



2021-2022

Student Handbook

Student/Parent Handbook

Belding High School
Virtual Academy

BOARD OF EDUCATION

| | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Mike Baker | Debra Bach | Shannon Hummel |
| Terry Boni | Doug Lamborne | Candy Straubel-Sower |
| | Kate Feurstein | |

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent: Brent Noskey

Principal: Michael Ostrander

TEACHERS/SUPPORT STAFF

Teacher: Michelle Anderson
Phone: 616-794-4924

Teacher: Tyler Nadeau
Phone: 616-794-4919

Paraprofessional: Jeannine Leary
Phone: 616-794-4947

COUNSELOR

Counselor: Jodi Edwards

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Belding High School Virtual Academy

Belding High School
850 Hall St.
Belding, MI 48809
616-794-4900

Dear Students:

The faculty and staff at Belding High School would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Virtual Academy and the new school year. This student handbook provides important information that will assist in making your experiences here rewarding and successful.

The Virtual Academy combines the convenience and flexibility of online learning with the support of local, certified teachers. We provide challenging academic curriculum, many extra-curricular opportunities, and the potential to earn college credit and participate in career/technical training. Our goal is to open doors for students, whether they be college or job-readiness. It is our hope that this will be a very positive year for you. We will do anything within our power to help you have a successful and enriching experience.

Thank you,

Michael Ostrander
Principal Belding High School

Go Black Knights!!!

ENROLLMENT

- Students enrolled through BHS Virtual Academy will take the equivalent course caseload of that of a traditional student at BHS. Students will take courses in a logical sequence, with a combination of core and elective courses.
- Students will follow the same course credits and required courses outlined for all students at BHS for their respective graduating class.
- Students are allowed to enroll in the Virtual Academy during any marking period of a school year. Once enrolled, the student is committed to taking virtual courses for the entirety of the respective marking period.

GRADING

- Follow the BHS Handbook.
- Students who complete a course (100% completion) with 50-59% will earn a FCR.
 - FCR: F for the course, but credit will be awarded.
- Students who complete a course (100% completion) with a 60% or above will earn the letter grade associated with the percentage.
- Attendance requirements must be met. (outlined below)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

To benefit from the primary purpose of the school experience, it is essential that each student maintain regular attendance. Attendance in an online program looks much different than a traditional school. Rather than counting hours, attendance in the Virtual Academy is measured by productivity. Over the school year, students must complete 100% of each assigned course as well as respond to and/or participate in weekly communication.

- Attendance at the Virtual Academy for off-site students is measured as such:
 - Two-way communication with the mentor teacher
 - This can be accomplished in the following ways:
 - Completing the required Google Form each week
 - Responding to emails, phone calls, text messages
 - Meeting with your teacher in person or on an online platform
- **Virtual students must have two-way contact with the mentor teacher two times per week.**
- Students must meet the required two-way communication 80% of each respective marking period in order to earn a grade for their course. Failure to meet this requirement, will automatically result in an FCR for each course.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Virtual classes may be completed at any time that is convenient for the student, however, their teacher is available to them during the traditional school days hours (7:25AM-2:30PM). Students may contact their teacher outside of those hours but should expect a response the next school day if the contact was made after school hours.

STUDENT & PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

The student and parent must provide the Belding High School Virtual Academy with a telephone number and email address where they may be contacted (home, relative, neighbor, friend). If the number changes, the student agrees to notify school staff immediately.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

Academic Integrity Statement:

Whether in a traditional classroom or in an online environment, academic integrity is a crucial cornerstone to any learning environment. Protecting academic integrity in an online environment presents unique challenges. Those challenges are addressed in the following ways.

- ***Academic Cheating/Plagiarism***
 - Plagiarism includes, but not limited to, the use, whether by paraphrase, copy/paste, or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person, including resources from the Internet, without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
 - The acts of cheating, plagiarism, or forgery in connection with academic endeavor or school processes or procedures are detrimental to the educational process and one's character. Whenever a student is guilty of this misconduct, the following discipline will take place. Individual teachers may also apply their own penalties for cheating/plagiarism.

In the event that plagiarism/cheating is detected: Work will be graded as a "0", assignment is resent. If this continues, your parent(s) will be contacted, you could receive an F for the course and could be removed from the opportunity to take online courses at BHS Virtual Academy.

EXPECTED & APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION

All student coursework is monitored by the teacher via Edgenuity. Online learning is a unique classroom whereby all students are working independently.

It is an EXPECTATION that students check their Belding student email DAILY. Students should have their email open in one tab and Edgenuity open in a second tab every day.

Students will communicate their course needs by giving their teacher the following information via email/phone call/text using appropriate communication etiquette:

- Student name & Course name
- Unit lesson name
- And Request: (I.e. "Please unlock the quiz")

REPEATING COURSES

- Students who are in need of additional credit(s) for graduation may participate in online credit recovery courses.
- When the course is completed, a student will receive a CR only for the course. This will not replace the grade (F) on the transcript previously received.

Contact Ms. Anderson or Mr. Nadeau with questions regarding credit recovery courses.

TESTING OUT OF COURSES

Belding High School Virtual Academy will grant credit to students who complete an entire course as a TESTING OUT option and earn a 79.5% or higher overall grade. Credits will be awarded and not included in G.P.A.

Credit will count toward fulfillment of subject area and course sequence requirements. Once credit has been earned by "testing out," students may not subsequently receive credit for a sequentially lower course in the same subject area. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Extra-Curricular Athletic Eligibility

BHS Virtual Academy students are allowed the opportunity to participate in all extra-curricular activities afforded to all traditional BHS students.

All BHS Virtual Academy students will be required to maintain all eligibility requirements outlined in the BHS Athletic Handbook.