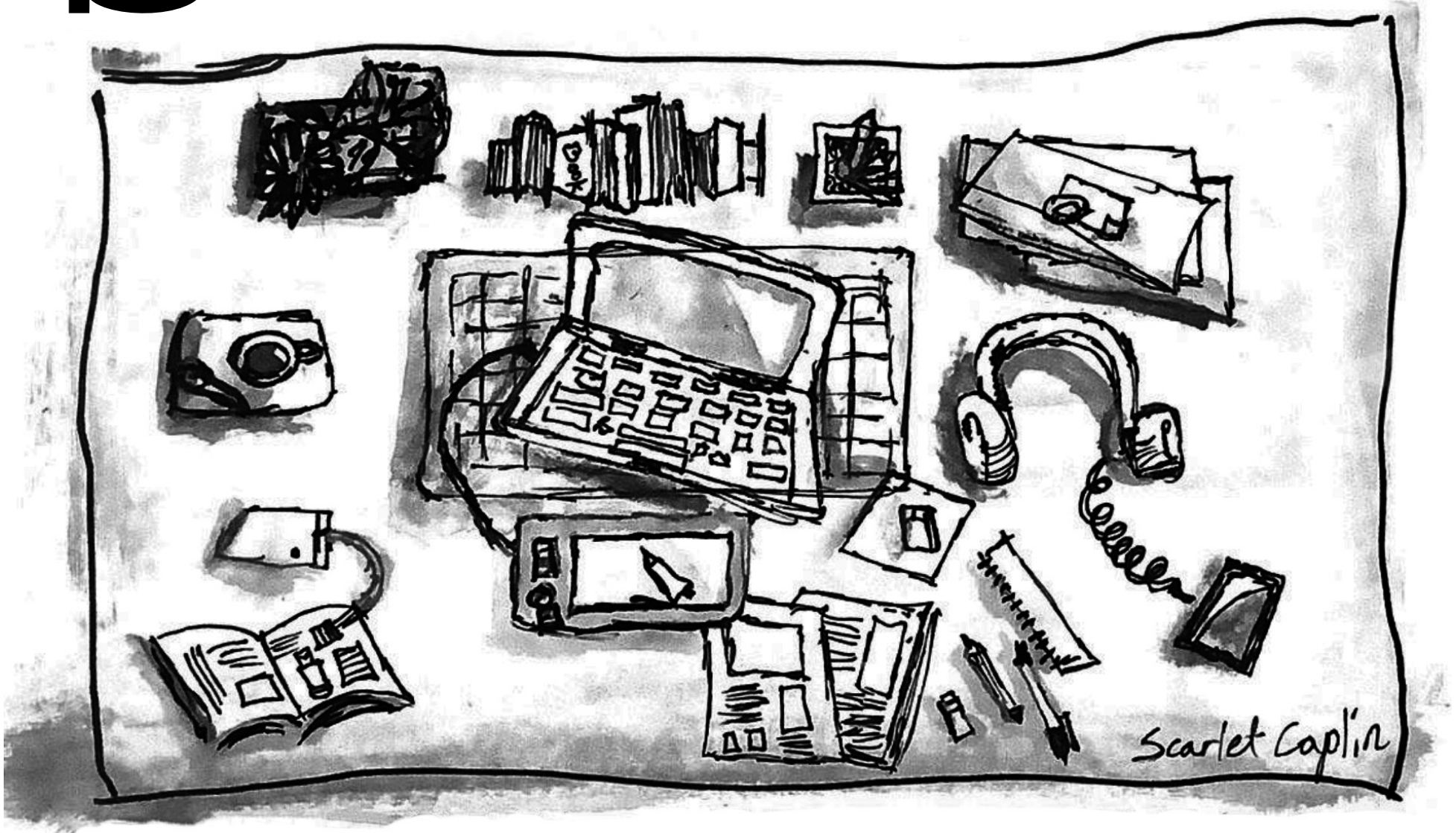




BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR & PARENT GUIDE 2023-2024



ONE VOICE, ONE MESSAGE

BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Brookside School • 1260 Meadowbrook Road • N. Merrick • NY 11566

www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

Each of the four component elementary Boards of Education of Bellmore, North Bellmore, Merrick and North Merrick select two members to serve on the Central High School District Board of Education. The eight members of the Central High School District Board serve without pay.

Between September and June, regular meetings of the CHSD Board of Education are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Central Administration Office, Brookside School, 1260 Meadowbrook Road, in North Merrick. The annual reorganization meeting is held in July. The public is invited to attend these Board of Education meetings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Janet Goller, President

Nancy Kaplan, Ed.D., Vice President

Marion Blane Melissa Cmar-Grote

Edward Corona Nina Lanci

Gina Piskin Megan C. Ryan, Esq.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools..... Michael Harrington

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration ... Eric Gómez

Assistant Superintendent for Business.....Mikaela Coni

Assistant Superintendent for

Curriculum and Instructional Services Scott Bersin

Director of Instructional and Technology Services Joseph Innaco

Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services.... Emily Paluseo

Assistant Director of Special Education..... Maura Kempton

Director of Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education.... Cheryl Fontana

Director of Physical Education, Athletics, Driver Education

and Health Eric Caballero

Director of Cafeteria Services..... Joanne Finelli

Director of School Facilities and Operations, Health and Safety,

and Security Jon Simpkins

Transportation Supervisor Thomas Volpe

Assistant Principal for District Wide Services..... Ken Zisel

August 29	7th and 9th Grade Orientation
August 30-31	Superintendent's Conference Days
September 1-4	Labor Day Weekend
September 5.....	First Day of School
September 16-17	Rosh Hashanah (Sat./Sun.)
September 25.....	Yom Kippur
October 9	Columbus Day
November 10	Veterans' Day
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess
December 25 -January 1	Holiday Recess
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19.....	Presidents' Day
February 19-23	Winter Recess
March 28-April 1	Easter Recess
April 10	Eid al Fitr
April 22-30.....	Spring Recess
May 27	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 25.....	Last Day of School - Students
June 26.....	Last Day of School - Teachers

DISTRICT TELEPHONE

The administrative office phone number is 516-992-1000. Offices in the individual school buildings can be dialed directly using the following numbers:

Grand Avenue Middle School Main Office	516-992-1100
Grand Avenue Middle School Attendance Office	516-992-1109
Merrick Avenue Middle School Main Office	516-992-1200
Merrick Avenue Middle School Attendance Office	516-992-1227
Calhoun High School Main Office	516-992-1300
Calhoun High School Attendance Office	516-992-1312
Kennedy High School Main Office	516-992-1400
Kennedy High School Attendance Office	516-992-1409
Mephram High School Main Office	516-992-1500
Mephram High School Attendance Office	516-992-1515

Calendar cover design by Scarlet Caplin, Grade 10

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Grand Avenue Middle School, 2301 Grand Ave., Bellmore 11710
PrincipalCarlo Conte
Assistant Principals.....James Mollica
Christopher Riccardi

Merrick Avenue Middle School, 1870 Merrick Ave., Merrick 11566
Principal Katelyn Dunn
Assistant Principals Richard Aceste
Kate Caporusso

S.H. Calhoun High School, 1786 State St., Merrick 11566
PrincipalNicole Hollings
Assistant Principals.....Danielle Amato
Michael Hughes
Mark Melkonian

J.F. Kennedy High School, 3000 South Bellmore Ave., Bellmore 11710
PrincipalGerard Owenburg
Assistant Principals..... Jeffrey Cronk
Daniel Jantzen
Vincent Pisano

W.C. Mephram High School, 2401 Camp Ave., Bellmore 11710
PrincipalAnthony DeMartinis
Assistant Principals..... Dr. Jennifer Carne
Andrew Del Rosario
Christopher Safina

Brookside Educational Center (MAP, Twilight Program, PREP Academy, ETC)
1260 Meadowbrook Rd., N. Merrick 11566
PrincipalEric Arlin

TITLE IX

Coordinator – Eric Gómez 516-992-1010
Records Access Officer – Eric Gómez..... 516-992-1010
Records Retention Officer – Mikaela Coni 516-992-1020
Section 504 Officer – Eric Arlin.....516-992-1050

SNOW MAKEUP DAY

The Board of Education has identified one possible snow makeup day. This day will be May 24. For early dismissal procedure for inclement weather, see page 20.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If a student’s address is changed, even if within the District, the school’s attendance and/or guidance office is to be notified immediately.

