

# NEW BERLIN ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

2023 - 2024





# New Berlin CUSD #16 2023 - 24 School Calendar



August 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
	1	2	3	4	0	
7	8	9	TI	TI	0	
TI	15*	16*	17*	18*	4	
21	22	23	24	25	5	
28	29	30	31		4	
Total					13	

September 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
				1	1	
HOL	5	6	7	8	4	
11	12	13	14	XHS	5	
18	19	20	21	22	5	
25	26	PT*	PT*	NIA/PT	5	
Total					33	

October 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
2	3	4	5	6	5	
HOL	10	11	12	13	4	
16	17	18	19	20	5	
23	24	25	26	27	5	
30	31				2	
Total					21	
					54	

November 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
		1	2	3	3	
6	7	8	XHS	HOL	4	
13	14	15	16	17	5	
20	21*	NIA	HOL	NIA	2	
27	28	29	30		4	
Total					18	
					72	

December 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
				1	1	
4	5	6	7	8	5	
11	12	13	14	15	5	
18	19	20	21*	NIA	4	
NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	0	
Total					15	
					87	

January 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
NIA	NIA	TI	4	5	2	
8	9	10	11	12	5	
HOL	16	17	18	19	4	
22	23	24	25	26	5	
29	30	31			3	
Total					19	
					106	

February 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
			1	2	2	
5	6	7	8	9	5	
12	13	14	15	XHS	5	
HOL	20	21	22	23	4	
26	27	28	29		4	
Total					20	
					126	

March 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
				1	1	
4	5	6	7	8	5	
11	12	13	14	15	5	
18	19	20	21	22	5	
NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	0	
Total					16	
					142	

April 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	5	
8	9	10	11	12	5	
15	16	17	18	19	5	
22	23	24	25	XHS	5	
29	30				2	
Total					22	
					164	

May 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
		1	2	3	3	
6	7	8	9	10	5	
13	14	15	16*	XED	4	
XED	XED	XED	XED	24	0	
HOL	28	29	30	31	0	
Total					12	
					176	

June 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total	
3	4	5	6	7	0	
10	11	12	13	14	0	
17	18	19	20	21	0	
24	25	26	27	28	0	
Total					0	
					176	

School Holidays (HOL)	
Labor Day	Sept. 4, 2023
Columbus Day	Oct. 9, 2023
Veterans' Day	Nov. 10, 2023
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 23, 2023
MLK Day	Jan. 15, 2024
President's Day	Feb. 19, 2024
Memorial Day	May 27, 2024

**Codes:**  
 \*=2:21 pm dismissal  
 TI = Teacher Institute Day - No School for Students  
 Monthly Professional Development/1:00 pm Dismissal  
 NIA = Not in Attendance - School not in Session  
 End of Quarter  
 Parent-Teacher Conferences/Students dismissed at 2:21 pm  
 HOL = Legal Public School Holiday -No School  
 XHS = Half-day School Improvement-11:45 am  
 XED = Emergency Days - 5 emergency days are built into the calendar. If any emergency/snow days are used, the school ending date will change.

Board Approval 2/16/2023  
 amended 5/18/2023

School Begins/Teachers	August 10, 2023
1st Student Attendance Day	August 15, 2023
End of 1st Quarter	October 16, 2023
End of 2nd Quarter	December 21, 2023
End of 3rd Quarter	March 6, 2024
School Ends (if no snow days)	May 17, 2024
Total Student Attendance Days	176
Emergency Days	5
Teacher Institute/Workshop	4
Total Calendar Days	185
Semester 1 Total Days	87
Semester 2 Total Days	89
	176

**Welcome****School Calendar****Chapter 1: Introductory Information & General Notices** (page 4)

\* CUSD #16 Mission Statement \* School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency \* General School Information \* NBE Staff \* Daily Schedule/Arrival & Dismissal \* Closed Campus \* Communication \* Notes/Emails from Home \* Telephone \* Visitor/Volunteers \* Equal Opportunity Statement \* Animals on School Property \* Toys/Personal Items \* Invitations & Gifts \* Weather & Emergency School Closings \* Video & Audio Monitoring Systems \* Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities \* Students with Food Allergies \* Treats \* Care of Students with Diabetes \* Suicide & Depression Awareness & Prevention

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**Signature Sheet** (page 59)

**WELCOME!**

Welcome to New Berlin Elementary School! We at NBE are pleased to have you as part of our learning community. We are committed to doing our very best to provide a safe and supportive environment in which your child can learn and grow. In order to accomplish this goal, we rely on close cooperation and collaboration with the parents and families of our students. The NBE Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that students and parents may have during the course of a school year. Because the handbook also contains information about student rights and responsibilities, each student is responsible for knowing its contents. Please take the time to become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for your use. It can be a valuable reference during the school year, and a means to avoid confusion and misunderstanding when questions arise. Should you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, contact your Principal. This handbook supersedes all prior handbooks and other written or oral statements regarding any item in this handbook.

Brandi Maxedon - Principal  
Shelley Haas - Assistant Principal

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION AND GENERAL NOTICES

## CUSD #16 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CUSD #16 is to serve our communities by equipping students with the skills and tools needed to achieve their personal best and demonstrate Pretzel PRIDE--

**Perseverance**  
**Respect**  
**Integrity**  
**Discipline**  
**Empathy**

## School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. Your child's school and district play an essential role, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency.

During a pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the school and district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health, local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.
2. Available learning opportunities may include remote and/or blended learning. Blended learning may require your child to attend school on a modified schedule.
3. Students will be expected to participate in blended and remote instruction as required by the school and district. Parents are responsible for assuring the participation of their child. Students who do not participate in blended or remote learning will be considered truant.
4. All school disciplinary rules remain in effect during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom.
5. Students and parents will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.
6. During a pandemic or other health emergency, the school and district will ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students.
7. School personnel will work closely with students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations to minimize the impact of any educational disruption.
8. Students who have a compromised immune system, live with an individual with a compromised immune system, or have a medical condition that may impact their ability to attend school during a pandemic or other public health emergency should contact school officials.
9. During a pandemic or other health emergency, teachers and school staff will receive additional training on health and safety measures.
10. In accordance with school district or state mandates, the school may need to conduct a daily health assessment of your child. Parents and students will be notified of the exact assessment procedures if this becomes necessary.
11. Parents should not send their child to school if their child exhibits any symptoms consistent with the pandemic or other health emergency.

12. Please do not hesitate to contact school or district officials if you have any concerns regarding your child's education, health or safety.

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This handbook procedure is meant to apply generally to any pandemic or other health emergency and should be supplemented with other relevant and timely information.

## **GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**

This handbook contains all required notices and information and was developed with the guidance of the IPA Model Student Handbook. This handbook is a summary of the school's rules and expectations, and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board's comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District's website [www.pretzelpride.com](http://www.pretzelpride.com) or at the Board office, located at: 600 N. Cedar, New Berlin, IL. The School Board governs the school district, and is elected by the community. Current CUSD #16 School Board members are:

Stephanie Neuman, President  
Chris Gordon, Vice President  
Bill Marr, Secretary  
Jenny Mann, Member  
Jerry Bishoff, Member  
Holly Kotner, Member  
Josh Beard, Member

The School Board has hired the following administrative staff to operate New Berlin Elementary:

Jill Larson, Superintendent  
Brandi Maxedon , Principal  
Shelley Haas, Assistant Principal

