

Ben Franklin JHS

2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

HOME OF THE CHARGERS

MAIN OFFICE: 715-345-5413

STUDENT SERVICES: 715-345-5414



September 2019

Dear Ben Franklin JHS Families,

Table of Contents

New Staff	2
Conferences	2
Calendar	2
E-Mail Notifications	2
Expectations	2
Department News	3-5
Washington D.C.	6
Heavy Metal Tour	6
Lock Down	6
School Nurse	7-8
Student Planners	8
Fee Statements	8
Lunch Program	9
Honor Roll	9
Student Drop Off	9
Attendance	10
Cell Phone use	10
E-Cycle	10
Family Access	11
Web Site	11
Athletics	12-13
Yearbook Sales	13
Clubs	13
Support Services	14
Notices & Policies	15-16

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at Ben Franklin Junior High School. There is nothing more energizing than having our students back in our hallways and classrooms. The teachers and staff are excited about beginning the new school year, and are looking forward to working with you and your children. If we haven't met and you are in the school, please take a minute to come by the office and introduce yourself. By working together we can ensure that all our students receive an excellent education and have a successful and rewarding experience during their time here.

September is an exciting time for our students. They are embarking upon a new school year with eager anticipation. They will forge new friendships, meet new teachers and learn new routines. Ben Franklin Junior High School is a safe and caring learning community that values parental input. I value the input of our parent community and I welcome you to contact me with any concerns or questions. I want you and your child's experience at Ben Franklin to be positive.

The junior high experience is one of exploration. In addition to academics, there are many dances, athletic opportunities, clubs, school spirit events, and other school activities for student participation. I strongly encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular opportunities and contribute to the school. This is a special way to make a connection with classmates and teachers while developing a great sense of pride for your school.

Monthly newsletters are one of several ways we use to keep you informed of school news and events. Please feel free to phone or email your child's teacher to share your ideas on how to help your child be more successful, or with any concerns with the classroom. Thank you for helping us make Ben Franklin Junior High School a great place for our students to learn and grow.

For more information, please visit our website at www.pointschools.net/ben-franklin or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Ben-Franklin-Junior-High-School>.

We are very proud of our instructional programs, our safe, positive school environment, and the excellent progress demonstrated by our students. We look forward to another successful year of growth and achievement for all.

Sincerely,
Steven Prokop
Principal



**Parent Teacher
Conferences**

**November 7, 2019 from
4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**November 11, 2019 from
11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
and 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RETURNING STAFF

ART: Kaitlin Mallek

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS:

Susan Blanco, Adrienne Newland, Patty Oligney,
Pamela Swope

ESL: Angela Harding

MUSIC: Christine Kue

READING: Jacalyn Mabon

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: Tabitha Prutz

SOCIAL STUDIES: Taylor Hillmann & Missy
Lobner

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Sarah Beasland, Jim
Gilmore, Jennifer Grezenski & Amie Tolbert

TECH. INTEGRATION SPEC.: Pamela Hitz

WORLD LANGUAGE: Karin Graham



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We will be holding parent conferences on **November 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and November 11th from 11:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss progress that occurred during the first grading period.** Parents are welcome at either session. Some of our teachers teach at P.J. Jacobs and SPASH. These teachers may only be at Ben Franklin on one of the conference dates. Staff will inform their students about their schedule. Please check with your child.

Maps will be available, ask your student for the names of his/her teachers.

We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to confer with your child's teachers. We feel that parent-teacher conferences are a valued tool by which we are able to better understand and serve your child.

Students are welcome to attend conferences.

2019-2020 SCHOOL-YEAR

October 25	No School, Prof. Dev. Day
November 1	End of First Quarter
November 7	Parent Teacher Conf. 4-8pm
November 11	No School, Parent Teacher Conf.
November 27-29	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	No School, Winter Break
January 2	School Reconvenes
January 6	Registration Meetings (Incoming 6th/7th/8th grade)
January 17	End of Semester One
January 20	No School, Prof. Dev. Day
February 6	Parent Teacher Conf. 4-8pm
February 21	No School, Prof. Dev. Day
March 16-20	No School, Spring Break
March 31	End of Third Quarter
April 10	No School, Good Friday
April 13	No School, Prof. Dev. Day
May 25	No School, Memorial Day
June 5	Last Day for Students

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Parent reminders of important upcoming events are emailed periodically. These reminders supplement monthly parent newsletters. Please update your e-mail information in the Skyward Family Access system in order to be included in this mailing list.

AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Except for students with meetings, athletic practices/games, homework center, and detentions, all students should be out of the building by 3:10 p.m. each afternoon. Because there is no supervision after buses leave, we cannot have students just "hanging around" after school has dismissed for the day.

MATH CENTER

The math department is very excited to begin the new year. We will be using weekly word problems to prepare for the state test throughout the year. The emphasis will be on problem solving and vocabulary development. Daily work is to be expected in class, and should not take an inordinate amount of time if class time was used properly. Once again the textbooks are available online from the Ben Franklin homepage. Hard copies are also available. For assistance there is an open math lab from 7:10 – 7:32 each morning staffed by two teachers in room 2017. It is also recommended that students have a scientific calculator, preferably Texas Instruments TI-301I.