SECTION VIII SPORTS SEASONS 2023-2024

HIGH SCHOOL

Fall:

B Badminton – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Thursday, October 26, 2023
Cheerleading – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Saturday, October 28, 2023 (tentative)
Cross-Country – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Saturday, November 11, 2023
Football – Monday, August 21, 2023 – Sunday, November 26, 2023
B/G Soccer – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Sunday, November 12, 2023
G Swimming/Diving – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Saturday, November 18, 2023
G Tennis – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Friday, November 3, 2023
B Volleyball – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Saturday, November 18, 2023
G Volleyball – Monday, August 28, 2023 – Sunday, November 19, 2023

Winter:

B/G Basketball – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Sunday, March 17, 2024
B/G Bowling – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Sunday, March 10, 2024
Cheerleading – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Saturday, March 2, 2024
Rifle – Monday, November 13, 2023 – TBA
B Swimming/Diving – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Saturday, March 2, 2024
B/G Winter Track – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Saturday, March 2, 2024
Wrestling – Monday, November 13, 2023 – Saturday, February 24, 2024

Spring:

G Badminton – Monday, March 18, 2024 – Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Baseball – Monday, March 11, 2024 – Saturday, June 8, 2024
B Golf – Monday, March 18, 2024 – Monday, June 3, 2024
G Golf – Monday, March 18, 2024 – Monday, June 3, 2024
B/G Lacrosse – Monday, March 11, 2024 – Saturday, June 8, 2024
Softball – Monday, March 11, 2024 – Saturday, June 8, 2024
B Tennis – Monday, March 18, 2024 – Friday, June 7, 2024
B/G Track – Monday, March 11, 2024 – Saturday, June 8, 2024

MODIFIED (MIDDLE SCHOOL) PROGRAM

Fall: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 – Saturday, November 4, 2023
Winter I: Monday, November 6, 2023 – Saturday, January 13, 2024
Winter II: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Saturday, March 23, 2024
Spring: Monday, March 25, 2024 – Saturday, June 8, 2024

SCHOOL HOURS

	Buses Pick Up	Start	Close	Buses Depart
Calhoun/Mephram/Kennedy	6:50	7:30	2:15	2:20-2:25
Merrick Avenue/Grand Avenue	7:25	7:56	2:41	2:46-2:56

VISITORS

All visitors must obtain permission from the main office to be in a school building. State law forbids unauthorized visitors within a school building.

2023-2024 DAYS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Feast of Assumption.....	August 15, 2023
Rosh Hashanah	September 15, 16 and 17, 2023
Elevation of the Cross.....	September 27, 2023
Yom Kippur.....	September 24-25, 2023
First 2 Days of Sukkot.....	September 29/30, 2023
Last 2 Days of Sukkot.....	October 5/6, 2023
Feast of St. Demetrios.....	October 26, 2023
All Saints' Day.....	November 1, 2023
Immaculate Conception.....	December 8, 2023
Christmas.....	December 25, 2023
Epiphany.....	January 6, 2024
Ash Wednesday.....	February 14, 2024
Purim.....	March 23, 2024
Al-Isrá wal-Mi Raj.....	February 8, 2024
Holy Thursday.....	March 28, 2024
Good Friday.....	March 29, 2024
Easter.....	March 31, 2024
Eid al Fitr.....	April 10, 2024
First 2 Days of Passover.....	April 22/23, 2024
Last 2 Days of Passover.....	April 29/30, 2024
Orthodox Good Friday.....	May 3, 2024
Orthodox Easter.....	May 5, 2024
Ascension Day.....	May 9, 2024
Pentecost.....	May 19, 2024
Shavuot.....	June 11, 2024
Orthodox Ascension Day.....	June 13, 2024
Eid al-Adha.....	June 17, 2024
Orthodox Pentecost.....	June 23, 2024

EVENTS ARE LISTED AS ACCURATELY AS KNOWN WHEN THIS CALENDAR GOES TO PRESS. CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL EVENTS ARE PUBLICIZED THROUGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAILINGS AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

SAT I & II TEST DATES

Testing Date	Registration Deadline
August 26, 2023	July 28, 2023
October 7, 2023.....	September 8, 2023
November 4, 2023.....	October 6, 2023
December 2, 2023.....	November 3, 2023
March 9, 2024.....	February 23, 2024
May 4, 2024.....	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024.....	May 17, 2024

ACT TEST DATES

Testing Date	Registration Deadline
September 9, 2023.....	August 4, 2023
October 28, 2023.....	September 22, 2023
December 9, 2023.....	November 3, 2023
February 10, 2024.....	January 5, 2024
April 13, 2024.....	March 8, 2024
June 8, 2024.....	May 3, 2024

DAYS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE (DISTRICT POLICY #5107)

Out of respect for the many religions represented in our community, no student shall be penalized in any way for missing school or exams because of religious observance.

- a. Teachers are to make assignments available to students when requested by the student prior to or immediately after the day or days of specific religious obligation.
- b. Teachers will be available for extra help during the extra help period upon the return of the student.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If it is doubtful that schools will open because of weather conditions, tune in to any of the following radio stations for information.

WHLI (1100 AM) WBAB (102.3 FM) WBLI (106.1 FM)

WALK (97.5 FM) K-JOY (98.3 FM) B103 (103.1)

CABLE NEWS - CHANNEL 12, FIOS - CHANNEL 1; TV Stations CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX or check the website at www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us.

03 SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

AUGUST

DATES:

2nd – Board of Education Meeting 7 pm
 8th – Driver Ed Fall 2023 Registration
 10 am Online
https://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/schools/drivers_education

28th – Senior Parking Meeting @ Kennedy
 6:45 pm
 29th – 7th and 9th Grade Orientation
 30th – Superintendent’s Conference Day

30th – Senior Parking Meeting @ Calhoun
 6:45 pm
 31st – Superintendent’s Conference Day

AUGUST 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		OCTOBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				Schools Closed	
						1	2
3	LABOR DAY Schools Closed	4	First Day of School Students and Teachers	5	Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	6	7
10	PTA Council 7:30 pm	11	Senior Parking Meeting @ Mepham 6:45 pm Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	12		13	Middle School PTSA 7 pm
17	Rosh Hashanah	18	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	19	Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm	20	High School Back to School Night 7 pm
24	Yom Kippur	25	Yom Kippur Schools Closed	26		27	Middle School Back to School Night 7 pm
						28	Calhoun Pep Rally & Homecoming Dance
						29	Transcript Request due to Registrar for October 15th Application Kennedy Pep Rally
						30	Calhoun Coltfest & Homecoming

DISTRICT HISTORY

The District was officially established November 1, 1934, by the State Commissioner of Education. Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District was known as C.H.S.D. 3 until May 1973, when it officially adopted the name reflecting its geographic location. This change was required of all districts by the State Education Department.

One hundred fifty freshman students entering high school in September 1935 studied with five faculty members in a renovated six-room schoolhouse on Bedford Avenue. Mr. Sanford H. Calhoun served as principal. Wellington C. Mepham High School opened in 1937 with an enrollment of 741 students.

Jerusalem Avenue Junior High School and Merrick Avenue Junior High School were opened in 1954. In 1958, the Sanford H. Calhoun High School and the Grand Avenue Junior High School opened. In 1963, an addition was placed on the Mepham High School. Brookside Junior High School opened in September 1964, and John F. Kennedy High School opened in September 1966. There were then over 10,900 students in the district. There are now approximately 5,200 students in the district. Brookside and Jerusalem Avenue have been closed because of declining enrollment.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (EXCERPTED)

This policy is intended to encourage full attendance by all students; limit the level of absences, tardiness, and early departures (referred to in this policy as “ATEDs”); maintain an adequate attendance record-keeping system; identify patterns of student ATEDs; and develop effective intervention strategies to improve school attendance.

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused ATEDs are defined as absences, tardiness and early departures from class or school because of personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads or weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations or such other reasons as may be approved by the appropriate building administrator.

All other ATEDs are considered unexcused absences.

All ATEDs must be accounted for and absences made up (when permitted by this policy) if full credit is to be earned for a marking period. It is the parent’s responsibility to notify the school office within 24 hours of the ATED and to provide a written excuse upon the student’s return to school.

GENERAL PROCEDURES/DATA COLLECTION

- Parents should phone the school attendance office between the hours of 7:15 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. whenever a student is absent from school.
- Attendance will be taken during each class period.
- At the conclusion of each class period or school day, all attendance information shall be compiled and provided to the designated staff member(s) responsible for attendance.

- The nature of an ATED shall be coded on a student’s record.
- Student ATED data shall be available and should be reviewed by the designated school personnel in an expeditious manner.
- When additional information is received that requires corrections to be made to a student’s attendance records, such correction will be made immediately. Notice of such a change will be sent to appropriate school personnel subject to applicable confidentiality rules.
- Attendance data will be analyzed periodically to identify patterns or trends in student absences.
- When consistent with other school practices, teachers and staff shall refer students in the hallways who are absent from a class period without excuse to the principal or the principal’s designee. Continuous monitoring will be conducted to identify students who are absent, tardy or who leave class or school early.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

The district will design and implement systems to acknowledge a student’s efforts to maintain or improve school attendance. For example, students with perfect attendance for a given year will receive a letter of recognition from the Superintendent of Schools. At the classroom level, teachers are encouraged to assign special responsibilities (distribute and collect materials, lead groups, assist the teacher, etc.) to students who may need extra motivation to come to school.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

Unexcused ATEDs will result in disciplinary action consistent with the district’s Code of Conduct. Those penalties may include, for example, detention or in-school suspension. Students may also be denied the privilege of participating in or attending extracurricular events.

In addition, designated staff member(s) will contact the student’s parents and the student’s guidance counselor. Such staff member(s) shall remind parents of the attendance policy, explain the ramifications of unexcused ATEDs, stress the importance of class attendance and discuss appropriate intervention strategies to correct the situation.