## **NEW BERLIN ELEMENTARY STAFF**

Birth - 3 - Maureen Bossert  
Pre-K - Holly Ruppel  
Pre-K - Carrie Dawdy  
Pre-K - Darci Steck  
Kindergarten - Elizabeth Birch, Wendy Kanllakan, Jennifer McQuality, Madison Reynolds  
First Grade - Jolene Luca, Jennifer Brown, Audrey Lanzotti, Whitney Peecher  
Second Grade - Jenna Cisco, Renee Cooper, Skyler Davis, Sarah Smith  
Third Grade - Kara Cox, Christina Iacono, Katelyn Moran, Emily Sworobowicz  
Fourth Grade - Elizabeth Nutt, Taylor Maus, Ashley Berola  
Fifth Grade - Tyler Berola, Stacey Maxson, Jamie Brown  
Special Education Structured Classroom - Molly Booher  
Reading Intervention Specialist - Amanda Fleshman  
Reading Specialist/Reading Recovery - Kimberly Pearce  
Art - Andrea Rupnik  
Physical Education - Cam Cummings, James Dambacher  
General Music (K-5) - Katie Barrett  
Band (5<sup>th</sup>) - Abigail McGrath  
Librarian - Kara Pecoraro  
Library Aide - McKenzie Ward  
Secretaries - Jodi Danenberger, Angie Marr  
School Nurse- Jami Huesing  
Social Workers - Olga Lopez, Peyton Kirkpatrick  
Psychologist - Keenan Kittell

SASED Staff - Chelsea Beard, Baylee Jones, Danielle Moon, Julie Rector, Amy Shoemaker  
Special Education Administrator – Jenny Mendenhall  
Special Education - Courtney Fry, Nealy Hicks, Erin Luttrell, Karlie MacKenzie  
Speech Pathologist – Isabella Cox  
Permanent Sub-Kelsie Knox  
Paraprofessionals – Jamie Hulett, Lauren Hulett, Kim Jones, Samantha Martin, Dani Menser, Nick Morrison, Whitney Suter, Earl Green, Morgan Lonergan, Brooke Brummett, Hannah Steck, Michelle Bauer, Grace Bipp, Alexander Barry  
Technology Coordinator – Kevin Cummins; Tech Staff - Mike Squires, TJ Wilsey  
Director of Maintenance – Matt Brown  
Custodial Staff – Andy Ball, Travis Creasey, Vince King, Brian Nickelson, Brett Ruppel  
Director of Food Services – Heather Pidcock  
Kitchen Staff – Chris Cansler, Dalton Dawdy, Angie Johnson, Trudy Kunz  
Transportation Director - Seth Hill

## DAILY SCHEDULE

**The building will be open to students at 7:40 a.m. Students *should not* arrive at school before 7:40 a.m.**

Students must be in their assigned classroom at 8:15 a.m. or he/she **will be marked tardy.** The students' school day ends at 3:15 p.m. The teachers' school day is 8:00 a.m. to 3:31 p.m.

**NBE STAFF ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 7:40 A.M. OR WHO REMAIN IN THE BUILDING AFTER 3:15 P.M.**

Students will have a minimum 30 minute lunch/recess.

## CLOSED CAMPUS

CUSD #16 schools operate a closed campus. Students will not be allowed to leave campus after arriving at school for any reason other than to keep medical appointments or for family emergencies. Students leaving campus for any reason must be given permission by the principal and be picked up by a parent or person listed in Skyward. Students are not allowed to go home for lunch.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication between school and home may be initiated by school personnel or parents/guardians. School staff will strive to respond promptly to parent communication, typically within 24 hours or less during normal school hours. The formats for communication might involve:

- Phone calls
- Handwritten notes
- Email
- Student planners
- Newsletters

In addition, school personnel will use the following forums to share news and information:

- NBE Facebook page
- District and NBE electronic platforms

Parents should routinely check their child's book bag and planner for these communications, in addition to accessing the electronic information available.

## NOTES/EMAILS FROM HOME

Students must have a note signed by a parent or guardian for the following situations.

- Explanation of an absence unless phone contact or email communication is made.
- Request for a student to leave the school grounds for any reason during school hours.
- A request for an extended release from outdoor recess or PE must be accompanied by a doctor's note.



If your child is going home any other way than usual, a note, phone call or email is needed. If we are not notified of a change by the parent by 1:45 p.m, we must send the child home on his/her normal route. **If children plan to go home with another child, then the parents of all children involved must notify the school.**

## TELEPHONE

The use of the telephone by students is discouraged except in cases of emergency. If there are changes in after school arrangements, please inform the school before noon. Confusion over after school activities, such as scheduled sports events, social arrangements, and/or school materials left at home are not considered emergencies.

## VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

All doors will be closed and locked at 8:15 a.m.

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a tag identifying themselves as a guest and place the tag to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period. Parents will not be permitted to go to the classroom during instructional time.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

No person on school property or at a school event shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or municipal, local or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with Illinois' Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and district policies.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized district employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.



15. Violate other district policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or district employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the district or a school function.

All school volunteers must complete the "Volunteer Information Form" and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal. Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor sticker before going to their destination.

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT AND SEX EQUITY**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact: Administration.

#### **ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

#### **TOYS/PERSONAL ITEMS**

**Toys or personal items should not be brought to school.** The school is not responsible if personal items, toys, electronics are lost, broken or stolen. This includes but not limited to: Pokemon Cards, handheld video games, phones, dolls, matchbox cars, etc.

#### **INVITATIONS AND GIFTS**

Party invitations or gifts for classmates should not be brought to school to be distributed unless **ALL** of the students in class are included. Similarly, cards and gifts from one student to another must not be brought to school. Items such as these are of a personal nature and should be mailed home using the list in the school directory, prepared and published by the Pretzel PTO. The school cannot provide names, addresses, or phone numbers of children attending CUSD #16 schools.

#### **WEATHER AND EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In cases of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to any local radio or television station to be advised of school closings or early dismissals. An all-call through School Messenger will also be made. School closings for any reason will be announced by as early as possible. For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal. If there are special arrangements, the office and the classroom teacher should be made aware of the change in the child's routine.

If we dismiss early for an emergency, all after-school functions are automatically canceled.

Children will go outside for all recesses when the combined temperature and wind chill is 20 degrees or above unless it is raining, hailing, lightning, snowing. If the conditions are favorable for immediate thunderstorms or tornadoes, the students may also be kept indoors. If the wind chill drops below 20 degrees (feels like temperature) or the heat index rises above 95 degrees (feels like temperature), recess will be held indoors.

**Parents may want to apply sunscreen in the morning before school on warm, sunny days. Throughout the winter months please remember to send winter coats, gloves, and hats to school with your children every day. It is in the students' best interest to have these items at school at all times so that they may be used to keep them warm and dry. Students may be excluded from recess if they do not have appropriate clothing determined by school personnel.**

#### **VIDEO AND AUDIO MONITORING SYSTEMS**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system may be used in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

#### **ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

#### **STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES**

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules.

If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building Principal and School Nurse at 488-6054 immediately. A note or email must be on file in the nurse's office.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed support so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means. Cross Reference: PRESS 7:285, *Food Allergy Management Program*

#### **TREATS**

We love to help students celebrate their birthdays! **Due to an increasing number of students with food allergies, we are "food free" for birthday celebrations.** The teachers each have special ways to help students celebrate a birthday at school. If you would like to help your child celebrate at school, some options are:

- Selecting and purchasing a "Birthday Book" for the library in your child's honor
- Sending pencils, bookmarks, or other small items for your child to hand out to classmates for each child in the classroom.

Special deliveries (i.e. balloons, flowers, etc.) will not be delivered to the classroom and will be held in the office until after school. These items do not transport well on the bus, so parents should make other arrangements for end of the day transportation.

### **CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES**

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the building principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- a. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
- b. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- c. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- d. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the building principal.

### **SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district.

The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of the school district's policy, is posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from the school office.

### **Employee Conduct Standards-Faith Law Notification**

School districts are required to include in their student handbook the District's Employee Code of Professional Conduct. These standards, in part, define appropriate conduct between school employees and students. A copy of these standards can be found on the District's website or requested from the Superintendent's office.

# CHAPTER 2: RESIDENCY, ATTENDANCE, GRADING & PROMOTION

## ENROLLMENT

Students who are five years old on or before September 1, are eligible to attend Kindergarten during the current school year. Students new to the district will be placed by the former public school's permanent records or by staff testing. Parents/guardians of students enrolling in the district for the first time will be required to provide a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. A copy will be made for the student's file, and the original will be returned to the parent/guardian. Additionally, proof of residence (see following section) and proof of required health information (see Chapter 6) must be provided. As per Illinois School Code, students enrolled in kindergarten may attend half-day only. Classroom assignment and placement in the morning or afternoon will be determined by the administration.

