

Heritage Middle School

1951 Enon Road, Valdese, NC 29690 * tel 828-874-0731 * fax 828-879-6330



Heritage Middle School 2026-2027

Principal – Erin Wall

Assistant Principal – Shania Holt

Mission Statement

At Heritage Middle School, we welcome every student to the Nest, where Eagles are encouraged to **S.O.A.R.** every day.

S – Show Respect

O – Own Your Learning

A – Aim High

R – Rise Together

Through high expectations, meaningful relationships, and engaging learning experiences, we prepare every Eagle to soar in middle school and beyond.

Vision Statement

Heritage Middle School is a place where every Eagle belongs, grows, and succeeds. Together, we create a safe, student-centered community where all students are empowered to **S.O.A.R.** by showing respect, owning their learning, aiming high, and rising together as they prepare for the future.

Daily Schedule

Bell Schedule:

7:20-Building opens for students

7:50 - Tardy Bell rings

7:50-9:20 - First Block

9:20-10:00 - WIN Time

***Second Chance Breakfast**

10:00-11:30 - Second Block

11:30-1:25 - Third Block

Lunch:

6th - 11:30-12:05

7th - 12:10-12:40

8th - 12:45-1:15

1:25-2:50 - Fourth Block

2:50 - Dismissal



Staff Email List

add @burke.k12.nc.us to the end of each of these

6th Grade	Ms. Bean Ms. Summey Ms. Stossmeister-Poteat Ms. Slone Ms. Kirkley Ms. Sherrill Ms. Zimmerman	abean lsummey kstossmeister eslone akirkley amandasherrill sabrinahollifield
7th Grade	Mrs. Speagle Mr. McQuaid Ms. Lowman Mr. Woody Ms. Abernathy Mr. Gallagher Ms. Gwyn	aspeagle mmcquaid annalowman chandlerwoody aliciaabernathy tgallagher danagwyn
8th Grade	Mr. Bathe Ms. Bowman Ms. McKee Mrs. Eller Ms. Hefner Mr. Smith Mr. Waters	ebathe kbbowman katherinemckee stephanieeller dwhaley calebsmith ewaters
Exploratory	Mr. Lynn Ms. Cook Mrs. Woody Mr. Hall Ms. Whitsett Mr. Poteat Mr. Vinay Mr. Webb	kevinlynn (Project Lead the Way) mindycook (Music/Chorus) stephaniewoody (Art) brianhall (Business) katherinewhitsett (PE) apoteat (Band) rvinay (PE) swebb (PE, Athletic Director)
Support Services	Ms. B. Thompson Ms. Hildebrand Ms. Scruggs	(Nurse) bthompson (Media Coordinator) michellehildebrand (ELLs) hannahscruggs (Counselor)
Office Staff	Ms. Roper Mr. Treadway Ms. Murley	jessicaroper (Bookkeeper) craigtreadway (Data Manager) leannmurley (Attendance/Schedules)
Administration	Mrs. Wall Mrs. Holt	ewall (Principal) shaniaholt (Assistant Principal)

2026–2027 Meal Prices:

BCPS families should plan on the following for the 2026–2027 school year:

- Breakfast will be served at no cost to all students.
- Students will receive free lunch.
- Adult meals are priced a la carte.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

1. Students who are dropped off at school are to be let out as quickly and safely as possible at the main entrance to the building. Please pull forward. **Doors will be unlocked at 7:20 am.**
2. Student breakfast will be served each morning starting at 7:20.
3. **Students who come in after the 7:50 bell rings will need to report to the lobby for a tardy slip.**
4. Students are dismissed at 2:50.
 - Car riders should only be picked up at the main entrance. Students should be picked up by 3:20 pm. **Students should not be dropped off or picked up in the bus lot or staff parking lot.**
 - Bus riders are to report directly to the appropriate bus. **Buses will depart no earlier than 3:00 pm.**

TARDY POLICY

At Heritage Middle School, we place a very important value on each and every student's academic progress and excellence. Please make every effort to assure your child arrives to school on time. The less disruptions to class, the more time our teachers can spend on important instructional time.

Unexcused Tardy(ies)

Students may enter the building at 7:20am. Students may begin reporting to homeroom at 7:30. The warning bell will ring at 7:45 am. Students should report to homeroom and be seated in class, ready to learn by 7:50 am. Students who are not in class by 7:50 am will need to report to the lobby for a tardy slip.

