

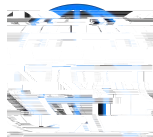
Belmont Middle School is committed to providing a safe environment that promotes learning, academic achievement, and the development of students' strengths and talents.

The vision of Belmont Middle School is to achieve academic excellence through rigorous instruction.

Learning is a responsibility that is shared among students, staff and parents.
Our school will provide a safe and caring environment where the enjoyment of learning is promoted.
Our school will establish and abide by clear and consistent expectations that promote individual responsibility as well as respect for self and others.

Dr. Josh Bromley
Cherri Johnston
Jada Criswell
Samantha Wallace
Lynn Conner
Carey Galbreath
Officer Reagan

Sierra. Jennings
Lindsay Weathers
Jennifer Jacobs
Meg Richards
Jessica Absher
Anna Taylor
Beth Hollars



Dear Parents and Students,

Our staff are excited about the upcoming year. At BMS, you will learn new concepts in all academic areas, explore related arts and CTE opportunities, make new friends, and create many unforgettable memories.

Our school will help you grow and develop academically and socially. Students will be assigned to a team of teachers. Students will have two encore classes each day. Encore classes, also known as Lynx, consist of health and physical education, band, chorus, Spanish, art, or CTE.

We encourage our parents to continue to be involved in your student's education throughout their middle school years. Please join the PTO and volunteer at BMS. Our staff values parental involvement and believes your involvement is essential to ensuring your student's success at BMS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call and make an appointment with your teachers, our assistant principal, or myself. We will be delighted to help assist you and your student. Let's make this the best school year yet!

Go Wildcats!

Dr. Joe Boy Principal

Students must be present in class a minimum of 1/2 of the day () to be counted present for the day and for the determination of perfect attendance. Students absent from school are responsible for arranging all make-up work with their teachers. *A note must be brought to the office, signed by the parent, or an email to , to explain the absence, within 2 days of the absence, for the absence to be excused.* We recognize county approved reasons for absences as an excused absence from school (illness, court, death in family with documentation). Students are responsible for asking their teachers for make-up work. Please understand that an absence marked “excused” makes the student ineligible to receive “perfect attendance.”

Arrangements to make up work must be made within of the absence. Parents requesting homework assignments for students who are absent must give a 24-hour notice to the office prior to picking up these assignments. Students are required to be in attendance at least 94% of each school year (only 12 absences allowed per year) to be eligible to pass to the next grade level.

Our School Social Worker, Meg Richards, to mail letters to students when they reach 3, 6, and 10 unexcused absences. An additional letter is mailed if a student has excessive tardies. *Please contact her at mrichards@gaston.k12.nc.us for questions, concerns or if assistance is needed.*

The following summary provides key information on ten significant statements from our Gaston County Schools’ Board of Education policy on student attendance. To view the full policy, please visit our GCS website at www.gaston.k12.nc.us

School Day Attendance:

The school year is 180 days. Students must be in attendance at least 168 days. Only 12 absences, including excused and unexcused absences, are permitted each school year.

Students are not to arrive at school prior to 7:45 am. . All students are subject to metal detection as they enter. Students will report to the gym until 8:20 am OR students who choose to eat breakfast will go directly to the cafeteria upon entry to school. Students will eat in the cafeteria then wait to be dismissed to class. Breakfast is served until 8:20 am each day.

Students who are riding a bus will be dismissed at 3:30 pm. Students will be called by bus number to report to the bus parking loading area. We share buses with our feeder area so our buses arrive after the elementary routes are finished. While waiting for their bus to arrive, students will be dismissed to the cafeteria until called to report to the bus loading area. Students will follow the established rules/procedures while waiting for their bus. The rules/procedures will be reviewed with students at the beginning of the school year. While on the bus, students are to remain seated in their seats at all times when the bus is in motion. There is to be no horseplay, unnecessary movement/loud noises or tampering with the bus. No objects shall be thrown within or outside the bus.

Students are to ride only the bus they are assigned and to get off at their assigned stop. Permission for a student to ride a bus other than the assigned bus is not allowed. Students who violate the bus rules when riding the bus may be suspended from riding the bus both to and from school. If you need to add your child to the bus after school has started, please note that we have a 24 hour rule for adding bus riders. Please become familiar with your child's bus number and driver's name as it will be helpful should you need to contact the school about a bus matter.



Any accident on or off of the school grounds at a school-sponsored event must be reported immediately to a BMS staff member. Initial claims for insurance within thirty (30) days of the accident. Forms may be picked up in the main office.