ATTENDANCE GRADE POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes an important relationship between class attendance and student performance. Consequently, each marking period a student’s grade will be based on classroom participation as well as the student’s performance on homework, tests, papers, projects, etc.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. All students with an excused ATED are expected, upon their return, to consult with their teachers regarding missed work. Consistent with the importance of classroom participation, unexcused and unmade-up ATEDs will affect a student’s class participation grade for the marking period.

In grades 9-12, a student who has more than five (5) absences during

03 OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	District College Fair & Financial Aid Night 6:30 pm @ Mepham Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	4	5	Emergency Preparedness Drill Early Dismissal High Schools 1:30 pm Middle Schools 2:15 pm
8	COLUMBUS DAY Schools Closed	Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	10	Fall Guidance Program 9th grade 7 pm	12	On Tour Evening of Improv 7:30 pm
15	PTA Council 7:30 pm	High School World Language Honor Society Induction Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm	17	Transcript Request Due to Registrar for November 1 Application	19	20
22	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm	High School Math Honor Society Induction	24	25	26	On Tour Shakespeare Production 7:30 pm
29	Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	30	31			ACT Exam On Tour Shakespeare Production 7:30 pm
					SEPTEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

any marking period will have 15 points deducted from his/her computed marking period grade (based upon tests and quiz scores, homework, papers, presentations, etc.). Students with properly excused ATEDs may make up the work for up to three full-period absences per marking period. Made-up ATEDs will not count as accumulated absences toward the allowed five (5) absences per marking period.

In grades 7-8, a student who has more than five (5) absences during any marking period will have five points deducted from his/her computed marking period grade (based upon tests and quiz scores, homework, papers, presentations, etc.). Students with properly excused ATEDs may make up the work for one full-period absence per marking period. Made-up ATEDs will not count as accumulated absences toward the allowed five (5) absences per marking period.

To ensure that parents and students are aware of the implications of this minimum attendance requirement, the school (teachers, counselors or assistant principals) will advise the student and contact the parent(s)/ guardian(s) by telephone and/or email prior to the student reaching four (4) ATEDs each marking period.

Only those students with excused ATEDs will be given the opportunity to make up a test or other missed work and/or turn in a late assignment for inclusion in their marking period grades. Make-up opportunities must be completed by a date specified by the student's teacher (typically the last day of the week following the return to school) for the class in question. Three (3) latenesses or early departures of 15 minutes or less will be considered a full-period absence. Each lateness or early departure in excess of 15 minutes will count as a full-period absence.

The district continues to have a no-cut policy. Every cut will be followed by disciplinary action as outlined in the District Code of Conduct.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND APPEALS

Whenever a student's ATEDs may require the denial of class participation credit, these procedures will be in effect:

1. The attendance dean will advise the principal or his/her designee of the student's ATED for the marking period and identify absences due to school-sponsored trips and activities, prearranged guidance appointments, days of suspension and home teaching, senior college visitation days (maximum of three) and days of religious observance.
2. The principal or designee will review these records and the student's cumulative record.
3. The principal or designee will meet with the student to determine the nature of the ATEDs during the marking period.
4. The principal or designee will advise the parent/guardian and request additional information regarding the ATEDs.
5. The principal or designee will then make one of the following determinations:

A. No further action is required in that extenuating circumstances will allow for additional make-ups.

B. The student will be denied the 15 points for class participation.

Following notification to the parent of the school's determination, an appeal may be made to the building principal, who will confer with appropriate personnel and render a final decision.

The Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education will act in their legal capacities to review any building-level administrative decisions.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Because of the limited class time during summer school, students with more than three absences in any course will be denied credit for that course. Parents will be notified by phone, when possible, and/or mail following the second absence.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY

Each one of our students has the right to educational opportunities that enable them to grow and develop to his or her fullest potential. To aid in this development, and to maximize student success, the Bellmore-Merrick Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff believe that we must work cooperatively with students, staff, and families to ensure that regular attendance is maintained. The purpose of an attendance policy is to encourage regular and consistent attendance and punctuality in school for all students and to help students develop responsibility and self-discipline. Regular attendance fosters a climate conducive to learning, preserves effective teaching, and ensures a quality education. There is a strong correlation between regular attendance, academic achievement and successful social development for students. It is recognized that successful implementation of this policy requires cooperation among all members of the educational community. The full description of the Middle School Attendance Policy (Policy #5100MS) can be found on the district's website.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASSES OF 2014 AND BEYOND

Required Courses	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
English	4 Units	4 Units
Social Studies	4 Units	4 Units
Mathematics	3 Units	3 Units
Science	3 Units	3 Units
World Languages	1 Unit	3 Units
Health	1/2 Unit	1/2 Unit
Art or Music	1 Unit	1 Unit
Electives	3 1/2 Units	1 1/2 Units
Physical Education	2 Units	2 Units
Total	22 Units	22 Units

Required Exams: Students must earn a score of 65 and above. General education students must pass all five required Regents exams at a score of 65 or above.

03 NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	Middle School 6th Grade Curriculum Orientation Night 7 pm	On Tour Shakespeare Production 7:30 pm	SAT Exam On Tour Shakespeare Production 7:30 pm
			1	2	3	4
	PTA Council 7:30 pm	Election Day Half Day for Students	Kennedy Fall Letter Ceremony	First Marking Period Ends	Veterans Day Observance Schools Closed	Veterans Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Second Marking Period Begins Middle School PTSA 7 pm	Fall National Honor Society 7:45 am Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	Mepham Battle of the Classes	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences Half Day for Middle School Students	Kennedy & Mepham Fall Production 7 pm	Kennedy & Mepham Fall Production 7 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	District Vocal Showcase 7 pm @ Calhoun	High School Parent Teacher Conferences Half Day for High School Students	Half Day for Students Virtual	THANKSGIVING DAY Schools Closed	THANKSGIVING RECESS Schools Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm	Transcript Request Due to Registrar for December 15th Application High School Parent Orientation 7 pm	Sprig Gardner Tournament @ Calhoun 4:30 pm		
26	27	28	29	30		
					OCTOBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

REGENTS DIPLOMA

To earn a New York State Regents Diploma, students need to pass exams in English Language Arts, Global History, U.S. History, one (1) Math course and one (1) Science course. In recent years, New York State has developed multiple pathways to a Regents diploma. Speak to a counselor for more information.

Students averaging 90% or better on required Regents examinations will earn a Regents Diploma with Honors.

REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION

Regents exams in the following courses: English Language Arts, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Global History, U.S. History, two Science courses and state-approved World Language Exam.*

*Students acquiring five units of credit in Art or Career and Technical Education may be exempt. Students whose IEPs state that such requirements are not appropriate are exempt.

Students averaging 90% or better on all Regents examinations required for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation will earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors.

There are also several safety net options for students with disabilities. These students will take the coursework necessary to prepare them for the Regents exams. If they score 55-64 on the five required Regents exams, they may earn a local diploma. Other options are available to students with disabilities, but none of them replace required exams.

Please contact your child's school counselor for additional information.

TESTING

State assessments will be given to all seventh and eighth grade students in the district during the spring of each year. The tests will measure students' achievement in reading and mathematics as well as science and social studies for eighth grade students only. Parents requiring information concerning testing should speak to their child's school counselor.

CURRICULUM AND GRADING

COLLEGE LEVEL AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

College level and Advanced Placement courses may be taken in the high schools in many content areas including Art, Engineering, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. Please refer to Bellmore-Merrick's District Course Catalog for specific Advanced Placement and/or college level courses. Advanced Placement exams are administered in May.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued every 10 weeks, four times a year. Numerical grades are given in most subject areas and are based on an accumulation

of marks from homework, tests, quizzes, projects and class participation. Report cards will be posted online for parents each marking period, approximately two weeks after the end of the marking period. The dates for the end of each marking period are listed on the calendar.

FINAL GRADE COMPUTATION – GRADES 7-12

Final grade computation can be found on the district website under Board of Education. Please refer to policy 4710.

SAFE/HARMLESS POLICY

Bellmore-Merrick will factor New York State Regents exam grades into a student's GPA if, and only if, the Regents exam grade will have a positive effect on the student's final grade. If a Regents exam score will have a negative effect on the student's final grade, it will not be counted in the final course grade. In those cases, the four marking period grades will count for 23.75% each in the new calculation, with the midterm exam accounting for the other 5%.

VOCATIONAL/OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Occupational sequences are available within our district and the Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). Students and parents should see their school counselors to discuss the selection of occupational education sequences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is an integral part of the total education that contributes to the development of the individual through the natural medium of physical activity. The physical education program has, as its foundation, a common core of sequential learning experiences and is geared to the developmental needs of each student. As a focal point, all activities are designed to enrich the physical fitness of the students by providing knowledge and experiences that enhance each student's "wellness." The high school program focuses on developing skills in a wide range of lifetime recreational pursuits. In ninth grade, students will be exposed to a series of units that will survey a wide variety of sports, games and wellness activities designed to promote lifelong fitness. In grades 10-12, students will select from four physical education electives (Fitness, Net Sports, Strength Training, and Team Sports). The electives are designed to improve and enhance skills that will allow students to participate in these activities for the rest of their lives. The middle school and high school physical education rubrics can be found on the district website at http://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/district/PE_athletics_and_health.