## RESIDENCY

**Student Enrollment & County Residency** – to be enrolled in Community Unit School District #16, students must reside full time in this school district with their natural parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be full-time CUSD #16 residents. A resident is defined as an individual who is a full-time occupant of a dwelling located in CUSD #16 and who, on any given school day, is likely to be at their stated address when not at work or school. A person who owns property in the school district, but does not reside in the school district, is not considered a resident.

**Proof of Residence** – Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in a school and whenever a change of residence occurs, and should be provided to the office of the appropriate attendance center. If the school office has questions about the validity of a student's residence, then residency must be verified by the District Office *before* a student will be enrolled at the appropriate attendance center.

1. A lease or rental agreement consisting of written evidence that the agreement is valid and current, and a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, home/telephone, or cable). Records must include the name and street address of the parent/guardian, OR
2. A current residential property tax statement or deed, and a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, home telephone, or cable). Records must include the name and street address of the parent/guardian, OR
3. A third-person affidavit of residence or residency approval form must be completed with the school system. The affidavit/form shall be completed and signed by the parent/guardian, as well as the legal owner or lesser of the property where the student and parent/guardian reside. The affidavit/residency form will be in effect until the parent/guardian provides the required proof of residence, but no longer than the end of the current school year.

**Verification of Residency** – A school system representative may visit the address given by any parent/guardian to verify residency. The property address given must be the actual location where the student and parent/guardian live full-time.

**Consequences for Violating the Policy** – Students who are illegally enrolled shall be withdrawn from school. The parent/guardian shall be charged tuition for the period of time that a student is illegally enrolled in Community Unit School District #16, together with all court and legal expenses incurred by the Board of Education in collecting school tuition. Charges shall be filed for providing false information on a legal document.

### **Students in Transitional Living Arrangements**

Students that lack permanent or adequate housing have educational rights to help remove barriers to their educational success. The McKinney -Vento Assistance Act provides these students the ability to enroll in school, receive transportation and other available services. If you are in need of referrals or assistance please contact your student's school office or social worker.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

Absences should be kept to a minimum. Success in school is dependent upon regular attendance. Students with excessive absences miss class instruction and discussion, which are necessary for achieving that success.

Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

There are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include: illness (including up to 5 days per school year for mental or behavioral health of students), observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the school board, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, behavioral, emotional or physical health or safety, attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS, or other reasons as approved by the principal. All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the principal. One week advance notice is encouraged.

Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment. A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's

teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school.

**If a vacation is not prearranged, the absence will be marked as unexcused.** A PRE-ARRANGED absence is one approved by the school administration in advance of the absence. Some examples of pre-arranged absences might be Take Your Child to Work Day or a previously scheduled vacation. These require approval from the school to be approved as excused absences. These forms should be submitted and approved 7 days in advance. Please note that we feel student attendance is very important as we can not replicate a lesson that is taught by the teacher. If a student has excessive absences prior to the pre-arranged absence, the absence could be denied. Administration will discuss the situation with the parent/guardian.

A pre-arranged absence form needs to be signed by the student's classroom teacher, signed by the parent(s), and approved by the principal. These forms may be picked up in the office or printed from the school website. Assignments will not be given in advance. ***PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO TAKE VACATIONS DURING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED SCHOOL VACATION TIME!*** Excused absences for vacations will be limited to 5 days per year. It is not possible to re-create lessons and activities missed. The missed assignment(s) must be submitted by the deadline. One day for each day absent, plus one additional day is allowed to complete homework after the absence. For example, a student who is absent for 3 days of school has 4 school days to complete makeup work. If the above stated conditions are met, all work completed within the time allotment will be graded and recorded. Failure to meet these conditions will result in the absence being treated as an unexcused absence.

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence. Attendance letters will be sent to the parent(s) after 5 absences and another letter will be sent after 9 attendance days. After 10 absences, the truancy officer may be notified to follow up on the situation.

In the event of any absence, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school at 488-6054 x402 before 8:00 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of a student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent or guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Parents are encouraged to make all student medical and dental appointments so that students arrive at school before 8:30 am, or leave after 2:30 p.m., to ensure that students are present at school for an entire school day. Parents must pick students up **in the office** for appointments. Dr. notes will be required for all dental, orthodontist, vision, doctor appointments, etc. in order for the absence to be excused. The notes should be given or faxed to the front office upon return to school. Our fax number is (217)488-6039. After 9 absences, a Dr. note will be required or the absence will be considered unexcused.

## **TARDINESS**

Students are expected to be in the classroom ready to work when the 8:15 bell rings. Tardiness disrupts the learning process for the student, teacher and fellow students. When tardiness occurs beyond 5 occurrences, students will be subject to lunch detentions, after-school detentions, parent conference, referral to the Truant Officer and/or other appropriate consequences.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

If a student's absence is excused or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up all missed work, including homework and tests, for equivalent academic credit. Students who are unexcused from school will not be allowed to make up missed work.

### **Diagnostic Procedures for Identifying Student Absences and Support Services to Truant or Chronically Truant Students**

State law requires every school district to collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. This review must include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center.

Furthermore, State law provides that school districts are encouraged to provide a system of support to students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels with strategies and are also encouraged to make resources available to families such as those available through the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Framework to support and engage students and their families to encourage heightened school engagement and improved daily school attendance.

"Chronic absence" means absences that total 10% (18 Days) or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, and out-of-school suspensions.

The School and District use the following diagnostic procedures for identifying the causes of unexcused student absences: Interviews with the student, his or her parent/guardian and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problems.<sup>1</sup>

### **TRUANCY**

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district.

Students who miss 5% or more (9 days) of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse are considered chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to expulsion from school.

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

### **EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

When a student has reached a total number of absences equal to 5% of the school year (9 Attendance Days), a courtesy letter will be sent home to advise the parent or guardian that the student has reached the threshold for being chronically truant. Students with more than 10 days of absence per year will be reported to the Sangamon County Truancy Office unless the student has a valid excuse for each absence. All doctor's notes must be submitted immediately following the student's return to school. Doctor's notes must include

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<sup>1</sup>



the time the student was seen in the doctor's office, that the student is unable to attend school that day, and in cases of prolonged illness, must note all days that the student is unable to attend school. The principal, school nurse, and attendance secretary will review the attendance monthly to determine the validity of the excused absences when a student's total is over 10. The team will determine if a student's excuse(s) is/are valid and determine whether make up work will be allowed.

### **ABSENCES AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT DURING THE LAST HALF OF A SCHOOL DAY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL ACTIVITY SCHEDULED FOR THAT DAY.** Exceptions may be made, by the principal, in cases of a doctor's appointment or other obligation like a funeral. Students absent on Friday may participate in a Saturday activity, but the Friday absence will be reviewed on Monday.

### **RELEASE TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION & OBSERVANCE**

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s). Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

### **GRADING & PROMOTION**

**Reports** - The elementary will have 4 formal grading terms covering approximately 9 weeks of instruction. Report cards will be available through Skyward at the end of the first week following the close of each grading period. Upon posting of the report, parents are encouraged to contact the school if any questions arise concerning the notice. The main purpose of the report is to notify parents about student progress so that parents, students, and teachers might work more closely to implement corrective measures that will improve that progress.

**Grading System-** A Standards Based Grading and Reporting System will be used for all subjects in K-3rd grade. The 4th and 5th grade will use a percentage based grading system to mimic the upper grades. Student progress will be reported using the following performance levels:

**4 - Exceeds Expectations**

Student is consistently performing above academic expectations

**3 - Meets Expectations**

Student is consistently performing/attaining all academic expectations

**2 - Approaching Expectations**

Student is progressing but not consistently performing/attaining academic expectations

**1 - Significantly Below Expectations**

Student is not progressing and/or is not attaining academic expectations

### **Final Grades - 4th & 5th Grades**

Credit is granted based on the average of the T1, T2, T3, and T4 grades to create an annual grade for promotion.

