from school, pending an investigation of the incident by the appropriate school or legal authorities. **Students who violate this policy may be suspended from school and all activities for any period of time up to the maximum period authorized by law (not less than 1 year).** Additionally, school administrative staff members may seek to file criminal charges against the student.
7. Any employee in possession of a dangerous weapon, or replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, in violation of this policy may, pursuant to applicable Board policy, be placed under immediate suspension from duties pending an investigation of the incident by the appropriate school or legal authorities and may be dismissed or subjected to other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools or Board of Education. In addition, School District employees who willfully or negligently fail to enforce this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal. Any disciplinary action for any employee, including dismissal, will be in accordance with any Board policy and any negotiated agreement, which is applicable to the employee.
8. If a teacher or other school employee has a reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is in possession of a dangerous weapon, or a replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, the teacher or employee shall immediately investigate the matter and shall confiscate any such

weapon found if this can be accomplished without placing any students or staff in jeopardy, and shall immediately notify the principal or the principal's designee. If the teacher or employee does not believe that the weapon can be confiscated safely, the teacher or employee shall immediately notify the principal or the principal's designee of the situation.

9. If a teacher or other school employee has a reasonable suspicion to believe that any employee or other person is in possession of a dangerous weapon, or a replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, in violation of this policy, he shall immediately report the matter to his immediate supervisor or the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
10. If the principal or his designee learns that a student or employee is believed to be in possession of a dangerous weapon or replica or facsimile thereof, the principal or designee shall observe the following procedure:
    a. Immediately investigate the matter and contact the police, if appropriate.
    b. If not already confiscated by an employee of the School District and if it can be accomplished without risk of injury, the principal or designee should take possession of the dangerous weapon or replica or facsimile.
    c. Notify the Superintendent of Schools or designee.
    d. In the case of a student, notify the parents.
    e. Cooperate fully with the police.
    f. Transfer confiscated weapon to the police department.
11. Except as may be required by law for disabled students, any student in possession of a dangerous weapon, or replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, shall not be eligible for placement in any alternative education program, intervention program or be eligible to transfer to another School District school site in lieu of suspension.
12. A student who has been suspended from another school district because of the possession of a dangerous weapon, or replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon, shall not be accepted as a transfer student into the School District.
13. An exception to this policy may be granted for students or employees participating in an authorized curricular or extracurricular activity or team involving the use or demonstration of a dangerous weapon, or replica or facsimile of a dangerous weapon. For this exception, written prior approval by the principal, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, is required.
14. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, rights of due process for all students and rights of disabled students must be observed in accordance with applicable law and school Board policies.

Locker Search and Seizure Policy:

1. In order to maintain discipline and to ensure the proper functioning of the educational process, school administrators must have access at all times to all school property, including lockers, desks, etc. assigned to students. Although students have privacy rights in their locker contents as against other students, they do not have privacy rights in their locker contents as against school administrators. No school property will be used to store objects or materials that violate school regulations or state and local ordinances. The school maintains the right to ensure that lockers and desks are properly cleaned and that they do not contain items which should not be kept on school property. School administrators may open and examine student lockers, desks, and all school property assigned to students for general and specific inspections at any time.

2. “Sniffer” dogs may be used to discover narcotics and dangerous drugs concealed in school property assigned to students.
3. Illegal items or other possessions or substances reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others will be seized by school authorities. These items will immediately be turned over to law enforcement officials for disposition as they see fit.
4. Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process will be temporarily removed from student possession.

Student Search and Seizure Policy:
The school principal or his/her designee is authorized to detain and search any student and any property in the student’s possession while on school premises, at school activities, or in transit under authority of the school, for any item possession of which by the student is illegal or prohibited by school rules, or for property believed to have been stolen from another student, an employee, or the school.