Excused Tardy(ies)

Students who are tardy due to medical, dental, etc. appointments will be excused. Turn in the excuse note to your student's homeroom teacher or the front office. The tardy will be changed promptly in the system to reflect the excused tardy.

Student Code of Conduct/Discipline Procedures for "Unexcused Tardies".

- 3 Unexcused Tardies = Warning notification given by school officials.

ABSENCES

The student is responsible for all work that is missed during his/her absence. When a student is absent from school, the parent needs to provide a written note indicating the reason for

the absence or a medical excuse signed by a doctor/dentist. **This note must be submitted to the office immediately upon returning to school.** Parents may also call 828-874-0731 to report an absence or email the homeroom teacher. Absences are coded only as excused or unexcused (truant).

Excused absences include:

- Illness
- Court
- Death in the immediate family
- Out of School Suspension

If a student fails to bring a note from the parent or doctor/dentist, the absence is coded as unexcused until documentation is provided.

In accordance with the Burke County Public Schools' Attendance Policy, a medical note is required for all absences after the 8th absence. After a total of **eight unexcused absences**, the Attendance Counselor for Burke County Public Schools will be notified, and parents and students may have to appear in court to justify absences. Letters will be sent out after unexcused absences reach **3, 6 and 10 days**. On the day of a student's absence they are not eligible to attend after school functions (dances, club practices, athletic events, etc). Any student reporting to school after 11:30 am or checking out before 11:30 am will be counted absent for that day.

Students with excused absences may make up their work. **Upon returning to school, it is the student's responsibility to arrange make-up work within three days.**

EARLY STUDENT DISMISSALS

Parents are to sign their child out in the office if he/she is leaving early. Students who leave prior to 11:30 and do not return will be counted absent for the entire day. **Students may only be picked up by those listed on the student's contact list. The student will not be released to anyone NOT on the contact list.** *This is a very important safety measure for our school and your children.* **We will ask for identification if needed before we release a student from school.**

DEVICE POLICY

REVISED BCPS DIGITAL DEVICE USE POLICY

Students will be required to follow the BCPS cell phone policy while on school grounds. Student cell phones will not be allowed in classrooms during instructional time, unless they are being used for instructional purposes. Cell phones and other wireless devices (including Smart watches) should be locked in the student's locker during the instructional day. Students will be allowed to use their personal device with prior approval from a staff member.

[BCPS Board Policy 4318](#)

[Code 4300 R](#) B (5).

Consequences for all students are as follows:

- a. First Offense: The electronic device shall be confiscated by the teacher. Notification shall be sent to the parent by the teacher. Parents may pick it up at the end of the school day from the teacher.
- b. Second Offense: The electronic device shall be confiscated from the student and held in the office for parent pick up. The administration shall conference with the parent and student about appropriate use of devices and expectations of school procedures.
- c. Third Offense(s): The electronic device shall be confiscated from the student and held in the office for parent pick up. The administration shall conference with the parent and student about how repeated disregard for this procedure will lead to other discipline as appropriate, which may include in-school and out-of-school suspension (i.e. insubordination, disrespect, inappropriate use of technology). The student will no longer be allowed to bring an electronic device to school except as approved by a principal.
- d. Subsequent offense(s): The electronic device shall be confiscated, and the parent shall be notified by an administrator. The parent may pick up the electronic device from the school office, and the student may receive additional days of in-school or out-of-school suspension as deemed appropriate by school administration.

DRESS CODE

BCPS Dress Code expectations are outlined in Section A (7) of [Policy 4300 - R](#).

The items below are some of the main points of the Dress Code and are not intended to represent the entire document. The entire Student Code of Conduct can be found on the BCPS web page. Policy 4300R.

- No exposed cleavage or belly skin (tops may not plunge lower than 3 inches from the collarbone), no exposed undergarments/undergarment straps, minimum of 3 fingers worth of clothing on shoulders, no tops that dovetail inward in the back and expose the back, no fishnet or see-through garments worn over other inappropriate garments, no leggings or tights unless a garment within the dress code length is worn over them, no shorts, skirts, or dresses that are mid thigh or shorter (this includes Nike Pro shorts).
- No sagging or slacking pants, no garments w/alcohol, tobacco, drugs, racist images/words, or obscenity.