SCIENCE

The science teaching team is excited to spend the year with your student exploring a variety of topics, including chemistry, physics, biology, ecology, geology, astronomy and meteorology. We have a very hands-on, investigative program throughout our seventh, eighth and ninth grade. Your students will spend time completing experiments and will often work in teams to solve different science problems. As mentioned in the planner, the color of notebook and folder suggested is green for science. We are looking forward to a fabulous year.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in 7th grade Social Studies are off to a great start! We've enjoyed getting to know each other over the past few days and spent time getting familiarized with the content and procedures of our classes. This month, we will be focusing on learning about the various Social Sciences including Psychology.

Eighth grade students are beginning the year with a brief overview of history skills and terms. They will also explore the political and physical features of Europe as this year's social studies course is European History! Next, students will explore Ancient Greece, focusing on the political and cultural contributions that have influenced western society.

Medieval Times Field Trip - This year's annual eighth grade Medieval Times field trip will take place on Thursday, December 5th, 2019. More information will be made available in the upcoming weeks.

Ninth grade students are beginning the year learning about the foundations of Civics through identifying and analyzing the revolutionary roots of this nation. The first few units focus on students exploring the causes and effects of the American Revolution and the building blocks of the Constitution. Students will take part in an engaging tax and constitutional convention simulation.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Welcome to the world of STEM and Engineering! As a department, we are excited about the new year in Technology and Engineering. We have great projects and lessons ahead for the 2019-20 school year. CO2 Dragsters, 3-D Software, End Tables, Sheet Metal Tool boxes are just a few great items students have the chance of making in Tech. and Engineering. We also have new 3-D Printers and Metal Machining Lathes this year to explore.

If for any reason you need to get in touch with us, we can be contacted by email the best. Mark Vrieze – mvrieze@pointschools.net – 8th Gr. G.T.T. & 9th Gr. Comp. Graphics Matt Jacowski – mjacowsk@pointschools.net – 8th Gr. G.T.T. & 9th Gr. Woods, Metals, and I.E.D.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The World Language Department would like to welcome back Karin Graham to Ben Franklin as our German teacher. In addition, Meg Clabots is also back to teach French. They will be sharing their time between here and SPASH.

In all of our language courses, students in second and third year are busy brushing up on their previous skills, while our first year students have jumped into getting acquainted with others in the target language!

In the near future, students will be invited to attend our annual extended weekend trip to Concordia Language Village in Bemidji, Minnesota (available to all grades) in the Spring of 2020.

French students will be traveling to France this coming summer. Please see either teacher for more information. Additionally this winter, Spanish students in 7th or 8th grades will have the opportunity to sign up for our next international trip in the Spring of 2021.

Family & Consumer Science

Welcome back Family and Consumer Science students and families! Our department looks forward to our focus on Wellness and implementing 'Wellness Breaks' in our classroom. Look to future newsletters for more information.

What is Wellness? Wellness is an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices toward a more successful existence.

What are Wellness Breaks? Wellness breaks are short class activities that can be applied to any dimension of wellness and easily facilitated through various means (videos, exercises, games, competitions, etc.).

Why Wellness Breaks at School?

To infuse social and emotional learning, trauma sensitivity, stress management and exercise into daily classroom routines, enhance overall well-being and help students thrive at school and life. Adapted from UWSP.

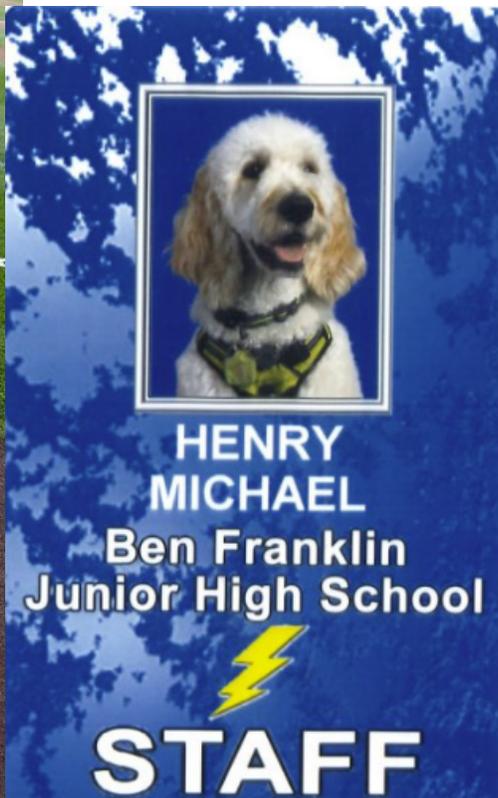
Dear Ben Franklin Families,

I wanted to share with you that I will be bringing in a dog to assist in the instructional strategies in my classes. Henry has passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. He has also completed 'Love On A Leash' for facility therapy dog training. And, he and I are now a certified animal assisted interaction team through 'Therapy Animals Unleashed'. Lastly, he has all of the vaccinations up to date, including negative fecal worm panel, and is licensed in the city of Plover.

Henry comes from a multiple generation English Golden Doodle who is considered genetically hypo allergenic. Also, he has worked with a variety of people from infants to the elderly.

If you do not wish to have your child engage with him, please contact me. My office number at school is 715-345-5413, please leave a message if I am not available. Or my email address at school is denders@pointschools.net. Also, feel free to call me on my cell 715-305-2670, if I am unavailable please leave a message.

