STUDENT & PARENT NOTICE

IMPORTANT SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS, SAFETY & CONDUCT POLICIES

Effective Beginning the 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

We are writing to inform students and parents/guardians of important school expectations regarding electronic devices, student identification, dress code, transportation, school functions, and prohibited items.

On **February 10, 2026**, Michigan Governor **Gretchen Whitmer** signed **House Bill 4141 and Senate Bill 495** into law, establishing statewide requirements regarding student cellphone use during K–12 classroom instructional time beginning with the **2026–2027 school year**.

House Bill 4141 amends the Revised School Code and requires each school district to establish a wireless communications device policy regarding cellphone use during instructional time.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

No unauthorized electronic device use is permitted between 7:47 a.m. and 2:42 p.m.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cellphones/smartphones
- Headphones, earbuds, and AirPods
- iPads and tablets
- Smartwatches
- Personal laptops or computers
- Gaming devices
- Portable speakers
- Electronic recording devices
- Other personal electronic or wireless communication devices

CELL PHONES

- Cellphones must be **locked and secured in the designated storage bag** at the beginning of the school day.
- Cellphones must remain secured until the **end of the school day at 2:42 p.m.**
- Students may not remove, open, damage, or tamper with their secured cellphone storage bag.
- Students caught tampering with the secured storage bag may receive **disciplinary action**.
- Parents/guardians who need to contact their student during the school day should contact the **school office**.

🎧 HEADPHONES & EARBUDS

Headphones, earbuds, AirPods, and similar listening devices may not be worn or used during restricted hours unless specifically authorized by school staff for an educational or school-related purpose.

📱 iPADS, TABLETS & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal iPads, tablets, laptops, gaming systems, smartwatches, and other electronic devices must remain **secured, turned off, or stored away** during restricted hours unless specifically authorized for instructional purposes.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and maintain a professional and respectful appearance that supports a safe learning environment.

The following requirements apply:

🚫 NOT PERMITTED

- **Pajamas or sleepwear**
- **Tank tops**
- **Tube tops**
- Strapless tops or clothing that does not provide appropriate coverage
- Clothing that exposes the **midriff**
- Clothing that is excessively revealing
- **Sagging pants or clothing worn below the waist**
- Clothing with inappropriate, offensive, vulgar, or school-inappropriate language or images
- Clothing or accessories that create a safety concern

👗 DRESSES, SKIRTS & SHORTS

- **Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be knee length.**
- Clothing must provide appropriate coverage while students are standing, sitting, walking, and participating in school activities.

🧢 HEAD GEAR

No head gear is permitted during the school day unless specifically authorized by school administration.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Hats
- Bonnets
- Durags

- Hoods worn over the head
- Head coverings
- Other non-approved head gear

Exceptions may be made for **religious, medical, or school-approved purposes** in accordance with applicable law and school policy.

NO SAGGING

Pants, shorts, and other bottoms must be worn appropriately at the waist. **Sagging is not permitted.**

Students may be required to correct clothing that does not meet the dress code before returning to class or participating in school activities.

SCHOOL ID REQUIREMENT

Students must **wear and/or carry their school-issued ID at all times** while on school property.

School IDs are required:

- To enter the school building.
- To ride the school bus.
- To participate in designated school activities and functions.
- When requested by school staff or security personnel.

Students without a required school ID may not be permitted to enter the school building or board school transportation.

Lost or damaged IDs must be reported to the appropriate school office immediately.

NO BACKPACKS AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Backpacks are not permitted at designated school functions or events.

Students should leave backpacks at home when attending events where this restriction applies.

🚫 ZERO-TOLERANCE SAFETY POLICY

For the safety of students, staff, and visitors, the following are strictly prohibited on school property, school transportation, and at school-sponsored activities and functions:

- **Weapons or items intended to be used as weapons**
- **Illegal drugs**
- **Vapes/e-cigarettes**
- **Marijuana**
- Possession, distribution, or use of prohibited substances
- Any other item or conduct prohibited by school district policy or applicable law

Violations may result in **immediate disciplinary action**, removal from school or an event, parent/guardian notification, law-enforcement involvement when appropriate, and additional consequences under the student code of conduct and applicable law.

🤝 OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

These expectations are designed to maintain a **safe, secure, respectful, and focused learning environment** for all students and staff.

Parents and guardians are asked to review these expectations with their students before the start of the school year.

Students are expected to:

- Follow all school rules and policies.
- Wear appropriate school attire.
- Wear their school ID as required.
- Keep electronic devices secured during restricted hours.
- Cooperate with school staff and security personnel.
- Respect school property and the rights of others.
- Take responsibility for their behavior and belongings.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in keeping our school community:

SAFE • RESPECTFUL • RESPONSIBLE • READY TO LEARN

Sincerely,

School Administration
Benton Harbor High School
Benton Harbor Area Schools

STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROGRESSION & CONSEQUENCES