HOMEWORK POLICY

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District recognizes that homework given on a regular basis is an essential component of

03 DECEMBER 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					Sprig Gardner Tournament @ JFK 4:30 pm	SAT Exam Sprig Gardner Tournament@ Mepham 10 am	
3	4	5	Middle School Concert 1 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	6	7	8	9
		Poetry Out Loud 2:30 pm Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	All High Schools Winter Concert I	13	Middle School Concert II	15	16
10	11	12	Mepham Winter Concert II	14	HS Alumni Day	22	23
17	Kennedy & Mepham ASR 9th Grade Information Night 7 pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
	CHRISTMAS DAY Schools Closed	HOLIDAY RECESS Schools Closed	HOLIDAY RECESS Schools Closed	HOLIDAY RECESS Schools Closed	HOLIDAY RECESS Schools Closed	HOLIDAY RECESS Schools Closed	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	30
31						NOVEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

the instructional process. Homework is an integral factor in fostering the academic achievement of all students and in extending school activities into the home. Regular homework provides opportunities for developmental practice, drill, the application of study skills, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities and self-discipline. Homework should provide reinforcement and extension of class instruction and should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. Each subject area fosters unique skills and learning, which should be strengthened by homework.

Homework assignments should reflect the increased instructional demands as students proceed through our secondary school system, with students assuming increased responsibility for their assignments as they proceed through the grade levels. Homework assignments for exceptional students should address the special needs of such students.

Students, parents and teachers mutually share the responsibility for the successful implementation of this homework policy.

EXTRA HELP

Teachers' schedules for extra help vary. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative in seeking extra help on scheduled days. However, if requested by the teacher, extra help takes precedence over any other school function or after-school work.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school registration must be approved by a student's principal at the school he or she attends. Sessions run for 24 days, three classes per day of 90 minutes each (except for driver education, which is 32 days).

The summer program is designed to serve the following:

1. Students who have failed subjects during the regular school year, despite their reasonable efforts in study and attendance.
2. Students who desire to pursue advanced study beyond curriculum offerings (e.g., health, driver education).

Specifics about summer school offerings are publicized during the spring term through all schools (public and nonpublic) attended by students residing in the high school district and out-of-district tuition students. Although exact dates vary each year, most summer school courses run through July and conclude in mid-August.

DROPPING AND/OR ADDING COURSES

Because of the many required courses at the middle school level, implementation of this policy will involve mainly high school courses.

Student course selection and program development is a process taking place over a period of time extending from December to May of any given year. Students and their parents are encouraged to take an active role in early student program development, as the educational needs and objectives of

the students are prime considerations. In those cases where, as a result of regular or summer school achievement, a student's circumstances change, allowance for a change in selected courses may be made upon application by the student and the parent.

The following guidelines are to be followed:

1. The student, with the advice of the counselor and the consent of his/her parents, will prepare a subject selection sheet.
2. A report of the courses the student has selected for the following year will be issued to the student no later than March 15. The purpose of this report is to verify the course selection.
3. If upon receipt of this verification report the student discovers an error, it will be the student's responsibility to notify his/her counselor immediately. The counselor will also verify the report and review the course selections.
4. If a student wishes to change a course (and/or drop) after the initial selections have been made, a request, in writing, must be made to the counselor by the student and parent with reasons for the change prior to May 15. The student will be advised as to the disposition of this request as quickly as possible.
5. If, as a result of the June report card (except in instances of failure, which will be handled automatically by counselors, who will make appropriate changes), a program change is indicated, a written request must be made by the student and parent to the counselor by the week following graduation. The student will be advised as to the disposition of this request as quickly as possible.
6. If, as a result of summer school attendance, a change of program is indicated (except in instances of failure, which will be handled automatically by counselors, who will make appropriate changes), a request by the student and parent must be made with reasons for the change in writing to the building principal by August 20. The disposition of this request will be made to the student as quickly as possible.
7. After the first five days of classes in the fall, students will be permitted to make additions to their programs provided that room exists in the section and in the appropriate corresponding slot in their schedule. No additions will be permitted after the first 15 days of classes. Any student who adds a course after the opening of school will agree, in writing, that he/she will not drop any course during that school year.
8. A student may not drop a course before completion of the first 12 days. A procedure for dropping a course which involves student, parent, counselor, teacher and an administrator must be followed before the request can be approved. If there is disagreement among the parties involved, a conference must be held with the building principal, who will make the final decision. After the first week past midpoint of the course, a student who drops will receive an evaluation and their transcript will have noted withdraw/pass or withdraw/fail.

JANUARY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	NEW YEAR'S DAY Schools Closed 1	Transcript Request Due to Registrar for January 15 Application 2	Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm 3	Calhoun Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction 4		5
7	PTA Council 7:30 pm 8	Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm 9		Guidance Program for 11th Grade 7 pm 11	MLK Day of Service 12	13
14	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Schools Closed 15	Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm Mepham Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction 16	JFK Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction 2:45 pm 17	Middle School PTSA 7 pm 18	Mepham Winter Ball 19	Calhoun On Tour Winter Show 7:30 pm 20
21	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm 22	High School Regents and Midterm Exams 23	High School Regents and Midterm Exams 24	High School Regents and Midterm Exams 25	Second Marking Period Ends High School Regents and Midterm Exams 26	Calhoun On Tour Winter Show 7:30 pm 27
28	Second Semester Begins Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm 29	30	31			
					DECEMBER 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR

Every member of a school staff is part of a team working for the student's overall welfare. To accomplish this, it is essential that there be a mutual respect between staff and student, and pride, maturity and self-discipline guiding students with respect to their use of school facilities. All facilities are in a building because community taxes have provided them. Malicious destruction or the defacing and marring of school property are serious offenses and a waste of taxpayers' efforts. Students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly while in class, passing from class to class, and at athletic and social functions. Students must be supervised by a faculty member while in school. No student is to be in any classroom or other areas unsupervised.

SMOKING

To protect students, staff, visitors and guests of the district from the harmful effects of smoking, the Board prohibits smoking, including electronic cigarettes and the use of tobacco products, on school property, including, but not limited to, all school district buildings, all school district vehicles and all school grounds, at all times.

NON-SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

Student societies involving secret or selective membership are not recognized by the school. No recruiting, hazing or other activities of non-school groups are permitted on school grounds.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Each middle and senior high school provides a wide range of extracurricular activities that help students broaden their scope of interest, increase knowledge, develop talents and skills, and grow through associations with others. There are numerous athletic and non-athletic club activities. Every student government welcomes the participation of all students. Students should be encouraged to participate in extracurricular programs.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District encourages all students to participate in extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities. The Board of Education has established reasonable standards as the prerequisites for eligibility for extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities. These standards apply to entry qualifications, as well as to continue participation in such activities. Specific guidelines pertaining to the eligibility of students in grades 7-12 can be found on the district's website under Board of Education Policy #5202.

LUNCH PERIODS

Each student has the opportunity for a lunch period during the school day. Procedures for eating in or out of school vary from school to school and

are determined by accommodations, enrollment and grade level. However, consideration for others and good behavior should be the rule at all times.

WORKING PAPERS

Any student over 14 but under 18 years of age must fill out an application for employment certification if they wish to work. To obtain working papers students must:

1. Get information and forms from the school office.
2. Ask for a job description form to be filled out by the person for whom they plan to work.
3. Apply at the designated school office for a physical fitness certificate. Complete the regular application form which requires: a) the signature of parent or guardian, b) job description filled out by employer, c) birth or baptismal record, d) physical fitness certificate, e) school record, if leaving school.

Careful thought should be given to working, since it takes time away from valuable after-school, extracurricular activities. Detention and extra help sessions after school take precedence over outside jobs.

COUNSELING SERVICES

School counselors are available in each building to assist students in reaching college and career goals.

Group meetings and individual counseling sessions are held frequently to discuss:

- a. Personal interests and goals.
- b. Program planning at each grade level.
- c. Individual problems which may affect a student's work.
- d. College, trade, technical and business school requirements.
- e. Employment opportunities.
- f. Available scholarship and financial aid.

REVIEW OF RECORDS FOR GRADUATION

The principal of each senior high school shall direct the members of their school's guidance department, under the supervision of the building pupil personnel administrator, to review the records of their students and confirm before the end of the junior year that each student has completed, or has planned for completion, the necessary credits and sequences that will assure proper graduation credentials at the end of the senior year. By June 30, those students who require changes in their programs because of failure must be notified by mail, and appropriate plans are to be developed to ensure they're meeting proper graduation requirements.