Blackwell High School is committed to the safety and well-being of all students and staff members. Considerable time and effort go into practicing and enhancing school safety and security during emergencies and disasters. The district’s comprehensive school safety strategy includes:

- **Coordination and emergency planning with Blackwell fire, police and safety officials**
- **Coordination with Kay County Health Department**
- **Comprehensive safety plans updated at a minimum annually–plans include evacuation, shelter-in-place and parent communication**
- **On-going employee training**
- **Staff members designated to assist special needs students in an emergency/crisis**
- **Designated parking for students, staff, visitors**
- **Reduced number of school doors accessible from the outside**
- **Crisis plans reviewed and updated regularly**
- **Safety drills conducted during the school year including a minimum of 2 fire, 2 lockdown, 2 intruder, 2 weather.**
- **Defibrillators in place and tested regularly**
- **Entrances clearly marked with signs directing visitors to the main office**
- **Utilization of interior and exterior cameras to monitor and record video surveillance images 24/7**

SCHOOL SONGS

Victory

Hail to the White! Hail to Maroon!
Hail, Blackwell High School.
Ever so true.
We love no other, so let our motto be:
Victory, BHS, Victory!

Hail, Blackwell High School!
Hail, BHS
Hail, Alma Mater!
You are the best!
We'll stand behind you, so never falter we -
Victory, BHS, Victory!

Loyalty

We're loyal to you, BHS
We're White and Maroon, BHS
We'll back you to stand
'gainst the best in the land,
For we know you have sand, BHS
RAH RAH

So shoot for that goal, BHS and
fight, heart and soul, BHS
Our team is our fame protector
On boys, for we expect a victory
from you, BHS

Chee Chaw Chee Ha Ha
Chee Chaw Chee Ha Ha
BHS! BHS!
BHS the BEST!

Contents of this (student handbook) could change without notice due to changes in Blackwell Board of Education Policies or changes in state legislation.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:

The protection of Pupil Rights Amendment affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to: Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concern one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)

1. Political affiliations;
2. Mental and psychological problems of the students or student's family;
3. Sex behavior attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have a close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine eligibility. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt out of:
    a. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
    b. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
    c. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to inspect, upon request and before administration or use of protected information survey of students; Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and Instruction material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The School District will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The School District will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The School District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. Mail or email, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT:

Under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (34 CAR Part 99), you as a parent of a currently enrolled student at Blackwell schools (or as an eligible student of 18 years of age) have the right to:

1. Inspect and review your child's educational records;
2. Request the amendment of your child's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the child's privacy or other rights;
3. Consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in your child's educational records, except to the extent that the Act and its regulations authorize disclosure without consent;
4. File with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint under the provisions of the Act concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of the Act;
5. Obtain a copy of the district's policies adopted under the Act. Copies of these policies are located in the principal's office at Blackwell High School;
6. Have an explanation of these policies in your own language if it is other than English; and
7. The identification, location, and evaluation activities under Child Find are included in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

ASBESTOS IN THE SCHOOLS:

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 required the inspection of all buildings in the Blackwell school system for the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM). In compliance with that act and related Oklahoma and Federal regulations, the buildings within the Blackwell school system were inspected in 1988 by licensed personnel, and a management plan was prepared to safely maintain and monitor the ACM that were found to exist within our school buildings. Copies of this plan and related inspection reports are available at school administrative offices.

The asbestos identified in our management plan is checked regularly by our staff and a certified asbestos company for any changes which could cause a health hazard. If any changes occur, the district asbestos coordinator will notify the appropriate people as prescribed by law. Notification of asbestos related activities planned or in progress will be made by public announcements, postings, or handouts as required.

Meningococcal Meningitis Information Sheet

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but serious infection. It causes the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord to become inflamed. Each year, approximately 1,000 people in the U.S. get meningococcal disease, which includes meningitis and septicemia (blood infection).

Meningococcal meningitis can be fatal or cause great harm without prompt treatment; as many as one out of five people who contract the infection have serious complications. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 15% of those who survive are left with disabilities that include deafness, brain damage, and neurological problems.

Recommended Related to Brain & Nervous System

Selected classes of chemotherapy, including the vinca alkaloids, vincristine, and vinblastine, can cause direct neurotoxicity. Additionally, drugs such as thalidomide and lenalidomide are associated with peripheral neuropathies that can affect the face and jaw. Deep-seated, throbbing mandibular pain can occur. Because this symptom is also consistent with acute dental pulpal disease, it is important that a thorough history and oral physical examination be performed when oral pain is present; radiographs...

Here's what you need to know about the symptoms of meningococcal meningitis and ways to prevent and treat it.