Sincerely,
Denise Enders
FACS Teacher



MUSIC

CONCERTS

The music department has three evening concerts scheduled this fall.

Band Concert on 10/22/2019

Orchestra Concert on 10/29/2019

Choir Concert on 11/19/2019

All three concerts will be in the Ben Franklin Auditorium, and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

CHOIR T-SHIRTS

Mrs. Kue would like to remind choir students that T-Shirt order forms will be due on Friday, September 20th. The cost is \$10.00. Please include cash or a check made out to "Ben Franklin Junior High School".

CANDY BAR SALE & FUNDRAISER

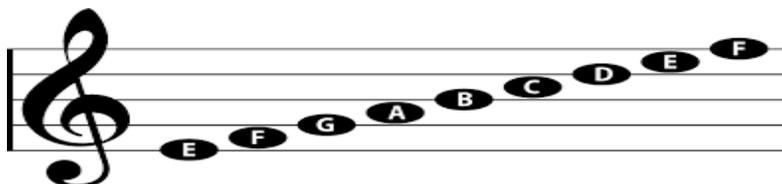
Candy Sale Fund-raiser - The annual Ben Franklin Band/Orchestra candy bar sale is taking place again this year during the first three weeks of school. Although participation is not required, we hope each student will participate because all students benefit!

The candy bars will be distributed to students on **Friday, September 6th** during music classes. Our goal is for each student to sell one or more cases of forty-eight bars. Each bar sells for \$1.50. All money will be due on **Monday, September 30th**, but may be turned in sooner. Please make a check out for the total to "Ben Franklin Junior High School" and keep the cash collected. This will greatly reduce our bookkeeping time.

The profits from this year's sale will be used to offset the cost of field trips, and to purchase instruments and equipment for our band and orchestra programs. A successful sale will enable us to provide a more enriched music education for your child. Your help is greatly appreciated!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT DATES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Time</u>
10/22/2019	Fall Band Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Band Students	7:30 PM
10/29/2019	Fall Orchestra Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Orchestra Students	7:30 PM
11/19/2019	Fall Choir Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Choir Students	7:30 PM
12/13/2019	Band Elementary Tour	Elementary Schools	Concert Band	all day
12/17/2019	Winter Orchestra Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Orchestra Students	7:30 PM
1/10/2020	Orchestra Elementary Tour	Elementary Schools	8/9 Orchestra Students	all day
2/3/2020	Winter Band Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Band Students	7:30 PM
2/18/2020	Winter Choir Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Choir Students	7:30 PM
3/7/2020	District Solo/Ensemble	Marshfield HS	Music Students	all day
4/20/2020	Spring Band Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Band Students	7:30 PM
5/2/2020	State Solo/Ensemble	UWSP	Music Students	all day
5/11/2020	Spring Orchestra Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Orchestra Students	7:30 PM
5/12/2020	7th Grade Band Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	7th - Band Students	7:00 PM
5/15/2020	Concert Band with SPASH	Pfiffer Park Band Shell	Ninth Grade Band	11:30 AM
5/19/2020	Spring Choir Concert	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Choir Students	7:30 PM
5/21/2020	Awards Night	Ben Franklin Auditorium	Jazz Band	7:00 PM



WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

We are excited to once again lead the annual ninth grade, Ben Franklin Washington D.C. trip! The dates of the trip are Monday, March 9th through Saturday, March 13th, 2020. Those traveling will get to see and experience the historic sites of Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

Registration for the trip has already begun. Registration can be completed: online (www.worldstridesdiscovernow.org), by phone (1-800- 468-5899), or by mail to World Strides (Trip ID# is 175884). The deadline for trip registration is Monday, October 15th, 2019. In addition, World Strides does offer scholarships. The most popular scholarship is the FLAG (Future Leaders of American Government) scholarship. Find out more about the FLAG Scholarship and apply by contacting Customer Service at 1-800-468- 5899. The application must be completed within 45 days of registering for your program. In addition, you can find out about other scholarships on their website (www.worldstridesdiscovernow.org).

For those that are not ready to register just yet, there will be an information meeting for the trip on Wednesday, September 25th from 7:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Ben Franklin Junior High in the auditorium. All ninth-grade students and family are welcome to come to find out more about the trip. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to see and experience our Nation's history first hand!

8TH GRADE HEAVY METAL TOUR FIELD TRIP

Each year, Ben Franklin JH School eighth grade students participate in an event called the Heavy Metal Tour. This event is attended by thousands of students throughout northcentral Wisconsin and is sponsored by the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and area Technical Colleges. Ben Franklin students will tour various manufacturing facilities in central Wisconsin and the Mid-State Technical College Stevens Point campus.

This year's Heavy Metal Tour will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. There is no cost to participate and lunch is provided at Mid-State Technical College. The Heavy Metal Tour typically runs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but exact departure and return times vary by bus and will be determined in late September. Students should wear closed toed shoes that day.

If you need additional information about the Heavy Metal Tour, would like to exclude your student from this event, or if your student has any special dietary needs, please contact your student's school counselor in the Student Services Office at 715-345- 5414.