Each review shall bear the signature of the counselor who shall also notify the parents of each student by mail after 15 school days into senior year. A parent's signature is expected whenever possible to be included in the student's file to indicate that the parent has been notified and has understood the information.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1	2	3	
	PTA Council 7:30 pm		Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm				ACT Exam	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	Kennedy PTA 7 pm	Kennedy & Mepham Art Honor Society Induction Calhoun Sports Boosters 7:30 pm		Calhoun Art Honor Society Induction				
	12	Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	13	14	15	16	17	
18	PRESIDENTS DAY Winter Recess Schools Closed	Winter Recess Schools Closed	Winter Recess Schools Closed	Winter Recess Schools Closed	Winter Recess Schools Closed	23	24	
	19	20	21	22				
25	Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm		Calhoun & Kennedy Class Night				
	26	27	28	29				
					JANUARY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		MARCH 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

Students wishing to apply for financial aid should consult with their school counselors about procedures to be followed.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The school social workers provide individual and group counseling, and referrals to outside agencies for parents and students. School social workers receive referrals from school counselors and psychologists, as well as self-referrals by students or parents. To reach your school social worker, call:

Calhoun H.S. – Cathryn Brucculeri, Social Worker.....516-992-1324
Kennedy H.S. – Eric M. Maresca, Social Worker516-992-1424
Mephram H.S. – Theana Cheliotas, Social Worker516-992-1526
Grand Avenue M.S. – Joseph Leverone, Social Worker 516-992-1124
Merrick Avenue M.S. – Kevin Darcy, Social Worker516-992-1224

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District accommodates any students between the ages of 11-21 who may reside within the district boundaries and who may require special education services. A student may have a physical, mental, emotional, medical or developmental disability, which would require special education programs or services. Parents who have reason to suspect that their child may have special educational needs should contact their child's school counselor or the Director of Special Education at 516-992-1050.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

The school psychologists provide, if need arises, individual testing, evaluation and specialized counseling on problems relating to school work. Referral to the psychologist is made by counselors or may be requested by a parent or student.

HOME INSTRUCTION

When students will be absent from school for a prolonged period of at least 20 days, home teaching is available. The home teaching instructor will not be assigned until the student has been home a minimum of five days except for those assigned to home teaching through the Committee on Special Education or for those with an obvious physical disability, such as a broken limb. Medical verification is needed and arrangements are to be made by parents with the student's school counselor.

Arrangements should be made so that an adult is present in the home during the times the home instruction is taking place.

HEALTH REGULATIONS AND SERVICES

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

The New York State Education Law makes a physical examination

mandatory for every student in grades 7, 9 and 11. This is best accomplished with an examination by the family physician before the beginning of the school year; however, if preferable, students may be examined by the school doctor in August. Forms for the use of your family physician are made available on the BMCHSD website or in the nurse's office. A student is also given a vision and hearing screening in 11th grade, and a screening for scoliosis in grade 7 for girls and grade 9 for boys. If abnormal conditions are found, notification will be sent to the parent.

IMMUNIZATION

Public Health Law 2164 mandates requirements for immunization of New York State school children. All students attending school must be immunized against the following diseases: Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus; Polio; Measles, Mumps, and Rubella; Varicella (Chicken Pox), Hepatitis B and Meningitis. The only exceptions, according to law, are for medical reasons. Students whose immunization records are lacking will not be permitted to attend school.

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the teacher will allow the student to go to the nurse's office and the school nurse will administer first aid as needed. If further treatment is necessary, the parent will be notified at once. In the event of an accident or illness while in school, every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians. Therefore, it is necessary for the student to furnish the school with telephone numbers so that parents/guardians may be reached in the event of an emergency.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The district has a full excess blanket accident insurance policy, that subject to the terms/limitations set forth in the policy, will reimburse for medical expenses after payment is made by other valid/collectable insurance (i.e., parent's health insurance).

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found in school or on school grounds should be taken to the school's main office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

All notices to be read on the public address system in a school and all posters and signs to be displayed must be approved and signed by the faculty adviser involved or by the principal or assistant principal.

TEXTBOOKS/CHROMEBOOKS

All textbooks and Chromebooks are provided by the District. Students are expected to take proper care of all school property issued to them. There will be a charge for lost or damaged books/Chromebooks in accordance with its value and a fine for damage to a book beyond the wear of normal use.

03 MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Parents/guardians of students attending private/parochial schools should note that the deadline to submit your transportation request for the next school year is April 1, 2024.						
			Kennedy Winter Letter Ceremony Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	District College Planning Night 7 pm @ Kennedy	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		High School Social Studies Honor Society Induction Calhoun & Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm		Middle School PTSA 7 pm	On Tour Spring Musical 7:30 pm	On Tour Spring Musical 7:30 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	High School Science Honor Society Inductions Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm	St. Baldrick's @ Mepham 6 pm	Middle School Musicals 7 pm	Middle School Musicals 7 pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Founder's Day Dinner		Third Marking Period Ends	Schools Closed Spring Recess I	Schools Closed Spring Recess I	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					FEBRUARY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	APRIL 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

LIBRARY SERVICES

Every school library has an excellent and extensive collection of books, magazines and other print media. Every school library affords students the opportunity to use computer technology. Extensive reference materials are available and students have access to a variety of online databases via the internet. A librarian is always available to assist them.

COMMUNITY

USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Responsible non-profit community groups, the majority of whose membership consists of residents of Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, are permitted the use of school facilities for educational, civic and recreational activities when they are not required for school purposes. Such use is subject to the regulations of the State Education Department and to policies which have been adopted by the Board of Education including, but not limited to, insurance requirements. Information on the availability of facilities and fees can be obtained from the Central Administration Office. Application forms may also be obtained there. For more information, call 516-992-1032.

PESTICIDE NOTICE

The district has an integrated pest management (IPM) program in accordance with New York State Education Department regulations. This program dictates that the least toxic pesticide be used when addressing any pest management issue. When an extraordinary circumstance makes it necessary to use a pesticide, New York State Education Law requires schools to inform parents and guardians about school pesticide application practices and provide opportunity to be notified when pesticides are applied in their child's school. The district is required to maintain a list of staff and parents/guardians who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification by contacting the Office of School Facilities and Operations at 516-992-1032.

ASBESTOS COMPLIANCE

The district's regular maintenance of the schools includes asbestos inspections in all facilities. In compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), we undertake the following:

- Perform an original inspection, complete re-inspection every three years, and surveillance inspections every six months of all asbestos-containing material.
- Develop, maintain and update an asbestos management plan, and keep a copy at each school.
- Provide yearly notification to parent, teacher and employee organizations regarding the availability of the district's asbestos management plan and any asbestos abatement actions taken or planned.
- Designate a contact person to ensure the responsibilities of the district are properly implemented.

- Ensure that properly accredited professionals perform inspections and response actions, and prepare management plans.
- Provide custodial staff with asbestos-awareness training.

The re-inspection and updated management plans are available for review in the main office of each school and in the Office of School Facilities and Operations located in the Brookside Administration Building at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, NY.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Adult Continuing Education Program offers a wide array of courses selected to meet the educational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of adult residents within the community. This program, which is sponsored by the Board of Education, holds classes at the district schools Monday through Thursday evenings during two terms of 10 weeks each. Brochures are sent to residents before each registration period. Brochures can also be viewed on the district website, at the local libraries or in the Adult Continuing Education office. Detailed information may also be obtained by calling the Adult Continuing Education Office at 516-992-1062.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS (PTAs)

Active involvement in a parent organization is one of the many ways parents can participate in their children's education. The Central High School District PTAs and Coordinating Council are dedicated to the improvement of education, health and safety, and care and protection of children. Each unit and the Coordinating Council is an active group working toward the same goal shared by the district as a whole — excellence in educational opportunities for all youngsters of the Central High School District.

A parent organization has been established in each school. The Special Education Parent Teacher's Association (SEPTA) has been established for the parents of children who require special education services to develop their full potential. The Coordinating Council consists of the elected president and representative of each unit. These parent organizations sponsor a wide variety of special activities for parents and students throughout the year.

COMMUNITY PARENT CENTER

The Community Parent Center offers parenting education, support and resources for parents with children in grades K-12. The center is based at the Brookside Building. Workshops and evening presentations on a variety of issues dealing with adolescents are offered throughout the year. Resource materials, books and videos regarding the teen years are available for borrowing from the center. For further information regarding the Community Parent Center and its many programs and services, please call 516-992-1086.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District adopted a Districtwide School Safety Plan as required by Commissioner of Education Regulation

APRIL 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Parents/guardians of students attending private/parochial schools should note that the deadline to submit your transportation request for the next school year is April 1, 2024.	Schools Closed Spring Recess I	Fourth Marking Period Begins	Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	MS NYS ELA Assessment	MS NYS ELA Assessment	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	PTA Council 7:30 pm 8	Calhoun & Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm 9	Eid-Al-Fitr School Closed 10	11	Kennedy & Mepham Musical 7 pm 12	ACT Exam Kennedy & Mepham Musical Matinee & Evening Shows 13
14	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm 15	Kennedy National Business Honor Society Inductions 2:45 pm STEAM Career Fair @ Kennedy 6 pm Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm Board of Education BOCES Vote/ Election 7:30 pm 16	High School National Honor Society Inductions 7 pm 17	MS NYS Math Assessment Senior Experience Fashion Show @ Calhoun 7 pm 18	MS NYS Math Assessment 19	20
21	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 22	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 23	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 24	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 25	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 26	27
28	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 29	Schools Closed Spring Recess II 30				
					MARCH 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



155.17. The plan covers a wide variety of potential emergencies including natural disasters, and is intended to ensure the safety and welfare of children and staff while simultaneously coordinating with similar emergency planning at the municipal, county and state levels.