What Causes Meningococcal Meningitis?

Bacteria and viruses are the two main causes of meningitis. The bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, also called meningococcus, causes meningococcal meningitis. In children and teens, meningococcus is the most common cause of bacterial meningitis. In adults, it is the second most common cause.

Meningococcal bacteria may cause infection in a part of the body -- the skin, gastrointestinal tract, or respiratory tract, for instance. For unknown reasons, the bacteria may then spread through the bloodstream to the nervous system. When it gets there, it causes meningococcal meningitis. Bacteria can also enter the nervous system directly after severe head trauma, surgery, or infection.

Your risk for meningococcal meningitis increases if you are exposed to the bacterium that causes it. Your risk also increases if you've had a recent upper respiratory infection. Babies, children, and teens are at greatest risk.

What Are the Symptoms of Meningococcal Meningitis?

Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis may vary from case to case. The more common signs and symptoms include:

- General poor feeling
- Sudden high fever
- Severe, persistent headache
- Neck stiffness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Discomfort in bright lights
- Drowsiness or difficulty awakening
- Joint pain
- Confusion or other mental changes

A reddish or purple skin rash is a very important sign to watch for. If it does not turn white when you press a glass against it, the rash may be a sign of blood poisoning. This is a medical emergency.
Other symptoms of meningitis or blood poisoning may include:

- Tense or bulging soft spot (in babies)
- High-pitched or moaning cry (in babies)
- Stiff, jerky movements or floppiness (in babies or toddlers)
- Irritability
- Fast breathing
- Lethargy or excessive sleepiness
- Blotchy skin, turning pale or blue
- Shivering, or cold hands and feet
- Seizure

What's the Treatment for Meningococcal Meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis can cause death or serious complications, such as brain damage, paralysis, gangrene, or deafness. To prevent these problems, it's important to act quickly. Do *not* wait. Seek immediate medical attention. Go to an emergency room or call 911 if:

- You notice symptoms of meningococcal meningitis
- Symptoms do not improve with treatment
- You think you have been exposed to meningococcal meningitis

Tests can confirm a diagnosis of meningococcal meningitis. The doctor may start antibiotics, such as penicillin or ceftriaxone, by an IV, or intravenous line. You or your child may also need other medication to treat problems related to increased spinal fluid pressure. Doctors sometimes prescribe steroids.

If you or someone you love has come into close contact with someone who has meningococcal meningitis -- such as at school, day care, work, or home -- it is very important to get antibiotics to prevent infection.

Are There Vaccines for Meningococcal Meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease -- even with treatment. That's why prevention is a far better approach. The meningococcal vaccine can prevent meningitis infection. In the U.S., two types of meningococcal vaccines are used:

- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)** -- One of these vaccines, Menactra, is approved for people ages 9 months to 55. The other, Menveo is used in those ages 2 through 55.
- **Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4)** -- the only vaccine used for people older than age 55.

Although they cannot prevent all types of meningococcal disease, both vaccines can prevent many types of the disease. Both are effective in nine out of 10 people. MCV4 tends to give longer protection and is better at preventing transmission of the disease.

Doctors recommend a dose of MCV4, which is given as a shot, for children and teens ages 11 to 18. Other people at risk should also consider getting a vaccine. That includes:

- People who think they've been exposed to meningococcal meningitis

- College freshmen living in dorms
- U.S. military recruits
- Travelers to areas of the world, such as Africa, where meningococcal disease is common
- People with a damaged spleen or with terminal complement component deficiency, which is an immune system disorder
- Lab personnel who are often exposed to the meningococcal bacteria

A second dose may be needed for people at high risk.

Wait to get vaccinated if you are very ill at the time you're scheduled for the shot. Avoid the vaccine if you:

- Have had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose
- Have a severe allergy to any vaccine component
- Have ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome or acute disseminated encephalomyelitis

Mild pain or redness at the injection site is common and should not be a problem. But call your doctor right away if you have a strong reaction to the vaccine. This includes a high fever, weakness, or signs of an allergic reaction, such as trouble breathing, a fast heartbeat, or dizziness

ADDENDUM FOR DRUG TESTING:



Drug Testing Addendum.pdf