LOCKDOWN-ALICE DRILL

During the month of September, students and staff will participate in a Lockdown Drill. Lockdown-ALICE is an emergency procedure to be followed should a serious threat to the students and staff occur at Ben Franklin. Whenever a Lockdown-ALICE situation exists, the Stevens Point Police Department is immediately notified. In conjunction with the Stevens Point Police Department, we will conduct the Lockdown-ALICE Drill in an attempt to educate and practice with students how to react in an emergency situation. We feel this drill is beneficial to all to insure the safety of our students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns about this drill, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Prokop, Principal.

Day Light Savings

Sunday November 3, 2019

Follow us on Facebook!

Ben Franklin Junior High School @BenFranklinJHS



Like us on
Facebook

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE

Any medications (prescription or over-the-counter) cannot be dispensed in the school unless the following Wisconsin State Requirements are met:

Prescription Medication:

The physician and parent must sign Medication Permission Forms. Forms are available from the physician or school student service office. Medication must remain in the original labeled pharmacy container.

Over-the-counter medications. (Policy 453.4)

Ben Franklin Student Services staff may provide and administer Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, Tums and throat lozenges to students with written consent from the student's parent/guardian during regular school hours. A copy of the Parent Permission for the Administration of Over-the Counter Medication form is on-line and in the Student Services office. If you are interested in having your student receive non-prescription medication at school, complete the consent form and return it to Student Services.

THE HEALTH CLINIC

Our health clinic is located in the Student Service office. The school nurse is available on a part time basis. The Student Service staff is trained to provide basic first aid. Students who are too ill or injured to return to class will wait in the health room until parents can be reached.

Our clinic is set up only for emergencies, injuries, and as a waiting area until parents can be contacted.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

To serve your children in case of an accident or sudden illness, please update the information requested. Please sign the Emergency Form. We must have one form per student. This form will also be used for athletic participation.

Examples of health conditions we should be informed of include:

- Hearing loss that requires preferential seating
- Restrictions in physical education (requires a physician's form on file)
- Vision impairment that requires preferential seating
- Special bathroom needs
- Severe food or bee allergies
- Diabetes
- Seizure Disorder

If you have any questions or concerns please call the student services office at (715)345-5414. ⁷

BEN FRANKLIN HEALTH OFFICE

Kathy Reynolds, RN BSN MPH

I am pleased to be returning to Ben Franklin to provide school nursing services. My regular hours at Ben Franklin will be:

Tuesdays - 8:30 - 4:00

Thursdays-8:30 - 4:00

To contact me during school hours, call 715-345-5413 Extension 70590. I also can be reached at Portage County Health and Human Services Dept. at 715- 345-5766.

Attention Parents and Guardians: For the health and safety of your child, please verify the following information below before registration.

Emergency Contact Information: Use your SKYWARD family access code to check your child's student information. Is the emergency contact information (names and phone numbers) correct? If not, you may correct the information yourself on line or call Student Services (Carmen Kraklow) at 715-345-5457.

Health Alert Information: Use your SKYWARD family access code to check your child's student information. Is your child's health alert information correct? Are changes or updates needed? If yes, contact your school nurse and she will make changes and or update your child's health alert information.

Immunization Deadline Date: Students who have NO IMMUNIZATION RECORDS or are BEHIND SCHEDULE by October 14th will be non-compliant with Wisconsin State Law. Please protect your child and others from vaccine preventable diseases by complying with Wisconsin's Immunization Law. If you have any questions, contact your school nurse or medical provider.

Additional Health Forms

If your child has a health condition(s) and/or needs to take a prescription medication(s) at school and/or needs to take an over the counter medication such as (Tylenol, Tums, Ibuprofen, Benadryl and throat lozenges) you will need to complete the forms below:

- Health Condition Management Plans: These plans can be downloaded from the District's homepage. Click on "PARENTS" then, "FAMILY AND STUDENT FORMS". The information that you provide (on a yearly basis) will be shared with school and medical personnel for educational purposes and/or to protect the life and safety of your child.

- Medication Permission Forms: These forms can be downloaded from the District's homepage. Click on "PARENTS" then, "FAMILY AND STUDENT FORMS". Medication Permission forms are completed (on a yearly basis) and will be shared with school and medical personnel for educational purposes and/or to protect the life and safety of your child. Below are the descriptions of various types of medication permission forms that are available for student use.
1. Prescription medication can be administered to a student, if the school has on file a completed Stevens Point Area Public School District Prescription Medication Permission Form, completed by the doctor and signed by the parent. This includes medicines which the doctor has indicated that the student can self-administer (inhalers, insulin, Epi Pens, migraine and anxiety medications etc...). You may have the physician fax the SPAPSD Prescription Medication Permission Form to the Ben Franklin health office at (715)345-7380 or Ben Franklin main office at (715)345-5696. Other prescription medication forms may be acceptable if they include the required information listed in the SPAPSD medication policy.
 2. Over the counter medication can be provided and administered in the Ben Franklin health room if the school's Over the Counter Medication Permission Form has been completed and signed by a parent/guardian for this school year.
 3. Non-prescription medication provided by the parent/guardian can be administered to your child if a Non-Prescription Medication Permission Form is completed and signed by the parent/guardian.

All health condition forms, medication forms and the District's medication policy are also available at Ben Franklin Health office and at the Bliss Center (Student Services Office).

If you have any questions or concerns, please leave a message for the school nurse at (715)345-5413. She will return your message as soon as possible. Thank you!