- Hats allowed – Teacher Discretion in the classroom
- Hoodies are not allowed to cover your head
- No blankets (safety issue)
- No bedroom shoes/slippers.
- No dark glasses worn within the building
- Any other disruptive clothing or attire

If students do not meet dress code according to the Burke County Board of Education Policy 4300-R, they will be asked to change clothing. Students will have the option to call home for a change of clothes.

Each classroom teacher has the discretion to allow or not allow approved headgear, headwear, or headdress to be worn inside his or her classroom. Students are allowed to wear baseball caps. Beanies are allowed with the expectation that eyes and ears are visible. Hoods of jackets and sweatshirts are not permitted.

Multiple offenses could warrant ISS and/or OSS..

General Student Information

listed alphabetically

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORTS

We encourage all students and parents to take advantage of our Student/Parent Portal through Infinite Campus. Grades and attendance can be monitored in a timely fashion through this outlet. Academic progress reports will be sent home midterm of each grading period. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each grading period.

AUTHORITY OF ALL ADULT EMPLOYEES

In order to keep students safe and maintain order, HMS employees have the authority to correct and redirect students when the need arises. **If any student is corrected by any adult employee, whether the employee is faculty, clerical, cafeteria, custodial, bus driver, or substitute teacher, the student is expected to respond appropriately to such correction.**

BUSES

The bus and the bus stops are an extension of the school. All school rules apply in both settings. Riding the bus is a privilege for students, but that privilege will be taken away if proper behavior is not exhibited at the bus stop and on the bus. Check with administration concerning times of drop off and pick up and the location of bus stops. **Written permission is required to get off at a different stop. This request must be approved by an administrator prior to 11:30 am. If a student is riding home with another student on the bus, BOTH STUDENTS must have a note from parent/guardian giving permission. Both notes must be signed by an administrator.** Riding a different bus is discouraged due to our buses being full. However if there is an extenuating circumstance and you must ride a different bus, please contact administration prior to 11:30.

DEBTS

Please make every effort to send in lunch money and library books in order to be in good standing at Heritage Middle School. All debts must be paid in order to participate in extracurricular school activities (athletic events and dances). A letter will be sent home notifying you of any cafeteria or school debt that your student may have.

Please make sure to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch form each year to ensure your child's coverage, if you qualify. This should be done in the first 10 days. Any debt acquired after the first 10 days will not be covered by the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. If you would like your student to be limited when buying "extras" in the cafeteria, please call or email Lynn Dodd, cafeteria manager.

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

Device fees and Cafeteria fees, etc. can be paid through [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com)

To find the My School Bucks website, go to the [Burke County Public Schools webpage](https://www.burkecountyschools.org)

- Hover over the "Links" tab.
- Go down to select the "My School Bucks" option.
- You can open an account and then add your student with their student ID#. The link can also be found below.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

It may be necessary to close or delay school due to bad weather or unsafe driving conditions. Local TV, radio stations, the BCPS website, and the BCPS Facebook page will announce school closing information when necessary. If you have an updated phone number in our school database, you will receive a phone call concerning delays and closings from BCPS.

HOMEWORK

Homework may be assigned to students on a regular basis as a way to supplement and strengthen the student's learning in the classroom. The student will be held responsible for turning in completed assignments. Students who have been ill and absent from school are to complete assignments *within three days*.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

When a student is assigned to ISS by an administrator, they will spend the assigned time in a designated area to reflect and complete work. Students will not socialize with other students and will not be allowed to participate in other school functions during the school day. **Please note that students may not participate in athletic practices or extracurricular activities after school on the day(s) of in-school suspension. Rules broken in ISS may result in out-of-school suspension (OSS).**

LOCKERS

All lockers on the school premises are the property of Heritage Middle School. Only HMS-issued locks are permitted on hallway lockers. Students may store school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. **The school retains the right to inspect any locker at any time.**

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the school office during the school day. These items will be added to the lost and found bin.

SCHOOL DANCES

Dances are scheduled at different times during the school year. Students are required to exhibit appropriate behavior and are expected to follow all school rules. Students must be in attendance at school the day of the dance in order to attend. Students that owe cafeteria and/or device/library debts will not be able to participate. Students with OSS during the 9 weeks of the dance are ineligible to attend the dance during that 9 weeks. Student cellphones will not be allowed into the dance.