### **Grading Scale**

The grade scale used in CUSD #16 Schools to determine final grades is as follows:

A 92-100	C 72-77
A- 90-91	C- 70-71
B+ 88-89	D+ 68-69
B 82-87	D 62-67
B- 80-81	D- 60-62
C+ 78-79	F 0-59

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level is based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on standardized tests and other testing. A student who receives a

majority of 1's for any subject will need to meet with the teacher and administration to discuss placement. All data will be considered, and the school will make the final determination based on the child's academic needs. A student will not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.

### **HOMEWORK & MAKE-UP WORK**

Homework is used as a way for students to practice what they have learned in the classroom. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary depending on a student's teacher, ability and grade level. If a student's absence is excused or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up all missed work, including homework and tests, for equivalent academic credit. If assigned work is not turned in it will result in a zero in the gradebook. Students who are unexcused from school will not be allowed to make up missed work.

### **CONFERENCES**

Parent-Teacher conferences are set for Wednesday and Thursday, September 27 and 28, 2023 . There will be No School on Friday, September 29, 2023. We will send more information later about choices for time preference. In the case of blended and/or separated families, we will schedule one conference asking that all involved meet to discuss their child's progress. Upon request, teachers may arrange a separate conference with the non-custodial parent if time in the conference schedule is available. Sign up for conferences will be done with each individual teacher.

### **EXEMPTION FROM PE REQUIREMENT**

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request.

Students with an Individualized Education Program may also be excused from physical education courses for reasons stated in the handbook.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the School District from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.

### **HOME AND HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION**

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.

Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

For information on home or hospital instruction, contact Administration.

## **Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs**

Parents or guardians have the right to inspect all instructional materials used as a part of their child's education. If you believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy, you may file a complaint under the District's uniform grievance policy. Parents or guardians with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a Curriculum Objection Form, which is available from the school office. A parent or guardian may also request that their child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a Curriculum Objection Form.

# CHAPTER 3: STUDENT FEES & FOOD SERVICE

## Fees

The student registration fee is due when you register your child. The fee for students at New Berlin Elementary is \$75 and can be sent to the District office at 600 North Cedar.

### **Fines, Fees, and Charges: Waiver of Student Fees**

The school district due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver applies to all fees related to school, instruction, and extracurricular activities.

Applications for fee waivers may be obtained from the school office and may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. As student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites is met:

1. The student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals programs;
2. The student's parent is a veteran or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
3. The student is homeless, as defined by the Mc-Kinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Unemployment;
- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process or an appeal of the District's decision to deny a fee waiver should be addressed to the Building Principal. Pursuant to the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act, the school is required to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks and the school is prohibited from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for or owes money for a meal or snack.

Fines for loss or damage to school property are waived for students who meet certain eligibility guidelines.

## FOOD SERVICES

**Students will no longer be able to eat free breakfast/lunch.** School breakfast and lunch will be served daily. Breakfast will begin at 7:45 a.m. and end at 8:15 a.m. Meals should be paid for in advanced either though Family Access or by check, made payable to CUSD #16. **All family members may be included on a single check, even if they attend different schools. Student lunch account information is posted on Family Access.** The cost of breakfast is \$1.65 (\$0.30 for reduced), the cost of lunch is \$2.25 (\$0.40 for reduced), and extra milk is \$0.50. All payments should be made to CUSD #16. All family members may be included on a single check, even if they attend different attendance centers. Each student will be given a lunch card which can be scanned by the computer. Classroom teachers will keep and distribute cards. Account statements are posted on family access. In addition, a courtesy call through School Reach will be made when an account reaches a negative balance of \$5.00. If a student's account balance exceeds -\$25.00, a letter will be sent home and the student will receive a cold cheese sandwich, fruit, vegetable and milk. The student's lunch account will be charged full price. If the balance reaches -\$50.00, the District Office will issue a certified letter advising of the account status. If the negative balance is not addressed by the parent or guardian within five business days the issue will be sent to Administrative Review for further determination. **Please keep your student's lunch account up to date!**

*It is preferred that students not bring soft drinks to school for lunch.*

## FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED ELIGIBILITY

Free and Reduced Household Eligibility applications are available to those families who meet the Federal guidelines. **The forms must be completed every school year and are available in the school offices, after July 1st.** The forms are to be filled out completely before returning them to the school office. Those students who qualify for free/reduced breakfast/lunch programs are required by Federal Law to get a full tray meal. Students that participate in the free/reduced programs who only take milk will be charged \$.50 for milk. If the balance remains negative, the parents will receive a letter in the mail from the cafeteria. Please keep your student's lunch account up to date! Free lunch and reduced lunches are available by application to those families who meet the federal guidelines. **The forms must be completed annually and are available in the school office.** The forms are to be filled out completely before returning them to the school office. If you have any questions regarding your child's lunch balances or any questions concerning the cafeteria, please contact Heather Pidcock in the New Berlin cafeteria at 488-6054 ext. 518 or via email at [hpidcock@pretzelpride.com](mailto:hpidcock@pretzelpride.com).

# CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORTATION

## PARENT TRANSPORTATION - “Walkers”

Students who arrive/depart by parent transportation are called “walkers.” Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:40 a.m. There will be no supervision prior to that time, and students will not be able to enter the building. Please use the driveway for the West Entrance (the main entrance with the awning) and drop off students on the sidewalk side of the vehicle. Students may enter the main doors.

**We are asking that parents remain in their vehicles during dismissal. We will bring students to your cars. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or unattended in the horseshoe drive from 7 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you are picking up your student(s) during dismissal and need to park, please park in the South parking lot and walk up to the front entrance.**

**During dismissal times, please refrain from crossing in the crosswalk directly in front of the school for safety issues of our students.**

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

All New Berlin Elementary students are eligible for transportation to and from school by bus. Please refer to Board Policy for additional information as needed.

Bus assignments will be sent via Family Access approximately one week prior to the first day of student attendance. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. Changes to existing transportation by bus will be accepted by completing the Transportation Information Tab in Family Access for your student. Please note that changes become effective the next school day. **Students will only be allowed to ride the bus assigned to him/her in the transportation section on Family Access.**

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the building principal or assistant principal.

## BUS CONDUCT

Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for violating school rules or for engaging in other gross disobedience or misconduct.

1. Violating any school rule or school district policy.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.
6. Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupant.

The school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district’s regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student’s privilege to ride a school bus.

A student who is suspended from riding the school bus and who does not have alternative transportation to school shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all missed work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the student’s parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternative transportation to school.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are also expected to observe the following:

1. Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
2. Arrive on time at the bus stop, and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
3. Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter a single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
4. Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
5. Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver. Tablets, iPods®, iPads®, smartphones, and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones. All devices should be put in their backpack when arriving at school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.
6. Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
7. Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers. Remain seated, keeping your hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
8. Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
9. Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take five giant steps away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
10. If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
11. Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

Video and audio cameras may be active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus. For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact: **Seth Hill, Transportation Director, (217)488-6054 ext. 235.**

## **PARKING**

The school has two main locations available for school visitor parking, located to the west of the school. Those dropping off and picking up children may do so in the horseshoe drive directly in front of the main entrance. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or unattended in the horseshoe drive from 7 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you are picking up your student(s) during dismissal and need to park, please park in the South parking lot. Parking is permitted in designated parking spots. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the bus lanes between 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on school days. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in fire lanes at ANY TIME. Bus lanes and fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.



# CHAPTER 5: HEALTH & SAFETY

## WELLNESS POLICY

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District #16 is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle. Furthermore, the Board recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn. The entire school environment shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence students' beliefs and habits and promote health and wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity.

## CHILD ABUSE/MANDATED REPORTERS

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

## NURSE'S OFFICE

1. All students should obtain permission from the regular classroom teacher for a visit to the nurse's office.
2. Special class teachers, like music, PE, library, etc., will not send students to the nurse except in the case of injury or emergency.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

It is necessary that there be current emergency information on file for each child. This information is of great value to the child in the event he or she becomes ill or is injured at school. This information is included on the CUSD #16 registration form. **This information must include emergency phone numbers.**

## ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Illness or injury at school may require that a student returns home. If this is the case, parents will be contacted by a school employee to explain the circumstances. The parents should then make timely arrangements for getting the student home. In case the parents cannot be reached, the school will only contact the person or persons listed on the student's registration form. Parents are to give this information to the school when they register. It is imperative that the student's emergency contact information be kept updated. If you know of any reason for a change, please notify the office.