A copy of the district-wide plan is kept on file at central administration in the office of the Superintendent of Schools. Although the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans are linked to the District-wide School Safety Plan, in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a, the Building-Level Plan will remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure. This will further ensure safety at the building level and reduce the potential for planned sabotage.

In compliance with Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.13, the following Emergency Management Procedures are to be followed in the event that it becomes necessary to give protection to school children: A) Go Home Procedure, B) Sheltering Procedure and C) Evacuation Procedure.

The following drills will be conducted annually to test the Emergency Management Plan. Parents and guardians will be notified at least one week prior to the drill.

- A) Go Home Procedure – Students who would normally ride on a bus will assemble in the areas designated in the Shelter Plan. Personnel will supervise students in the assigned areas. Normal bus schedules will be followed. Physically handicapped students will be assisted by the school nurse as well as other personnel.
- B) Sheltering Procedure – Upon notification of an impending actual situation or drill, the building principal shall direct pupils and staff to designated assembly areas.
- C) Evacuation Procedure – The building principal will determine whether to evacuate students and staff to another area within the building, to evacuate the entire school out of the building, or to consider an alternate site.

PARENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE – LOCKOUT/LOCKDOWN

Any time there is a possibility that the safety of our students is in jeopardy, a lockout/lockdown procedure may be issued. Lockout/lockdown is a generally accepted procedure for keeping students and staff safe.

Parents are strongly discouraged from coming to school during an emergency unless directed to do so. Cars driving up to the building restrict access by police emergency vehicles and school buses that are loading children either to evacuate them or take them home. The building's staff will be actively working to ensure the safety of ALL students.

EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURE FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the past, we have had to occasionally utilize a procedure whereby we dismiss our students early so that school buses can operate more effectively, especially for the young children in the component elementary school

districts. As you know, the C.H.S.D. and the Bellmore and Merrick Elementary Districts utilize the same buses to provide maximum cost effectiveness.

By releasing our high school and middle school students at an earlier time, it permits the buses to operate safely in bad weather and to reach the elementary schools, which have later dismissal times, in a timelier manner.

When the Superintendent of Schools initiates an early dismissal procedure, our three high schools will end their day at 1:30 p.m. and our middle schools at 2:15 p.m. We advise students who anticipate being picked up by their parents to wait for the regular dismissal time to be picked up or to call home to advise you that schools will end earlier on that day.

There are no after-school or evening activities when the early dismissal procedure is initiated.

DELAYED OPENING PROCEDURE FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

There may be occasion when we will have a delayed opening due to inclement weather. When there is a two (2) hour delayed opening, school begins two hours later. Transportation of children to non-public schools will also be delayed and bus schedules will be altered by two (2) hours. A delayed opening is subject to change if the weather or road conditions remain hazardous. The Superintendent retains the option to close schools if the potential for hazardous conditions continue. Please refer to the district website for additional information.

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

Parents/guardians of a student under 18 or an eligible student (18 years of age or older) have a right to inspect and review educational records, including all material that is in the student's cumulative record folder and intended for school use or available to parties outside the school or school district. This right is provided under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment. Parents or eligible students may contact the student's guidance counselor. The school district forwards education records on request of the parent/guardian or eligible student or officials of another school in which the student seeks to enroll.

School districts may disclose personally identifiable information known as directory information. Parents/guardians or eligible students may refuse to let the district release any or all of this information by sending written notice annually to the Public Information Office before Sept. 30. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: name (including name on the district website), address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, grade level, photograph (including photograph on the District website), email address, and other similar information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed.

MAY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

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FRI

SAT

						SAT Exam
			1	2	3	4
5	AP Exams Begin PTA Council 7:30 pm	Grade 8 Science Testing	Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	Middle School Art Expo @ MAMS Middle School Concert I		
	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	Kennedy & Mepham PTA 7 pm Calhoun PTSA 7:30 pm	Calhoun & Mepham Sports Boosters 7:30 pm	All High Schools Spring Concert I	Middle School Art Expo @ Grand Middle School Concert II	AP Exams End Calhoun On Tour Season Finale 7:30 pm	Calhoun On Tour Season Finale 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm
	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Middle School Honor Society Inductions 7 pm	Budget Vote/Votación del Presupuesto Mepham Spring Concert II English Honor Society @ Calhoun 2:30 pm Calhoun Science Symposium 6 pm Kennedy ASR Research Symposium 7 pm Mepham Alumni 7:30 pm	Bellmore-Merrick Challenge Day @ Calhoun Calhoun & Kennedy Spring Concerts II Mepham ASR Research Symposium 7 pm		*Inclement Weather Day, If Needed	
	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	Memorial Day Schools Closed	District Orchestra Showcase @ JFK 7 pm BMB Awards @ Mepham 7 pm	High School Spring Arts Senior Awards Night 7 pm	Calhoun Blue & Gray Awards Cougar Pride Awards Pirates Treasure Awards	On Tour Senior Show @ Calhoun 7:30 pm	
	27	28	29	30	31	
					APRIL 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



According to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, school districts, upon request by military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, are required to disclose the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students. The act does not require release of other “directory information” included in FERPA. If a parent/guardian or student does not wish to have the information released without prior written parental consent, they can file an opt-out form with the principal. Forms are available in the main office.

Students may be excused from participating in any survey that reveals information on personal behavior and political beliefs. Parents may also exclude their child from activities in which personal information will be gathered from students and used for marketing purposes.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION

It is the policy of this district that each child residing more than 1 mile from the middle school and 1.25 miles from the high school attended is eligible for bus transportation. Each school will notify those students who are eligible for transportation.

Parents of students attending non-public schools are required by New York State Education Law 3635 to submit an application form every year for their children no later than the first day of April preceding the next school year. Also, under New York State Education Law 3635, a school district is not required to provide transportation for students whose applications are received after the April 1 deadline. Applications can be obtained at the Brookside Administration Building at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, NY, and on the district website.

When the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is closed for emergency reasons (snowstorms, etc.), transportation of children to non-public schools will be cancelled.

Distance is the sole determinant of eligibility for transportation. Distances have been determined by a licensed surveyor. A request for a re-survey may be made to the district transportation office. The person making the request must pay the cost, unless the original measurement is proved to be incorrect.

AUTOMOBILE SENIOR PARKING

Seniors who are eligible to drive must attend a mandatory meeting to earn the privilege of parking their cars on school grounds. They may park only in designated student parking areas. This privilege may be revoked if careful driving practices and posted speed limits are not observed. Student cars should be locked at all times.

SAFETY RULES FOR SCHOOL BUS PASSENGERS

A School Bus Handbook will be distributed to all bus students early in the school year.

1. Use a safe route in walking to the bus stop. If you must walk along a road to reach your bus stop (no sidewalks), walk facing traffic if at all possible.

If not, keep as far away from the traveled portion of the road as possible and be alert for the traffic behind you.

2. Arrive at the school bus stop on time. Please do not try to stop a moving bus. For safety reasons, they are only to stop at designated points.
3. Wait for the bus in an orderly manner. Respect the property and homes adjoining the bus stop area. Stay back to allow the bus to enter the loading zone. If you don't, you may risk being struck by passing vehicles.
4. Always use the handrail when getting on or off the bus. Keep one hand on the handrail in case you trip. Be especially careful to do this when slippery conditions exist.
5. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus to enable the driver to see you crossing.
6. Use care when leaving your bus stop. Always use the same precautions when leaving your bus stop as you do when approaching it. Keep away from the side of the bus as it pulls away.
7. Obey your bus driver. The bus driver is responsible for the safety of the passengers on the bus, as well as for the safe operation of the vehicle, and is in full charge at all times.
8. Take your seat quickly. Standing while the bus is in motion is not permitted.
9. Keep the aisle clear. Hold books, musical instruments or other belongings on your lap or store them under your seat. Keep your feet and legs out of the aisle.
10. Good behavior contributes to your safety. Distracting the driver can cause injury to you and your fellow passengers. Smoking on the bus is not permitted and jeopardizes the lives of the riders. Noise drowns out warning signals and could result in an accident.
11. Ask your bus driver for permission before opening the windows. If the windows are open, don't lean out or put your head, hands or arms out the window.
12. Report safety violations to the school principal's office as soon as possible.
13. BUS PASSES must be carried at all times, must be shown upon request, are non-transferable and can be used only on the bus and trip for which they are issued.
14. LOST ITEMS please call Guardian Bus Company at 516-723-3287.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF NETWORK AND INTERNET

Internet access is available to students and teachers in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. We believe the internet offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

JUNE 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						SAT Exam On Tour Bambino Scholarship @ Calhoun 7:30 pm 1	
	Middle School 8th Grade Awards 2	Algebra I Regents Kennedy Spring Letter Ceremony Calhoun Sports Awards Mepham Varsity Awards 3	Mepham Sports Booster Senior Breakfast 7 am Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm 4	Mepham Sports Booster Senior Breakfast 7 am Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm 5	Last Day of Classes for High School Students High School Proms 6	Last Day of Classes for Middle School Students H.S. Graduation Rehearsals HS Final Exams Begin Prep Academy Graduation 9:30 am 7	ACT Exam 8
High School Graduation 2 pm 9	PTA Council End-of Year Dinner MS Final Exams Begin 10	MAP Graduation 7 pm 11				Regents Exams Begin Middle Schools Moving Up Day 14	15
	Eid-Al-Adha No Testing 16		Juneteenth Schools Closed No Regents Exams 19			21	22
		Regents Exams End 25	Regents Rating Day Last Day of School 26			28	29
30						MAY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

The internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information and news from research institutions.
3. Discussion groups on a variety of topics such as environment, science, music, culture, politics, etc.
4. Access to the Library of Congress, ERIC and other electronic databases.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. On a global network, it is impossible to fully control all materials. Users may discover controversial information in written and graphic form. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of this project.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines as noted below. These guidelines are provided here so that users are aware of their responsibilities for use of the network and internet. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Bellmore-Merrick user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. There may be legal as well as school consequences for violators.