STUDENT PLANNERS

Student planners have been distributed to all students, grades 7 through 9. The planner program has been extremely successful at our school because:

- Teachers assist students in their organizational skills
- Parents monitor student assignments and classroom expectations
- Teachers communicate with parents through the planner
- Students are more accountable for their assignments

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Program Expectations

SCHOOL STAFF WILL:

- Require that students bring their planner to class
- Assist students in recording assignments
- Use the planner as a communication tool with parents
- Use the planner as a hall pass
- Provide a reward and incentive program

STUDENTS WILL:

- Bring their planners to each class during the school day
- Use the planner to record assignments, tests, projects
- Share teacher notes with parents
- Share parent comments with teachers

PARENTS WILL:

- Use the planner as a communication tool with teachers
- Check the planner to assure its appropriate use
- Support the planner program at the school

Please assist us in promoting better organizational skills and higher achievement by discussing and reviewing the planner with your son or daughter.

FEE STATEMENTS

Fee statements on accounts with a balance will be sent out the end of September. Please note that if your student had a schedule change that changed their fee amount you may receive an updated statement reflecting the new amount.

You may pay fees on-line, in the main office or mail them to Ben Franklin Junior High School. If you have questions on your fee statement, please call 715-345-5413 and ask for Kim.

COMPUTERIZED LUNCH PROGRAM

Each student is issued a 5-digit pin number to use in the lunch line. The pin is located on the students schedule. When students come through the lunch line they will punch in their number into the keypad. This will bring up their lunch account. The cashier will enter in the purchases (lunch and ala carte) and the amount will be deducted from the account.

Students should memorize their pin number before they come through the lunch line. Individual student pin numbers are confidential and should not be shared with or used by other students.

There will be no charging of lunches at the secondary level (per Board Policy 665). If a family account is negative, students will have the option of paying cash for their meals. All accounts will be set up as family accounts; however, an individual account can be set up for a secondary student if a parent requests it. Students are strongly encouraged to put money on their account for lunch and ala carte purchases. Cash sales will be accepted at the end of the line only.

All payments should be put in an envelope with the first and last name of the student clearly marked on the outside. Payments will be posted to accounts daily.

Lunch prices are \$2.30 per student lunch.

ALA CARTE PURCHASES

Families have the option to set an ala carte limit in Skyward Family Access. At the end of each school year these limits are reset. If you would like to set a limit on your child's ala carte purchases, please log into Skyward Family Access or contact the Food Service Office at (715)345-5435.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Breakfast is served for students from 7:15-7:35 AM. The charge is \$1.20 per breakfast or \$6.00 per week with an extra milk costing \$.35 each. Free and reduced eligibility applies to the breakfast program as well as the lunch program.

HONOR ROLL

We use the following grade point average to determine honor roll.

- 3.2 and higher - Honors
- 3.6 and higher - High Honors
- 4.0 - Highest Honors

Ninth grade honor roll students will continue to be printed with the SPASH Honor Roll.

Honor Rolls are generated in the following manner:

1. GPA at the end of first quarter using the quarter grade.
2. GPA at the end of the first semester using the semester grade.
3. GPA at the end of the third quarter using the quarter grade.
4. GPA at the end of the second semester using the semester grade.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents who personally transport their student to and from Ben Franklin should not use the bus driveway off Water Street. This causes potential danger involving both vehicles and pedestrians, especially in snowy conditions. Do not drop students off on the Water Street median. It is unsafe for students to cross Water Street.

Parents should use the driveway off Polk Street to drop off and pick up students.

Students should not be dropped off at Door 12. (The door near the tennis courts.) Parents should not be picking their student up at Door 12 until after 3:30 p.m.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE!

In an effort to promote educational excellence and good work habits, the staff presents Perfect Attendance Awards at the end of each school year to deserving students. This recognition is awarded to students who have not missed any classes (other than school-related absences) during the entire year. Because we understand that doctor and dental appointments cannot always be scheduled after school, we ask that students working toward perfect attendance schedule these appointments during their lunch period.

REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CRITICAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS

We are proud of the academic and extracurricular opportunities that we provide to students; however, no one can take full advantage of school opportunities without being present on a regular basis. There is a significant relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Educational research suggests that students who attend school regularly are likely to develop the literacy, technical and social skills that greatly increase the chances for adult success. In fact, student attendance consistently predicts performance on standardized achievement tests as well as grades (Lamdin, 1996).

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance is required every day in all classes. Teachers take attendance each period. A student with an unexcused absence will be required to make up time.

Illness: On the day a student is absent, parents must call the office (715-345-5413). The best time to call is between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. If parents have not called the school, a pre-recorded message will be sent to parents/guardians.

Vacation of 3 days or more: Students should bring a note from parents to the office and pick up a Pre-Arranged Absence form about one week in advance of a vacation. This is to be signed by all teachers and returned to the office. It is the responsibility of the student to make up work for any absence. Students should make arrangements to complete assignments ahead of their time out, so that they are not overloaded when they return.

WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Truancy is defined as being absent from school for part or all of a school day without an acceptable excuse. A "habitual truant," according to the Wisconsin State Statutes, is a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of 5 days in a semester. Parents of students who are close to being considered habitually truant will receive a communication from the Assistant Principal. In addition, all attempts will be made to address issues that may be related to the truancy. A citation may be issued by the Stevens Point Police Department for truancy and/or habitual truancy, which results in a mandatory appearance in truancy court.