If your child has a fever, please keep them home until they have been fever free (temperature of less than 100.4) for 24 hours without fever reducers. If they have been vomiting or have diarrhea, they should also remain at home until they have been retaining food or diarrhea free for over 24 hours. Please stress to your child the importance of good hand washing to prevent the spread of germs.

## Accidents

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, or at any event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the adult in charge. Accident reports are available in the office. The school will make every effort to inform the parents of any accident or illness occurring at school that may need care or observation at home; and, for safety reasons, no student will be sent home unless a responsible adult is contacted and arrangements made.

## Prevention of Anaphylaxis

While it is not possible for the School or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis

prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the District's policy may contact the Building Principal.

### **IMMUNIZATION, HEALTH, EYE AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS**

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a complete health examination and up-to-date immunizations prior to:

1. Entering pre-K
2. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
3. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
4. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning.

Failure to comply with the above requirements by the first day of school will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization, the student must present an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

### **EYE EXAMINATION**

All students entering kindergarten or an Illinois school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

### **DENTAL EXAMINATION**

All students entering kindergarten, second, sixth and ninth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

A student will be exempt from the above requirements on:

1. Medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
2. Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
3. Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
4. Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Cross Reference:

PRESS 7:100, *Health, Eye and, Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students*

## **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**

CUSD#16 students will be screened annually in the required grades as stated in Section 675.110 of the Title 77 Illinois Administrative Code. Screening is not a substitute for a complete examination by a doctor. Students are not required to undergo screening (vision or hearing) if a physician signs a report indicating that a complete examination, eye and vision/ear and audiological evaluation, has been administered within the previous 12 months. Parents or legal guardians of a student may object to screening for their children on religious grounds. If a religious objection is made, a written and signed statement from the parent or legal guardian detailing such objection must be presented to the local school authority.

## **Student Medication**

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "School Medication Authorization Form."

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

## **Self-Administration of Medication**

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector (e.g., EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler or medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

Students who are diabetic may possess and self-administer diabetic testing supplies and insulin if authorized by the student's diabetes care plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students with epilepsy may possess and self-administer supplies, equipment and medication, if authorized by the student's seizure action plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students may self-administer (but not possess on their person) other medications required under a qualified plan, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

The school district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine injectors, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine injector, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

## **Administration of Medical Cannabis**

In accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program, qualifying students are allowed to utilize medical cannabis infused products while at school and school events. Please contact the building principal for additional information. Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

## **Undesignated Medications**

The school may maintain the following undesignated prescription medications for emergency use: (1) Asthma medication; (2) Epinephrine injectors; (3) Opioid antagonists; and (4) Glucagon. No one, including without limitation, parents/guardians of students, should rely on the school or district for the availability of undesignated

medication. This procedure does not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medication(s).

### **Emergency Aid to Students**

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

### **MEDICATION PROCEDURES**

1. Medications are administered at school in accordance with the Recommended Practices and Procedures Manual from the Illinois State Board of Education. Administering medications at school is discouraged. However, some pupils with long-term chronic illness or disability may require medication during the day. Only in exceptional cases in which failure to take medication could jeopardize the child's health and/or education, should medication be administered at school. All prescription medications that are brought to school must be sent to the nurse's office upon arrival. This medication will be stored in a locked cabinet. It is recommended that medications be delivered to the school by the parent.
2. All medications given at school, prescription and over the counter medication and supplements (which include essential oils), must be prescribed by a licensed prescriber. The medication must be brought to school in the original most up-to-date container as dispensed by the pharmacy or in the original over the counter packaging. No medication in "baggies" will be accepted. The CUSD#16 "Authorization For Administration of Prescription Medication" form must be completed by both the parent and the physician. Any change in the dosage or administration must have written authorization from the prescriber.
3. The morning doses of medications should be given at home.
4. The school reserves the right to have the time of medication administration at school adjusted to meet the schedule and availability of the nurse.
5. Questions concerning medications will be referred to your physician.
6. Self-managed and emergency medications will be evaluated individually by the school nurse (i.e. asthma inhalers, epi-pens, and medication to manage diabetes). It is recommended that spare medications and supplies be kept in the nurse's office for emergency use.
7. All CUSD #16 Medication and Health Forms are available on the website, in either school office or in the nurse's office.
8. The school not only has the right, but also the responsibility to refuse to administer any medication at school if properly qualified individuals are not available.
9. The school will ascertain from the parent and/or the physician the necessity for administering medication during school hours and will retain the discretion to reject requests that do not meet the medication guidelines. Medication sent to school without proper documentation will NOT be given.
10. Noon medication is not routinely given at school on early dismissals @ 11:45.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
2. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
4. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

## HEAD LICE

The presence of head lice does require your immediate attention and action.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

## GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

The school provides social workers and school personnel who are available to counsel individuals or groups that have a particular need or simply want questions answered. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact any of these staff members with questions or concerns involving their children.

## SAFETY DRILL PROCEDURES

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student's parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to students.

# CHAPTER 6: STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

## GENERAL BUILDING CONDUCT

### PBIS

The goal of New Berlin Elementary is to create a learning environment that brings out the best in everyone - both academically and behaviorally. In order to accomplish this goal, New Berlin CUSD #16 has adopted the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) to provide support to students as they develop and strengthen the skill of self-regulation (controlling their thoughts and emotions) by taking responsibility for their behavior.

At New Berlin Elementary, all adults are expected to respond to inappropriate student behavior. The adult who initially handles the behavior incident should contact a parent or guardian with details for the behavior incident. This contact may be made in the form of an email, a phone call, a digital report from the Review 360 program, or through another classroom platform such as Class Dojo. Reported behavior typically falls under one of two categories: "Staff-Managed Incident" or "Office-Managed Incident." For a "Staff-Managed Incident" the adult who handled the behavior will follow through with all appropriate actions, including assigning a consequence as appropriate. For "Office-Managed Incident" the adult in charge will notify a parent/guardian of the details, and the Principal or Assistant Principal will follow up.

Consequences for misbehavior may include one or more of the following. **The continuum is not inclusive, and the principal may assign any appropriate consequence as supported by Board policy.** If necessary, safe physical intervention will be used. Laws regarding due process for students will be followed.

Bullying – repeated targeting of the same individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parent contact by principal</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Reflective Essay-research and reflect</li> <li>· Apology as appropriate</li> <li>· Conflict Resolution as appropriate</li> <li>· Alternate in-school setting or after school detention</li> </ul>
Repeated Rude or Unkind Behavior to different targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parent contact</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Apology as appropriate</li> <li>· In-school detention or after school detention</li> </ul>
Making False Accusations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parent contact</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Apology as appropriate</li> <li>· In-school detention or after school detention</li> </ul>
Chronic Inappropriate language (heard or verified by an adult)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Teacher and student call to parent (for previous offenses – document date/time)</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Follow-up contact to parent by principal</li> <li>· Apology as appropriate</li> <li>· In-school detention or after school detention</li> </ul>
Threatening/fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parent contact by principal</li> <li>· Alternate in-school setting</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Detention</li> <li>· Out of school suspension</li> </ul>
One-sided Physical Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parent contact by principal</li> <li>· Alternate in-school setting</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· In school detention</li> <li>· Out of school suspension</li> </ul>
Repeated Noncompliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Teacher and student call to parent (for previous offenses – document date/time)</li> <li>· Follow-up contact to parent by principal - possible in person meeting with student and parent</li> <li>· Apology as appropriate</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· In-school detention</li> <li>· After school detention</li> </ul>
Stealing/Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Teacher and student call parent (if classroom incident)</li> <li>· Principal and student call parent (if other school property)</li> <li>· Restitution or community service</li> </ul>

Repeated Disruptive Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Teacher and student call to parent (for previous offenses - document date/time)</li> <li>· Follow-up contact to parent by principal</li> <li>· Alternate in-school setting</li> <li>· Loss of privileges</li> <li>· Letter of apology</li> <li>· After school detention</li> </ul>
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**Any and all conduct that is prohibited by Board policy or the discipline code shall be addressed and appropriate consequences given.**

### Prohibited Student Conduct

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
  - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
  - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
  - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.