- 1) **Acceptable Use** – The original purpose of the internet was to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of any account, therefore, must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activity is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- 2) **Privileges** – The use of the internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges and disciplinary consequences. Users have the full responsibility for the use of an account, and under no conditions should users share their accounts or passwords with any other person. The district will conduct period reviews of all accounts to determine adherence to the goals of research and education. The district will also monitor all accounts for the purpose of ensuring network security and maintenance. This may include the use of two-way text and audio messaging. No personal software or disks may be loaded onto the district's computers and/or network without a virus check and permission of designated district personnel. Only networked software may be installed.

- 3) **Network Etiquette** – Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following guidelines which will be posted in all classrooms with computers:
 - a) Use appropriate language. Be polite. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - b) Do not reveal the personal address, phone number or credit card numbers of students or colleagues.
 - c) Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - d) Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- 4) **Responsibility** – The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at the user's risk. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the network. It is the responsibility of each user to verify the integrity and authenticity of the information that is used.
- 5) **Commercial Use** – Commercial services are available on the internet. Their use through the Bellmore-Merrick network is discouraged. If users choose to access these services, they are liable for any additional costs that may be incurred.
- 6) **Security Issues** – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If users identify a security problem on the internet, they must notify a teacher or an administrator. Attempts to log into the internet or network as a "system administrator" will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the internet.
- 7) **Vandalism** – Vandalism will result in cancellation of system use privileges and/or school disciplinary action as well as possible prosecution. Vandalism is defined as a malicious attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials, and/or data of another user of the district's system or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses. Tampering with or misuse of the computer system or taking any other action inconsistent with this protocol and regulation will be viewed as a security violation. Violators will be responsible for any financial damages caused by their actions.
- 8) **Harassment** – Students are prohibited from posting on websites texts

JULY 2024

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2024

				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

or images that defame, harass, threaten or falsely accuse another individual of wrongdoing or illegal behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, such social networking sites as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.

- 9) Virtual Private Networks – Students are prohibited from using virtual private networks, proxies and/or other methods used to circumvent the district network security measures.
- 10) BMCHSD Computing Devices (Chromebooks, other) – All of the above described rules regarding safe internet use apply to the use of BMCHSD computing devices, including, but not limited to, student Chromebooks. Pursuant to the 1:1 Student Device Policy for Chromebooks (see the Technology link within the Curriculum page on the district website), the district reserves the right to force surrender of a district device if it is used for improper (non-educational) purposes.

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

In compliance with federal and state law, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, 1260 Meadowbrook Rd., North Merrick, NY 11566, hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex/gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, weight, race, color, national origin, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, genetics or disability.

The District Title IX Coordinator, Eric Gómez, is responsible for the activities relating to compliance with Title IX. This official may be contacted by writing to Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, 1260 Meadowbrook Rd., North Merrick, NY 11566 or calling 516-992-1010.

The District Section 504 Coordinator, Katherine Lessig, is responsible for the activities relating to compliance with Section 504 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This official may be contacted by writing to Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, 1260 Meadowbrook Rd., N. Merrick, NY 11566, or calling 516-992-1075.

THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

The Dignity Act is intended to give students in public schools an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment. It protects against all forms of harassment, particularly those based on a student's actual or perceived sex/gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, weight, race, color, national origin, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, genetics or disability.

The Dignity Act will prohibit activities that create a hostile environment at school and school-sponsored events. These activities can include aggressive conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that unreasonably and substantially interfere with another student's education performance. The Dignity Act also creates a framework for promoting a more positive school culture through initiatives designed to promote inclusivity and belonging.

On July 14, 2015, the United States Department of Education Office for Civil

Rights issued guidance recognizing that Title IX of Education Amendments protects transgender students against discrimination based on their gender identity.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is committed to providing all public school students, including transgender and gender nonconforming (GNC) students, with an environment free from discrimination and harassment, to fostering civility in public schools, and to ensuring that every student has equal access to educational programs and activities. The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) illustrates the state's commitment to ensuring that all students are educated in a safe and supportive school environment.

Related Policies: Sexual Harassment (0110), Sexual Harassment of Students (5020), Code of Conduct (5115.1) and Equal Opportunity (0100)

CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, supportive and positive school environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality education services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of leadership, civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

I. STUDENT RIGHTS

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under the Dignity for All Students Act and all other state and federal laws and district policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and supportive school environment, all district students have the right to:

1. Participate in all district activities on an equal basis and not be subjected to discrimination based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored function.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school policies, regulations and rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
4. Proceed in a safe, supportive and positive school atmosphere without the fear of threat to their well-being.

II. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Promote a safe, supportive and positive school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.

2. Be proactive in advocating for the safety of other students. Bystanders are encouraged to report and/or inform school personnel of concerns.
3. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
4. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
5. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
6. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
7. Work to develop mechanisms to manage their behavior in the context of the school setting.
8. Ask questions when they do not understand.
9. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
10. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
11. Accept responsibility for their actions.
12. Maintain behavior free from all forms of harassment, bullying or discrimination.
13. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or at school-sponsored extracurricular events and hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor and sportsmanship.

III. STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal hygiene and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel are responsible to reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress and appearance shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard cannot be allowed.
4. Not include the wearing of hats or hoods in instructional areas except for a medical or religious purpose.
5. Not include items that are or are perceived to be vulgar, obscene, discriminatory and libelous or denigrate others based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, gender, sexual orientation or sex.
6. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Each building principal or their designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify

their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension. Please see section 6 of the Code of Conduct for the full dress code.

IV. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

It is expected that all students conduct themselves in a manner that supports the intent of the Dignity for All Students Act, creating a safe and supportive school environment free of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and harassment.

Conduct that creates a hostile environment at school and school-sponsored events is strictly prohibited. This conduct can include, but is not limited to, aggressive conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that constitutes harassment and/or bullying.

All violations of school rules apply to student behavior in school, on school property, including buses and at school-sponsored functions, including those held off campus. Student behavior that occurs outside of school is subject to the Code of Conduct where the behavior creates a risk of disruption to the school environment.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly and/or disruptive. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
 1. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the instructional process and/or school community, such as making unreasonable noise, running in hallways, engaging in horseplay or obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
 2. Using language or gestures which are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
 3. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
 4. Misuse of computer/electronic communications/personal devices, including, but not limited to, any unauthorized use of cell phones, iPads, iPods, cameras, PDAs or other portable devices, computers, software or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; unauthorized access to school network or programs; any computer/electronic/personal device communication from a non-school site that could pose disruption to the school community; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
 5. Displaying or using headphones, iPods, tablets, cameras, cell phones or any other electronic devices without the approval of a teacher or other school official.

6. Students are not permitted to take pictures or record another student, teacher or staff member with a cell phone, digital camera or any other electronic device without the permission of an administrator.
 7. Students are prohibited from posting on websites texts or images that defame, harass, bully, discriminate against, threaten or falsely accuse another individual of wrongdoing or illegal behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, such social networking sites as Facebook, Groupme, Instagram, ooVoo, Snapchat, Twitter, YouTube, etc.
 8. Students are prohibited from using drones or other aerial devices on or near school grounds without the approval of a teacher or school official.
 9. Students are prohibited from using hover boards or other motorized modes of transportation in the school building or on school grounds without the approval of a school or district administrator.
- B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students.
 2. Demonstrating disrespect to teachers, school administrators or other school employees who interact with students.
 3. Lateness to, missing, or leaving school without permission.
 4. Skipping detention.
- C. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, pushing and scratching) against a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting or threatening to do so.
 2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, pushing and scratching) against another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting or threatening to do so.
 3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
 4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
 5. Threatening to use any weapon.
 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
 7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- D. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function, to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
 2. Lying or giving false information, either verbally or in writing, to school personnel.
3. Stealing or attempting to steal the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
 4. Defamation and/or slander, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
 5. Discrimination, which means discrimination against any student by a student or students and/or employee or employees on school property or at a school function including, but not limited to, discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
 6. Harassment, which means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. For purposes of this definition, the term, "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-verbal actions. Acts of bullying and harassment that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
 7. Sexual harassment is prohibited by law. Unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors or other written, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment. Complaints regarding sexual harassment may be made directly to the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel who is the Title IX coordinator.
 8. Intimidation, coercion or extortion which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
 9. Bullying, which means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school

property. For purposes of this definition, the term “threats, intimidation or abuse” shall include verbal and non-verbal actions. Acts of bullying and harassment that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, those acts based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

10. Cyberbullying means harassment or bullying as defined above where such harassment or bullying occurs through any form of electronic communication.
 11. Sexting, which includes the sending, receiving or forwarding of sexually provocative images through text message or email, which can be used to hurt, harass and humiliate others.
 12. Hazing, which includes an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule, or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur.
 13. Posting, distributing, selling, using or possessing obscene material.
 14. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing as well as slurs that refer to a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
 15. Smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, cigars, pipes, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging vaping devices and paraphernalia for the use of vaping. Paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to, flavor pods, mods, pens and cartridges.
 16. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, paraphernalia for the use of such illegal substances, or being under the influence of illegal substances or alcoholic beverages. “Illegal substances” includes, but is not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana), vaping oils, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, lookalike drugs and any substances commonly referred to as “designer drugs.”
 17. Inappropriately possessing, selling, using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
 18. Gambling.
 19. Violation of an individual’s civil rights.
 20. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
 21. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- E. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting or other conduct in violation of the Code of Conduct will

not be tolerated (see Bellmore-Merrick School Bus Handbook).