CELL PHONE USE

The use of cell phones, radios, CD players, cameras, audio recording devices and all other personal electronic devices during the school day is not allowed as they are an unnecessary distraction and disruptive to the learning environment. The use of imaging devices or imaging features of personal electronic devices (video or picture phones, cameras or video recorders, etc.) by students is not allowed in the building without prior approval and under the supervision of a staff member. Students are expected to have these items turned off and put away during the school day. Students who violate this policy will be required to surrender their device for the remainder of the day and will have disciplinary consequences. Repeated violations will result in a parent being required to pick up the device. If there is an emergency, parents can get a message to their child through the main office.

E-Cycle

Ben Franklin's fall E-Cycle drive will be held Saturday, October 19th. The time for drop off will run from 8:00 am - Noon. See you on the 19th!!



Family Access & Gradebook

We recognize that parents want to play an active role in their student's education. To make it easier for parents to stay involved, Ben Franklin Junior High and other schools within the Stevens Point School District provide parents with the ability to view students grades, attendance, schedules, and lunch account balances via the Internet, anytime, day or night.

The software that makes this possible is Family Access by Skyward. If parents choose to participate in Family Access, they will be able to obtain access to the software by visiting the Ben Franklin website.

The Gradebook portion of Family Access is utilized by teachers at Ben Franklin. This component allows parents to access their student's individual class grades eliminating the possibility of a surprise at report card time, and improving parent/teacher communication. The software provides direct email links to each of a student's teachers using the gradebook program. This allows for quick questions to be asked and for information to be provided. When viewing student grades, parents will see a list of assignments, dates, point values, and points earned. As teachers update grades (on a weekly basis) they may also include comments.

Parent interest in their student's education is important to student success. With PaC Family Access it is more convenient for parents to keep up-to-date on their student's grades and communicate with teachers.

PLEASE NOTE: To remain compliant with the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act (FERPA) staff cannot send information regarding grading, attendance or discipline to parents and guardians via e-mail without parent/guarding consent. If you do not wish to have this information communicated via email, please contact the school office to receive an email opt-out form.

Parents may access this information by requesting a secure and private login and password.

For more information on Family Access, contact the main office at (715)345-5413.



Ben Franklin Web Site

How can the Ben Franklin Junior High School Website help you and your student?

- School policies/procedures
- Lists of extracurricular activities
- Staff names and e-mail addresses
- Department telephone numbers
- Department information
- Course information
- Course websites for homework purposes
- Daily announcements
- School calendars
- Parent newsletters
- Family Access
- Ben Franklin Facebook link

Children of Divorced or Separated Parents' Rights

The Stevens Point Area Public School District shall maintain neutrality between parents who are involved in an action affecting the family, unless otherwise directed by court order. It is the responsibility of the parent's to notify the district of any such order.

Rule:

The parent enrolling the student in school shall be considered to be the custodial parent and that parent's residence shall be considered the student's residence for school purposes, unless a court order or other satisfactory documentation is presented which specifies otherwise.

Either parent of a student affected by divorce or legal separation may receive school mailings, progress reports, view student records, visit the child's school and attend parent/teacher conferences of their child(ren) under the conditions of this policy. Unless a parent has been denied physical placement with his/her child(ren), both parents may have access to such information. Generally, one parent/teacher conference will be held for each student.

The building principal shall inform classroom teachers of those students for whom a non-custodial parent's access to information has been restricted by court order.

A student enrolled in the district may be released from school to either the custodial or non-custodial parent, unless the custodial parent has presented a court order or other legally binding document, which prohibits such a release.

Ben Franklin Athletics

At the junior we highly encourage students to explore as many different activities as possible. We try not to cut athletes out of the 7-8 grade sports, so for the most part we accommodate as many kids as are interested in a sport. We emphasize participation to enable athletes to get as much involvement in games/meets as possible.

We ask students to sign up for sports in advance via our online sign up on our web page. This allows us to organize teams and schedule games to accommodate our numbers. Once students make the commitment to participate in a sport, we ask them to honor that commitment until the season ends. We try to keep our team numbers low in order to allow for maximum participation. When athletes quit during the season, we sometimes have difficulty fielding teams.

Many of our students have competed in summer and club sports. The rules about attending practice may be relaxed in those activities. In the school setting, practices are held at least four days each week (in many sports five days a week). We expect athletes to attend all practices. In each practice skills are taught, which will be used in contests. It may be difficult finding time to review these skills with the one or two kids who miss practice. Coaches will expect notes from parents/guardians excusing absences. Hair appointments, shopping, baby-sitting and birthday parties will probably not be excused. Notes should be brought in advance to the coach for excused absences. Too many excused absences may mean less playing time in contests/games.

Good effort and behavior are expected at all practices and games. The coach is in charge of the team. If students have a question about technique, they should look for an appropriate time to ask them.

At Ben Franklin we have coaches with a wide variety of coaching experience. All coaches have something to offer. Kids can learn something from a coach, even though he/she may not be the most experienced coach.

Playing time at Ben Franklin is fair but not necessarily equal. Attendance, behavior, effort and ability

are some reasons why kids may not get equal playing time in contests. We provide playing time for kids who attend and show effort in practices. Athletes have to be passing in all classes in order to participate in sports. In addition, we expect them to sign an athletic code, which outlines appropriate behavior, and consequences if they do not demonstrate appropriate behavior.