- h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a “weapon” or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
6. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating and sending, sharing, viewing, receiving or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device or cellular telephone, commonly known as “sexting.” Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student’s lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
7. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
8. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member’s request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
9. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
10. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
11. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
12. Engaging in teen dating violence.
13. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
14. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
15. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
16. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
17. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
18. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.

19. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.
20. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.

For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

### **When and Where Conduct Rules Apply**

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event;
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property; or
5. During periods of remote learning.

### **Disciplinary Measures**

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.

5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

### **Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important district and school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, order of protection status, status of being homeless, actual or potential marital or parental status, pregnancy, parenting status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not

owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

*Bullying* includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, nondiscrimination coordinator, district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Brandi Maxedon

[bmaxedon@pretzelpride.com](mailto:bmaxedon@pretzelpride.com)

Complaint Managers:

Brandi Maxedon

[bmaxedon@pretzelpride.com](mailto:bmaxedon@pretzelpride.com)

Shelley Haas

[shaas@pretzelpride.com](mailto:shaas@pretzelpride.com)

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies: 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited* and 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*.<sup>[1]</sup>

Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or guardian within 24-hours after the school's administration is made aware of a student's involvement in an alleged bullying incident. The term "bullying incident" includes individual instances of bullying, as well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be a result of bullying. Notification to a parent or guardian shall include, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.

### **Exhibit - Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Please be advised that your child engaged in behavior that, if repeated, could escalate into aggressive behavior, such as bullying. Illinois law requires school districts to notify the parent or guardian of a child who demonstrated behaviors that put him or her at risk for aggressive behavior.

The School Board policy on student behavior prohibits a student while at school or a school-related activity from: (1) engaging in any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that causes physical or psychological harm to someone else, and/or (2) urging other students to engage in such conduct.

This early notification is intended to help all of us work together to avoid repetition of the behavior.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Incident date \_\_\_\_\_

Incident location \_\_\_\_\_ Incident time \_\_\_\_\_

Reported by \_\_\_\_\_ Reporting date \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of the behavior:** *(Reporters, be specific. Describe what happened, what harm resulted, the child's explanation, and any known or suspected causes for what happened.)*

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**Follow-up conference:** I or someone from my office will telephone you to schedule an in-person meeting or telephone conference to discuss what occurred and ways to help your child, (1) be aware of how others were affected by the behavior, and (2) to understand boundaries and manage conflict.

**The following consequence(s) or intervention(s) is/are recommended:**

- Counseling or other support services for your child.
- Providing opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to reach a resolution.
- Enabling your child to make amends for the harm caused.
- Suggesting your child receive non-District affiliated services.

The District is committed to helping those involved learn from this experience.

**SCHOOL DRESS CODE/STUDENT APPEARANCE**

The attire and grooming of students is the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well-fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, coats, bandannas, sweat bands, sunglasses or slides may not be worn in the building during the school day. Sweatshirts are permitted as long as the hood remains off the head when inside the building.
- Hairstyles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted during physical education or recess.
- Clothing with holes, rips, and tears that is poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.
- The length of shorts or skirts must be appropriate for the school environment. Tops with bare midriffs, halters, or spaghetti straps should not be worn.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Athletic shoes are required for PE and recommended for recess. ***Flip-flops or slides are not to be worn.*** Slides or flip-flops will not be allowed at recess. Tennis shoes or closed toe shoes will be required to go outside.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building principal will make the final decision.
- Students whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff or others may be subject to discipline.

Students should avoid wearing expensive coats or clothing to school. Coats will be kept in a designated area and are not allowed to be worn in class. **New Berlin Elementary School is not responsible for missing or damaged items.**

**FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline.

Parents will be given advance notice in writing of all field trips. Permission slips for all field trip forms will be sent home with students to be signed as the trips are planned.

All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

Chaperones for field trips will be designated by classroom teachers based on supervision needs and available space. Chaperones may be asked to pay any individual fees related to the field trip. **Chaperones will need to drive themselves to and from a field trip destination, unless there is a safety concern.** Parents are not allowed to transport children to and/or from a field trip. School policy is that all students ride school transportation to and from the location(s) of the trip. An exception may be made for an emergency as deemed by the staff member in charge. Field trip chaperones are selected by the teacher and asked to supervise a small group of children for safety and behavior, under the direction of the classroom teacher. All volunteers are required by law to have a basic background check prior to volunteering directly with students. Teachers will explain rules and guidelines to chaperones prior to the field trip. Chaperones may not bring other children on the field trip.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Copies of all School District policies on student behavior are available online through the School District's website or in the school office. Additionally, see the appendix of this Handbook for the entire CUSD #16 Board of Education policy 7:190 on Student Behavior.

### **ACCESS TO STUDENT SOCIAL NETWORKING PASSWORDS & WEBSITES**

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Cross Reference: PRESS 7:140-E, Letter to Parents/Guardians Regarding the Right to Privacy in the School Setting

### **STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (6.80)**

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart phone, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), ipod®, ipad®, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device. Cell phones, smartwatches and other electronic devices are not allowed during the school day, except with the express permission of the building principal.



During the school day, time electronic devices must be kept powered-off and stored in a backpack: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Cell phones or other personal electronic devices may be used by the owner on the bus. Earbuds or headphones should be used. If the item creates a disturbance or becomes a behavior issue, the privilege may be revoked.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

If a cell phone or other electronic device is confiscated for improper use, a parent or guardian will need to make arrangements to come to school to pick up the item. The item will not be sent home with a sibling, friend, or other individual besides the parent or guardian. Improper use may include, but is not limited to, showing or sharing content that is sexually explicit, violent, or profane, or creating a disturbance with the electronic device.

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school.

Students in violation of this procedure are subject to the following consequences:<sup>2</sup>

1. First offense - The device will be confiscated by school personnel. A verbal warning will be assigned. The student will receive the device back at the end of the day in the school office.
2. Second offense - The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office.
3. Third offense - The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. Additionally, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the next 10 school days. If the student is found in possession of the device during this 10-day period, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.
4. Fourth and subsequent offense - The device will be confiscated. The student will be assigned a detention and will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

### **Isolated Time Out, Time Out and Physical Restraint**

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out,

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and physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

### **Weapons Prohibition**

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alikes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

### **Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited**

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

## **CHAPTER 7: INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY & PUBLICATIONS**

### **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE**

All use of the District's *electronic networks* shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or prohibited behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action.

## Terms and Conditions

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-provided Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networking infrastructure or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned and District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

**Acceptable Use** - Access to the District's electronic networks must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

**Privileges** - Use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

**Unacceptable Use** - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the electronic networks. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- a. Using the electronic networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other intellectual property rights or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- b. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by board policy;
- c. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
- d. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices (such as flash or thumb drives);
- e. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- f. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
- g. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- h. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
- i. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, such as a photograph or video;
- j. Using another user's account or password;
- k. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other person, unless requested by the system administrator;
- l. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- m. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
- n. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
- o. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
- p. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
- q. Misrepresenting the user's identity or the identity of others; and
- r. Using the electronic networks while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

**Network Etiquette** - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.

- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
- d. Recognize that the District's electronic networks are not private. People who operate District technology have access to all email and other data. Messages or other evidence relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- e. Do not use the networks in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the electronic networks to be private property.

**No Warranties** - The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

**Indemnification** - By using the District's electronic networks, the user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

**Security** - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify or suspect(s) a security problem on the network, the user must promptly notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep user account(s) and password(s) confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the networks.

**Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of malware, such as viruses and spyware.

**Telephone Charges** - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

**Copyright Web Publishing Rules** - Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the Internet or on District websites or file servers/cloud storage without explicit written permission.

- a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
- b. Students engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with email or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of *public domain* documents must be provided.
- c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- d. The *fair use* rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.