- Admission: \$5.00
- Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm (Unless otherwise published)

*** Students are to be picked up directly after the end of the event or risk losing the privilege to attend other after-school events.**

Field Trips-Overnight

Extracurricular field trips are a privilege. Students who have had OSS or 6 or more days of ISS are not allowed to attend overnight field trips/ field trips. Students may appeal up to 2 weeks prior to the trip to the Principal. A decision will be relayed back to the students one week prior to the trip.

VISITORS: ALL visitors must obtain a visitor's pass which must be returned to the office when they leave.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility of all middle school athletes will be based upon the following guidelines:

1. **Age Requirements** – A student shall not participate on a team if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31, 2025.
2. **Academic Requirements** – A student must pass three of the four required core subjects from the previous semester. The core subjects are: **Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.**
3. **Attendance Requirements** – A student must be in attendance **85%** of the days in the previous semester.
4. **Special Needs Eligibility** – A special needs student will meet the same requirements as anyone else in all areas of eligibility except the academic eligibility which will be identified through an IEP and the School-Based Committee.
5. **Health Requirement** – Any student that tries out for a school-sponsored athletic team must have a current physical on file at school. **(MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE TO TRY OUT!)**

2026-2027 Athletic Schedules *subject to change*

Games/matches start at 4pm.

Admission is \$5 for everyone

POLICIES

BCPS POLICY MANUAL

BCPS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT Policy Code: 4300-R

The above list of rules (Code 4300-R) for the Burke County Schools is provided as guidance for students, parents, teachers and administrators. This cannot be an all-inclusive list; however, administrators shall use their discretion in dealing with all specific behavior that violates the principles set forth in this policy. Consideration is to be given to the student's cognitive and developmental ability to appreciate the significance of his/her behavior and to assume responsibility for behavior.

This policy pertains to all students in the Burke County Public Schools while they are on the campus of any school in the Burke County School system, while they are participating in any activity sponsored by the Burke County Public Schools, while they are being transported in a vehicle owned or operated by the Burke County Public Schools, while they are awaiting pick-up/drop-off at a bus stop, while going to or from a bus stop, in route to and from school, while they are representing the Burke County Public Schools in any way or while students are off campus if the incident was initiated at school or if the incident could substantially disrupt the school environment. In circumstances where student behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in the school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of employees or other students, a student may be suspended or expelled regardless of where the acts and conduct occur. Students may be suspended for off-campus conduct only if the conduct otherwise violates the Student Code of Conduct AND the conduct has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly operation of the school or on the safety of individuals in the school environment. It is expected that any subsequent infraction will build upon disciplinary actions of previous infractions.

Students may be subject to random searches for weapons or contraband upon entering a school building or event.

In any case where out of school suspension is utilized, a parental conference with the principal and/or teacher(s) is required before re-entry into school. If the parent/guardian cannot or will not come to school for a conference, the student may come back to school at the discretion of the principal. Parents should be informed of all out-of-school suspensions by phone if at all possible, as well as the written notice required by law. All rule infractions will be retained in the Burke County Uniform Disciplinary Database.

The Superintendent and principals are allowed to consider the student's intent, disciplinary and academic record, the potential benefits of alternatives to suspension, and other mitigating and aggravating factors when deciding whether to recommend or impose long term suspension. ("Special circumstances")

BCPS POLICIES PERTAINING TO GRIEVANCES

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW

[Policy 1710/4020/7230](#)

TITLE IX NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX

[Policy 1720/4030/7235](#)

TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT – PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND
REPORTING PROCESS

[Policy 1725/4035/7236](#)

TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT – DEFINITIONS

[Policy 1725/4035/7236-R](#)

TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT GRIEVANCE PROCESS

[Policy 1726/4036/7237](#)

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITIES

[Policy 1730/4022/7231](#)

STUDENT AND PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

[Policy 1740/4010](#)

RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS

[Policy 1742/5060](#)

BCPS POLICIES TO KNOW

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

[Policy 4300](#)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

[Policy 4300-R](#)

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

[Policy 4315](#)

BULLYING/HARRASSMENT

[Policy 4329](#)