It is our desire that all kids have an enjoyable experience in junior high athletics. We want kids to explore the various opportunities we offer in order to make intelligent choices as to the sports they may wish to continue in. There is a responsibility to the athletes to remain committed to the team, attend practices, and show proper behavior in practices and games.

Dan Gagnon -Ben Franklin Athletic Director

GRADES 7/8 WINTER SPORTS MEETING

Monday, October 14th

Ben Franklin Auditorium

Team Meetings with coaches @ 6:30 for everyone

Athletic Code meeting @ 7:00 for those who did not attend the Fall Sports Meeting

**Grades 9-12 Winter Sports Meeting
Tuesday, October 29 @ 6:30 SPASH**

2019 Winter Sports Start Dates:

Boys' 7/8 Basketball: Tuesday, October 15

Boys' 9th Basketball: Monday, November 18

Girls' 7/8 Basketball: Monday, January 6

Girls 9th Basketball: Monday, November 11

Boys' 7/8 Wrestling: Monday, November 18

Boys' 9th Wrestling: Monday, November 18

Gymnastics (9-12): Monday, November 11

Boys Hockey (9-12): Monday, November 11

Girls Hockey (9-12): Monday, November 11

To participate the first day of the 2019-2020 season athletes will need the following materials turned in:

1. WIAA Physical Card must be on file at Ben Franklin Junior High

A. If your physical is prior to 4/1/2018 it has expired. A new exam is needed for athletic participation.

B. If your physical is dated between 4/1/2018 – 3/30/2019 your physical exam is valid as long as you filled out the Alternate Year Form in the Skyward online athletic forms.

C. If your physical is dated 4/1/2019 or after no new exam or alternate year card is needed at this time

2. The Junior High Athletic Code, WIAA Concussion Form and Alternate Year Card form must be filled out online under your Skyward Family Access account. Please click on “Online Forms” to fill them out. If you filled them out for a fall sport there is no need to do again. If you need a tutorial please find the document under “Charger Documents” located on the Ben Franklin Athletics webpage.

3. Fees must be paid by the day of the first game/meet in order to participate in the contest.

BACKPACK PROBLEM

According to a recent survey conducted by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 58 % of orthopedists reported seeing school age patients complaining of back and shoulder pain caused by weighty backpacks. “The extra stress placed on the spine and shoulder from heavy loads is causing some unnecessary problems in children,” says orthopedic surgeon Dr. Charlotte B. Alexander. Here are a few guidelines for students: A backpacks weight should not exceed 20 percent of a students’ body weight. Students should use both of the backpack’s straps, firmly tightened, to hold the pack two inches above the waist. Also, students should make frequent trips to their lockers to replace books.

CONNECTIONS IMPORTANT TO STUDENT SUCCESS

The school year is well underway and we are actively engaged in the business of teaching and learning.

With the large number of clubs and activities for students along with the extracurricular programs there are many ways for students to have a good time at school. Research shows that students who are actively engaged in their school do better academically. There is a list of the clubs and activities in the student planner. Check it out and get connected in a good way.

YEARBOOK SALES

During the advisory period on the first day, students received information about ordering a yearbook through Josten’s. You may use the pamphlet sent home to mail in your order, or visit the Josten’s website to order a yearbook from Josten’s directly. The cost of the yearbook, if purchased by the end of December is \$26. The cost after December raises to \$30. We do not collect money at the school, all money is sent to Josten’s or paid via credit card online. We have a great product at the end of each year and we are excited to start creating great memories to share!

If you have a student who is interested in participating in Yearbook Club, we will start either late September or early October. Our meetings are from 3:15-4:00 (4:30 when needed) on Mondays. We welcome all students to join, it is a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun creating the yearbook!

CLUBS

Clubs meet outside of the regularly scheduled school day. Clubs are open to all students. For club discriptions, go to the Ben Franklin website, click on “Co-Curricular” then, “Clubs and Activities”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily announcements are read over the P.A. system at the start of second hour. Students are expected to pay attention to these announcements as they contain important information about activities, clubs, and other events at school. Announcements also posted on TV monitors and our school website.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

C.A.R.E. Charter School - Concerned About Reaching Everyone. Charter School for at-risk students. This charter school provides a smaller academic setting for students who are at risk of failure due to social, emotional, truancy, or academic concerns.

AIM—Achieving In Math - These math classes at each grade level provide additional math support for students who have not achieved proficiency on the state assessment. There is also a focus on improving basic math skills.

Advanced Courses - Advanced courses in the four core subject areas, English, social studies, math and science are available for academically talented students in grades 7-9.

Charger Connection - Charger Connections is a Mentoring Program between a teacher, student, and families. The teacher/mentor works to create a positive relationship with the student and to engage the student in academic, social, and behavioral success.

ESL - English as a Second Language - The ESL classes are designed to assist English Language Learners (ELLs) in acquiring academic English.

Math Lab - Math teachers are available before school on a rotating schedule to tutor any interested or needy math students.

PaC Family Access - Eliminate surprises at parent/teacher conferences and report card time. View student's attendance, grades, demographic information and next year scheduling with an easy "point and click".

Special Education Programs

Learning Disabilities

Intellectual Disabilities

Hearing Impaired

Emotional Behavioral Disabilities

Speech/Language

Study Centers - Study labs are structured in a way to monitor student performance and provide individual tutoring/support as needed.