- e. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.

**Use of Email** - The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the District. The District provides email to aid students in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

- a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student to an email account is strictly prohibited.
- b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- c. Electronic messages transmitted via the District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet *domain*. This domain is a registered name and identifies the author as being with the District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.
- d. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet, such as spam or potential phishing emails, should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- e. Use of the District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

### **Internet Safety**

Internet access is limited to only those *acceptable uses* as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is supported if users will not engage in *unacceptable uses*, as detailed in these procedures, and otherwise follow these procedures.

Staff members will supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by the *Terms and Conditions* for Internet access contained in these procedures.

Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principals shall monitor student Internet access.

## **Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology**

### Vendors Under the Student Online Personal Protection Act

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as *operators*. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and

it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

"Artificial intelligence" or "AI" is intelligence demonstrated by computers, as opposed to human intelligence. "Intelligence" encompasses the ability to learn, reason, generalize, and infer meaning. Examples of AI technology include ChatGPT and other chatbots and large language models.

AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork without permission of a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

In certain situations, AI may be used as a learning tool or a study aid. Students who wish to use AI for legitimate educational purposes must have permission from a teacher or an administrator. Students may use AI as authorized in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to violate school rules or school district policies.

In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.

## **CHAPTER 8: SEARCH & SEIZURE**

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

#### School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

#### **Students**

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, knapsacks, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

#### **Seizure of Property**

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

## **CHAPTER 9: SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The School provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school. The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the end of the school year the student turns 22 years old for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication "Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities" may be obtained from the school district office.

To meet these requirements, CUSD #16 in cooperation with the Sangamon Area Special Education District (SASED), provides special education programs and services to all eligible children. Programs and services

are designed to meet the needs of students who have disabilities, which adversely affect their success in a preschool or regular classroom setting.

Once a student has progressed through all 3 Tiers of interventions with Rtl, a referral may be made by parents, teachers, or other concerned individuals. After a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, a committee of educational personnel determines the child's eligibility for programs and services.

When a child is eligible for special education, an Individual Education Program (IEP) is written which sets goals and recommends services specific to the child's unique needs. Parent/guardian consent is required prior to the evaluation and for special education placement. Parent participation is encouraged at every step. Special education referral forms may be obtained from your building principal. Also available upon request are the complete "Explanation of Procedural safeguards to Parents of Children with Disabilities" and ISBE Regulations governing special education.

The following is a brief description of special education programs and services:

- Supportive Resource Services (SRS)-limited instruction for less than 50% of the school day
- Supportive Resource Classroom (SRC)-intensive instruction for more than 50% of the school day.
- Early Childhood Program (ECE)-for children ages 3-5 years
- Structured Classroom - Self-contained special education classroom for children needs best served in a smaller sized class/setting.
- Hearing Handicapped Program-Resource and consultative services
- Speech/Language Program

Additional services provided through Sangamon Area Special Education District include: Child Find Services, School Social Work Services, School Psychological Services, Psychiatric Diagnostic Services, Vocational Education Services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Orientation and Mobility Training, and Audiologist Services.

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or 2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of this Illinois law, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment. For further information, please contact the building Principal.

## **DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Behavioral Interventions**

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The School Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.



### **Discipline of Special Education Students**

The District shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's *Special Education* rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

### **Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint**

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The School may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

### **ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### **REQUEST TO ACCESS CLASSROOM**

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child.

For further information, please contact the school principal.

### **Related Service Logs**

For a child with an individualized education program (IEP), the school district must create related service logs that record the type of related services administered under the child's IEP and the minutes of each type of related service that has been administered. The school will provide a child's parent/guardian a copy of the related service log at the annual review of the child's IEP and at any other time upon request.

## **CHAPTER 10: STUDENT RECORDS & PRIVACY**

### **Student Privacy Protections**

#### **Surveys**

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

#### **Surveys by Third Parties**

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Building Principal.

### **Surveys Requesting Personal Information**

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

The student's parent/guardian may: (1) inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or (2) refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

### **Instructional Material**

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

### **Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information**

No school official or staff member may market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term *personal information* means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent/guardian have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities.
6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's personal information to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards

A parent/guardian who desires to opt their child out of participation in activities provided herein or who desires a copy or access to a survey or any other material described herein may contact the Building Principal.

A complete copy of the District's Student and Family Privacy Rights policy may be obtained from the Superintendent's office or accessed on the District's website.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings (including electronic recordings made on school busses) that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes, though such electronic recordings may become a student record if the content is used for disciplinary or special education purposes regarding a particular student.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

### **1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days of the day the District receives a request for access.**

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. Within 10 business days, the building principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. In certain circumstances, the District may request an additional 5 business days in which to grant access. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost. These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

### **2. The right to have one or more scores received on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript.**

Parents/guardians or eligible students may have one or more scores on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript. The District will include scores on college entrance examinations upon the written request of the parent/guardian or eligible student stating the name of each

college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be included.

**3. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/ guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.**

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought. If the District decides not to amend the record, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

**4. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board. A school official may also include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or educational technology vendor); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or contractual obligation with the district. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records. Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; to another school district that overlaps attendance boundaries with the District, if the District has entered into an intergovernmental agreement that allows for sharing of student records and information with the other district, any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

**5. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.**

The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

**6. The right to prohibit the release of directory information.**

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

- Name

- Address
- Grade level
- Birth date and place

- Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers
  - Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs
  - Academic awards, degrees, and honors
  - Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
  - Major field of study
  - Period of attendance in school
- Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

**7. The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student’s information without your prior written consent.**

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students’ names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the student’s parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, submits a written request that the information not be released without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

**8. The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student’s temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.**

**9. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: U.S. Department of Education  
 Student Privacy Policy Office  
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington DC 20202-8520

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:  
 Family Policy Compliance Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington DC 20202-4605

**STUDENT BIOMETRIC INFORMATION**

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student’s parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characters, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan.

## **CHAPTER 11: PARENTAL RIGHT NOTIFICATIONS**

**TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their student’s teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status by through which State qualification and licensing criteria have been waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in a field of discipline of the teacher's certification; and
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child student and, if so, their qualifications.

### **TESTING TRANSPARENCY**

The State and District requires students to take certain standardized tests. A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by law or District policy, which shall include information on any applicable right you may have to opt your student out of such assessment.

### **ANNUAL REPORT CARD**

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website.

### **UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION**

The unsafe school choice option provided in State law permits students to transfer to another school within the District in certain situations. This transfer option is unavailable in this District because the District has only one school or attendance center. A student, who would otherwise have qualified for the choice option, or the student's parent/guardian, may request special accommodations from the building principal.

### **CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

Each spring classroom teachers and the principal will begin compiling information for class lists for the following school year. Parent requests for teachers will not be accepted. Parents of multiples (twins, triplets, etc.) may request that the siblings are in the same class. However, as with all classroom assignments, the final decision will be made by administration. New class lists will be posted in August approximately one week prior to the first day of student attendance. The student enrollment form must be completed and returned and residency must be verified before a child will be placed on a class list.

**Placement** - Students new to the district will be placed by the former public school's permanent records or by staff testing.

### **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that students in grades K-5 will take standardized tests throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

1. Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
2. Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
3. Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein;

4. Remind and emphasize for students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
5. Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
6. Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
7. Encourage students to relax on testing day.

## **TESTING**

A variety of testing is done at New Berlin Elementary School. Chapter and Unit tests are administered regularly in each academic subject. Benchmark screenings will be administered to K-5<sup>th</sup> graders at least 3 times per year in the areas of reading/language arts and math. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the IAR in the spring (see next section).

**Illinois Assessment of Readiness & Illinois Science Assessment** (IAR, previously called PARCC) is the state required series of tests given to students in grades 3 - 5. The PARCC will consist of one testing window each spring. Tests are given in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics at all of these grade levels. In addition, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). All testing will be completed electronically via a computer. The results will show how well our schools and districts are doing in meeting the adopted Illinois Learning Standards, also known as the Common Core State Standards, for learning. Individual student results of the IAR assessment will be reported to parents, and school results will appear on the district report card.