- F. Engage in any form of academic misconduct or scholastic dishonesty. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Plagiarism.
 2. Cheating on a test or graded assignment, including taking pictures with electronic devices of assignments, tests, etc., for the purpose of copying student work or illegally improving assessment scores.
 3. Copying or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.
 4. Altering academic records.
 5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- G. Engage in off-campus misconduct that creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the misconduct might reach school property; or endangers the health, safety, or morals of students or staff within the school. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Cyberbullying, as defined in the definitions section of the Code of Conduct.
 2. Threatening, hazing or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or through other electronic media.
 3. Using social media to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.

V. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

All students are expected to promptly report criminal, serious or dangerous violations of the Code of Conduct to a teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, the building principal or their designee. Any student observing an individual possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function shall report this information immediately to a teacher, the building principal, the principal’s designee or the superintendent.

Reporting Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

Students who have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, parents whose children have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, or other students or staff who observe bullying, harassing or discriminating behavior are encouraged and expected to make a verbal and/or written complaint to any school personnel, including the appropriate Dignity Act Coordinator, in accordance with the training and guidelines provided, as well as any applicable district policies. (Refer to BOE Policy O115, Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination; BOE Policy O100, Equal Opportunity; and BOE Policy O110, Sexual Harassment).

Reports of bullying, harassment and discrimination will be promptly investigated in accordance with district policies and procedures.

Retaliation by any school employee or student against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination is prohibited under law.

Dignity Act Coordinator Contact Information

The name, designated school and contact information for each school building's Dignity Act Coordinator is provided below:

Dignity Act Coordinator	Designated School	Contact Information
Eric Gómez	District	516-992-1010
Emily Paluseo	District	516-992-1050
Christopher Riccardi	Grand	516-992-1104
Adam Nislow	Grand	516-992-1121
Kate Caporusso	Merrick	516-992-1204
Kevin Darcy	Merrick	516-992-1202
Cathryn Brucculeri	Calhoun	516-992-1324
Danielle Amato	Calhoun	516-992-1306
Daniel Jantzen	Kennedy	516-992-1404
Alison Boyle	Kennedy	516-992-1425
Jennifer Carne	Mephram	516-992-1507
Carol Murray	Mephram	516-992-1529
Eric Arlin	MAP/District	516-992-1082
Joseph Netto	MAP	516-992-1074
Catrina Christensen	MAP	516-992-1074

This information shall also be posted on the district's website and included in the plain-language summaries of the Code of Conduct provided to parents and students and shall be further disseminated in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

VI. DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents/person in a parental relationship, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of the Code of Conduct for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability.

A. Penalties

Students who are found to have violated the district's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Oral warning – any member of the district staff.
2. Written warning – coaches, school counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent.
3. Written notification to parent – coaches, school counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent.
4. Detention – teachers, principal, principal's designee, superintendent.
5. Suspension from transportation – principal, principal's designee, superintendent.
6. Suspension from athletic participation – coaches, principal, principal's designee, superintendent.
7. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities – activity director, principal, principal's designee, superintendent.
8. Suspension of other privileges – principal, principal's designee, superintendent.
9. In-school suspension – principal, superintendent.
10. Removal from classroom by teacher – teachers, principal, principal's designee.
11. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – principal, Superintendent, Board of Education.
12. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school – superintendent, Board of Education.
13. Permanent suspension from school – superintendent, Board of Education.

B. Disciplinary and Remedial Consequences for Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination

The district supports the development of measured, balanced and age-appropriate responses to the bullying, harassment and/or discrimination of students by students on school property, including school functions, with remedies and procedures focusing on prevention, intervention, education and discipline. Remedies will be measured, balanced, progressive and age-appropriate and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the offending student's behavior, the developmental age of the student, the previous disciplinary record of the student and other extenuating circumstances, and the impact the offending student's behaviors had on the individual who was physically injured or emotionally harmed. Responses will be reasonably calculated to end the harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, prevent recurrence and eliminate the hostile environment. Successful intervention may involve remediation.

VII. STUDENT SEARCHES

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe, supportive and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district Code of Conduct.

School officials questioning students shall advise each student why he/she is being questioned. However, parent(s) and students should be aware that school officials are under no obligation to contact a student's parent(s) prior to questioning the student nor are the students entitled to be advised of their legal rights, (i.e., "Miranda"-type warning), before being questioned by school officials, as such rights only apply to situations where an individual is being questioned while in the custody of police.

VIII. STUDENT LOCKERS, DESKS AND OTHER SCHOOL STORAGE PLACES

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places, and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.

DIGNITY: being respectful of who you are and what you believe in.

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN I DO?

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

...is serious or perceived behavior of a sexual nature which makes someone uncomfortable. That person may become upset or avoid coming to school because of the behavior aimed at them. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Unwelcome sexual advances asking for sexual favors.
- Jokes, comments, rumors, threats.
- Physical touching, pinching, grabbing.
- Sending texts, emails, posting on Facebook or other social networks comments or pictures that are sexual.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Tell an adult as soon as possible.
- Stop friends who are treating others poorly.
- Ask for help.

HARASSMENT

...is treating someone who is different because of their color, religion, religious practice, gender, sex, sexual orientation or ethnic background poorly because they are different. Some behaviors may include:

- Making fun of specific characteristics.
- Physically taunting, hitting, touching so the person feels uncomfortable.
- Texts, phone calls, Facebook comments, emails that are negatively related to their background, even if it appears to be a joke.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Tell an adult as soon as possible.
- Do not joke about people's backgrounds, dress, practices, music.
- Respect differences, ask questions if you are curious rather than tease.

HAZING & BULLYING

...are mean, inappropriate words that are spoken, written or electronically sent to someone that are hurtful. The behavior is aimed at one person or a group that usually feels intimidated, upset, anxious or threatened. These behaviors may include:

- Daring someone to do something inappropriate to a person.
- Being forced to do something you do not want to.
- Name calling, sarcasm.
- Ignoring someone; leaving them out of the group.
- Touching, hitting, starting fights.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Tell an adult as soon as possible.
- Stop your friends from participating.
- Make friends aware that they may be hurting someone if they do not realize it.

CODE OF CONDUCT

...is a set of rules and procedures that were written to keep our schools safe so that it is a good environment for learning. Areas included are:

- Dressing appropriately.
- Behaving in a positive manner.
- Making good decisions.
- Treating teachers, students and everyone in the school community respectfully.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Review student responsibilities.
- Understand that rules keep us safe and help keep us focused.
- Try talking to someone who may not be following the rules.
- Reach out to adults for help if you are faced with a difficult situation.

ACCEPTANCE: to show regard or consideration for.

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to feel comfortable and safe in their environment. Students of good character can describe the principles and values by which they live and that manage their behavior.

STUDENT RIGHTS:

Students of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District have the right to:

- Learn in a safe environment.
- Feel comfortable about your individuality.
- Be respected for who you are.
- Be heard.
- Have adults available to hear a problem.
- Get assistance from adults and peers when you need to resolve a problem.
- Have your strengths celebrated.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District are responsible for the following:

- Always do your best.
- Respect others.
- Never respond physically.
- Share.
- Tell the truth.
- Work on finding a resolution when faced with a problem.
- Use electronic devices responsibly.
- Listen.
- Control impulses.
- Cooperate with others.
- Communicate directly and clearly.
- Help others.
- Encourage friends who seem depressed or angry to seek help from a parent, teacher, counselor or caring adult.
- When you hear something troubling or that worries you, tell an adult.
- Report instances of bullying and harassment to caring adults.
- Understand the importance of reporting and getting help.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Recognize and appreciate diversity and individual differences.
- Do not engage in gossip or negative talk.

Display acceptance, respect for others and dignity, which means awareness and sensitivity to unfairness or harassment due to, but not limited to, actual or perceived:

- color
- weight
- race
- national origin
- ethnic group
- religion
- religious practice
- disability
- sexual orientation
- gender identity, or
- sex/gender



RESPECT: to show regard or consideration for.

Bellmore-Merrick CHSD
Brookside School
1260 Meadowbrook Road
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