All medicine that can be given outside of school hours without adversely affecting the health of the student should be given at home. When the student must take medication at school, the following requirements apply:

- Medication must be in the original container or pharmacy bottle and clearly labeled.
- Medication can be given only after the parent has presented the GCS Medication Authorization form signed by the physician and parent/guardian..
- All medications are required to have an authorization form. This includes short-term, long-term, and over-the-counter medications. An authorization form for the physician may be picked up in the office.
- Parents deliver any medication to the school. Students bring medication to school. Parents should also pick up any medication remaining after treatment is completed. All medication will be discarded seven (7) days after the last administration.
- Any medication, whether over-the-counter or prescription, must be brought to the office by a parent or guardian. Caffeine pills, sleeping pills, etc. are not allowed.

All students' personal property must be labeled with the student's name. Students are encouraged to secure all

Students may bring lunch from home or purchase one in the cafeteria.

Students are

expected to follow all school rules and the cafeteria expectations.

Paid Student:	\$1.40	Paid Student:	\$3.00
Reduced Student:	\$0.00	Reduced Student:	\$0.40
Adult:	\$2.00	Adult:	\$4.00

**Middle School students may not exceed \$6.00 in cafeteria meal charges.*

**A la carte items may be available to purchase. These items will be charged to meal accounts.*

Paper applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, the enrollment department at the Central Office, and at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell.

Online applications are available on the Gaston County Schools website. Links can be found on the School Nutrition department tab.

Only _____ is required

Applications should be completed online or returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center – 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC 28098

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits, and should be included on the household application (not a separate application).

Students designated as homeless by Gaston County Schools' homeless liaison are categorically eligible for free meals. No application is required, but documentation must be received from the homeless liaison before benefits begin.

All Students with unique meal time needs must have a new Diet Order form completed. Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, the School Nurse, the School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on School Nutrition page on Gaston County School website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us)

The Diet Order form must be signed by a recognized medical authority and returned to the school nurse to submit electronically to the School Nutrition Dietitian mhcameron@gaston.k12.nc.us.

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that your student's "Diet Order" is up to date each year with the Cafeteria Manager. Diet Orders will remain in effect perpetually until School Nutrition receives written or verbal authorization from a recognized

Belmont Middle School follows the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct is reviewed with all students at the start of the school. All students will complete a Code of Conduct activity in their Canvas. If a student comes to BMS after the start of the year, the Code of Conduct is reviewed with the student at that time. Students sign that they have reviewed the Code of Conduct once this has taken place. The administration reserves the right to handle discipline issues according to GCS policy including consequences such as Redirect and in/out of school suspension. A parent/guardian will be notified by the teacher when assigning consequences from the classroom level (including redirect offenses), and the administration will make contact when assigning consequences from the office.

Belmont Middle School is continuing to implement a school-wide expectations for students:

this school year. Below is our



The purpose of the homework is to enhance student achievement by helping students develop good work habits and become self-directed, independent learners. Homework may be assigned to be completed outside the student's day for practice and help in mastering specific skills that have been presented in class.

Belmont Middle School's athletic program is designed to enable students to have a well-rounded middle school experience and to participate in various sports. The goal of the athletic program is to provide opportunities for the development of emotional maturity, discipline, a strong work ethic, respect for the game and all the people involved, basic skills, and enjoyment for the students who choose to participate in inter-school athletics. We encourage our student athletes to play hard, play fair with a desire to win, and respect for their fellow teammates and opponents.

The athletic programs of Belmont Middle School are conducted under the guidelines of Gaston County Schools and the following rules that govern Belmont Athletics. Once a student-athlete has voluntarily given up their position on a team, then he/she will not be eligible to try out for another sport until the former team has completed its season. For example: a student cannot leave the soccer team and join the wrestling team until the soccer season has completed its season. *By state guidelines*, students in grades 6 and above may participate in interscholastic athletic competition, however, . In order to qualify for middle school participation, a student-athlete must meet the following requirements:

The student must meet the residence criteria of G.G. 115-366(a) as it appears in the public school laws of North Carolina. or, if over the age requirements, the school at which the student would be assigned at the next higher grade level.

The principal must have evidence of the legal birth date of the student. A student shall not participate on a middle school team if he/she becomes of said school year.

In order to be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletic contests, a player must receive a medical examination once every 395 days by a A copy of this sports physical must be on file at the school.

A student must pass 3 of 4 academic subjects, including math and language arts. Students should also maintain a passing average in the combined yearly averages of the elective courses. A passing average in the 4th academic class can be substituted for one yearly elective average. To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must pass 3 of 4 core courses from m

Students are invited to be members of the National Junior Beta Club who have attained a 90% or above average in all subjects,

Belmont Middle School welcomes you and your family to our learning community! The teachers, staff, and administration at BMS will work diligently to ensure an optimum education for all students. In order to facilitate this, it is important that all students, with a parent/guardian, read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.

After reading the Belmont Middle School Parent-Student Handbook AND the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct together, BMS asks that both the student and their parent/guardian sign the acknowledgement below and return this form to your student's Advisory teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to a rewarding and successful year!