## **CURRICULUM & PROGRAMS**

In addition to the core curriculum of Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, NBE offers the following programs:

**Art** - Students in K-5 will have class each week. The focus is for them to learn and apply the elements and principles of art, the tools and processes used in creating art, and the history of art.

**Band** - Band instruction begins in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students may participate in at least one group lesson and a full band practice weekly. The bands may perform publicly.

**English Language Learners (ELL)** - When a student is identified on the Home Language Survey as having a primary language other than English spoken in the home, he/she will be screened for the appropriate ELL services. The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet. Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.

For questions related to this program or to express input in the school's English Learners program, contact Administration.

**Library** - Students in K - 5 have 30 minutes weekly with the library aide. Students receive instruction to support literacy and have the opportunity to check out books to enjoy at home.

**Music** - Students in K - 5 have general music each week.

**PE** - Students in 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade have 30 minutes of PE every day. Kindergarten students have 30 minutes of supervised gross-motor play time every day.

**Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** - The process of providing interventions to students who are at risk for academic and social-emotional/behavioral problems is called MTSS. The MTSS process or the RTI process is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to students who struggle with learning and behavior in the school setting at increasing levels of intensity. All students are given a reading fluency and comprehension screening, and a math screening in the fall, winter and spring. In addition, students are screened for risk-factors related to social-emotional behaviors. All students who do not meet the set expectations on the screenings, who are below standards on the benchmark assessments, or who are referred by their classroom teacher are given further testing to determine if they are in need of interventions. If interventions are needed, students will receive these interventions during the regular school day, and parents will be informed of the interventions being provided. Interventions may be computer-based or in person with one of the Reading, Math or Behavior specialists. The progress made by students at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. The information gained from an Rtl process is used by school personnel and parents to adapt instruction and to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

**Enrichment** - Enrichment is provided daily through differentiated instruction in the classroom. Additionally, students are provided with varied and enriching lessons through Art and Music.

**Social/Emotional Learning** - All students will participate in a core curriculum to address the Illinois Learning Standards for Social & Emotional Learning. A research-based curriculum will be implemented with the leadership of the school social worker. Lessons will be delivered in a collaborative manner with both the classroom teacher and the social worker providing follow up and ongoing support for the learning. All students will take part in a survey three times a year to evaluate social emotional progress. Parents will be notified when this survey is happening in the classrooms.

**Title I Schoolwide Program** - A schoolwide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I, Part A school. Its primary goal is to ensure that all students, particularly those who are low achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement relative to the state's academic achievement standards. All children in the schoolwide building may participate in activities funded, consistent with the school's comprehensive schoolwide program plan, and the school does not need to demonstrate that those activities are supplemental to ones that would otherwise be provided by the school. NBE's Title 1 Schoolwide Plan is approved by the Board of Education and on file in the elementary office.

Per the Title 1 application, all students will be served in the areas of Reading and Language Arts, Math, and Social Emotional Learning standards. Students identified through a data-based screening process in these areas will be eligible for additional instruction and support with the Reading, Math, and/or Behavior specialists through classroom push-in instruction, as well as pull-out, focused small group and/or individual instruction with the appropriate specialist(s).

The school will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA. Please refer to Board Policy 6:170 on Title 1 Programs for more information. The Title 1 teacher or the Principal can provide a copy on-request.

## **AWARDS**



Students will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the school year. At the end of the school year individual classes or grade levels may also recognize students for special events or year-long accomplishments. Those awards might include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance
- Spelling Bee-the top two spellers from each grade level (4-5) who attends the Sangamon County Spelling Bee
- Young Authors, Jump Rope for Heart, Book It
- Salty Dough Awards Program
- IPA Student Recognition Award/Breakfast - 5th Grade
- Honor Roll
- Academic Recognition

### **OTHER REWARDS/ACTIVITIES**

Students have many opportunities throughout the school year to make a difference at NBE and be rewarded. At the end of Red Ribbon Week there are school wide activities promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Students will also be rewarded for good behavior throughout the year with other incentives such as quarterly PBIS Celebrations and classroom-based good-behavior celebrations.

### **HOMELESS CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined by law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. Continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Assistance and support for homeless families can be provided by the District Homeless Liaison, Olga Lopez. She can be reached at 488-6054 ext. 419 or at [olopez@pretzelpride.com](mailto:olopez@pretzelpride.com)

### **SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION**

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or course in comprehensive sex education if his or her parent or guardian submits a written objection. The parent or guardian's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Nothing in this section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in biology. Parents or guardians may examine the instructional materials to be used in any district sex education class or course.

### **Sexual Abuse Avoidance Education**

We partner with the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center to provide instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse. Written notice will be given to parents prior to the instruction, along with an optional Letter of No Consent.

### **Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations**

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

## **Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse**

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following.

Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

## **Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors**

School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.

Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says "no"
- Engaging in touching that a student or student's parents/guardians have indicated is unwanted
- Trying to be a student's friend rather than filling an adult role in the student's life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students

- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student's life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student's sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student's access to other adults

### **Warning Signs of Boundary Violations**

School and District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student's health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to "hang out" or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the School.

Additional Resources include:

National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Sexual Abuse Chatline at [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org)

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

### **SEXUAL OFFENDER NOTIFICATION LAW**

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth. State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

- To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
- To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
- To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board. Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property - including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children. A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

## **SEX OFFENDER AND VIOLENT OFFENDER COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LAW**

State law requires that all school district provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth.

You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.

Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Faiths-Law-Resource-Guide.pdf>

You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.

Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry,

[www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/](http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/)

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders,

[www.isp.state.il.us/sor/faq.cfm](http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/faq.cfm)

## **SCHOOL VISITATION RIGHTS**

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

### **Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications**

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The student(s) must notify the Building Principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.
2. The material may be distributed at times and locations selected by the Building Principal, e.g., before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.
3. The Building Principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.
4. Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.

5. The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.
6. Students must not distribute material that:
  - a. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
  - b. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
  - c. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the students' maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbook;
  - d. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
  - e. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. However, material from outside sources or the citation to such sources may be allowed, as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students;<sup>3</sup> or
  - f. Incites students to violate any Board policy.
7. A student may use the School District's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint.
8. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7.

### **PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTICE**

The New Berlin School District has developed an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for controlling insects, rodents and weeds throughout the school district. The IPM focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. It may be necessary to use chemicals from time to time to control a pest problem.

Individuals may request prior notification of individual pesticide applications on school district property. Anyone who has requested to receive this notification will be notified through the district's automated calling system, at least two business days before a pesticide is applied for structural pests and four business days before a pesticide is applied to control lawn pests. If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided as soon as possible after the application. Exemptions to this notification include cleaners and pesticides formulated as bait. **If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications, contact the District Office at (217)488-2040, ext. 397.**

### **ASBESTOS POLICY**

This notice is to inform building occupants of the potential hazard and locations of asbestos containing materials. It has been determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the United States EPA that asbestos is a potential health hazard, and precautions should be taken to avoid disturbing any asbestos containing materials.

Materials containing asbestos have been found in New Berlin Jr/Sr High School. Any evidence of disturbance or change in condition will be documented in the management Plan as required by law.

Cleaning and maintenance personnel who recognize the danger of asbestos are taking special precautions during work to properly guard against disturbance of the asbestos containing materials. All asbestos containing materials are inspected and evaluated periodically and additional measures will be taken when needed to protect the health of building occupants.

Reliable Environmental Solutions, Inc.  
4211 Westgate Dr.  
Springfield, IL. 62711

**This handbook was compiled by the Principal & Assistant Principal of New Berlin Elementary School with the guidance of the IPA Model Student Handbook. Teachers and parents were invited to give input. The handbook is only a summary of board policies governing the district; School Board policies are available to the public at the district office. The last revision was completed June, 2023. It may be revised at any time during the school year.**

# NEW BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement and Pledge

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Student Acknowledgement and Pledge**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all the rules, responsibilities and expectations. In order to help keep my school safe, I pledge to adhere to all School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all the rules, responsibilities and expectations.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me or my child from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return the signed Acknowledgement**