Reading/Math/Writing Interventions - Students receive focused math/reading/writing interventions during study lab.

BUILDING INITIATIVES 2019-2020

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY 1 & 2 Gateway to Technology is a required course designed to expose students to technology and engineering. The course is hands-on learning activities.

INTRO. TO ENGINEERING & DESIGN The course provides students realistic experiences related to the field of Engineering and it is part of a nationwide curriculum that is endorsed by the Engineering community.

RtI—RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION - Response to Intervention involves conducting universal screenings of all students in the areas of reading and math, providing effective interventions matched to student need, and monitoring progress frequently.

PBIS—POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a school-wide model to teach and reinforce good attendance and appropriate behaviors in all areas of the building throughout the school day. This year we will be analyzing behavior trends using Oasis data with the goal of developing a comprehensive recognition program for students who maintain appropriate behaviors. Any staff members interested in joining this team are always welcomed.

PRINCIPAL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE - Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) provides an introduction to biomedical science through hands-on projects and problems. Students investigate concepts of biology and medicine as they explore health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia, and infectious diseases.

UDL - The Ben Franklin staff is committed to differentiation which includes an awareness of and appreciation for student differences and a commitment to meet learners' individual needs.

SENTRY FOUNDATION 1:1 LAPTOP INITIATIVE - The 1:1 Laptop Initiative provides equitable student access to technology and creates educational experiences that integrate technology into student learning in an effort to prepare students for a highly competitive and technological world.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS - Ben Franklin staff will implement the Educator Effectiveness teacher evaluation model.

State & Federal Annual Notice Requirements

For complete policy notices, please go to: www.pointschools.net and click on the Parents tab and select annual notices. You may also call the Superintendent's office at (715)345-5444.

Human Growth and Development Instruction: Distribution of curriculum to parents; notice. Each school board that provides an instructional program in human growth and development shall annually provide the parents or guardians of each pupil enrolled in the school district with an outline of the human growth and development curriculum used in the pupil's grade level, information regarding how the parent or guardian may inspect the complete curriculum and instructional materials, an explanation of the exemption under sub. (4), and a statement that pupils exempted from instruction under this section will still receive instruction in the subjects under s. 118.01 (2) (d) 2. c., unless exempted, and s. 118.01 (2) (d) 8. The school board shall make the complete human growth and development curriculum and all instructional materials available for inspection by a parent or guardian upon his or her request at any time, including prior to their use in the classroom.

Locker Searches: School administrators for any reason may conduct periodic general inspection of lockers at any time without student consent and without a search warrant. Searches are authorized in the district for the purpose of maintaining order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel.

Military Opt-Out Forms Available: For parents who do not want their child's directory data released to military branches, a "Military Opt-Out Form" can be downloaded from the Ben Franklin website under "Parent Resources/BF Forms/Reference Documents". This option is available as a part of the No Child Left Behind legislation. For the complete policy on Student Records, please go to the district webpage at www.pointschools.net, Board/School Board/Policies/347.

Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, & Anti-Bullying: The district is committed to maintaining a policy of non-discrimination in all aspects of the district's operations. Acts of discrimination will not be tolerated. The district is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from any form of harassment, including, but not limited to bullying and sexual harassment. The district is committed to maintaining a policy of equal opportunity for students in curricular, co-curricular, student services, and other programs operated by the district. The district is committed to maintaining a policy of equal opportunity in all personnel matters and procedures. It is the intent of the district to comply with both the letter and spirit of the law in making certain that discrimination, including bullying and harassment, does not exist in its policies, regulations, and operations.

Non Discrimination: The Stevens Point Area Public School District shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law in the educational programs or activities which it operates or in employment practices. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the district's pupil services office by calling (715)345-5454.

Sexual Harassment: It is the policy of the Stevens Point Area Public Schools/Ben Franklin to maintain an educational environment that is free of sexual harassment. To assist students in becoming aware of this policy, a shortened version, along with examples of unacceptable conduct, has been placed in their handbook and posted in each classroom. In addition, individuals have been designated to assist students in reporting violations of this policy. Please assist us in implementing this policy by reviewing it in your student's assignment notebook, which is provided to your student the first day of school. If you have any questions about the Sexual Harassment Policy or wish to obtain a copy of it, please contact the Main Office.

Student Alcohol & Other Drug Use: In order to establish and maintain a drug free educational environment, students of the Stevens Point Area Public School District shall not knowingly possess, use, distribute, sell or be under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, and other mind altering chemicals as defined by Wisconsin Statutes and local laws while on school property or during school sponsored activities. Substances classified or presented as "look-alikes" shall be considered and responded to as if they were, in fact, the actual chemicals. Students violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with established procedures. Use of a drug authorized in accordance with a medical prescription from a registered physician for use during school hours shall not be considered a violation of this policy used in accordance with the physicians directions and by the individual for whom it was prescribed.

Student use of Beepers & Laser Pointers: Student use of "beepers" (i.e. electronic paging or two-way communication devices), cell phones and laser pointers is prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. The building principal, however, is authorized to permit a student to use and/or carry a "beeper" for medical, school, educational, vocational or other purposes as deemed appropriate. **RULE:** Students violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with established procedures.

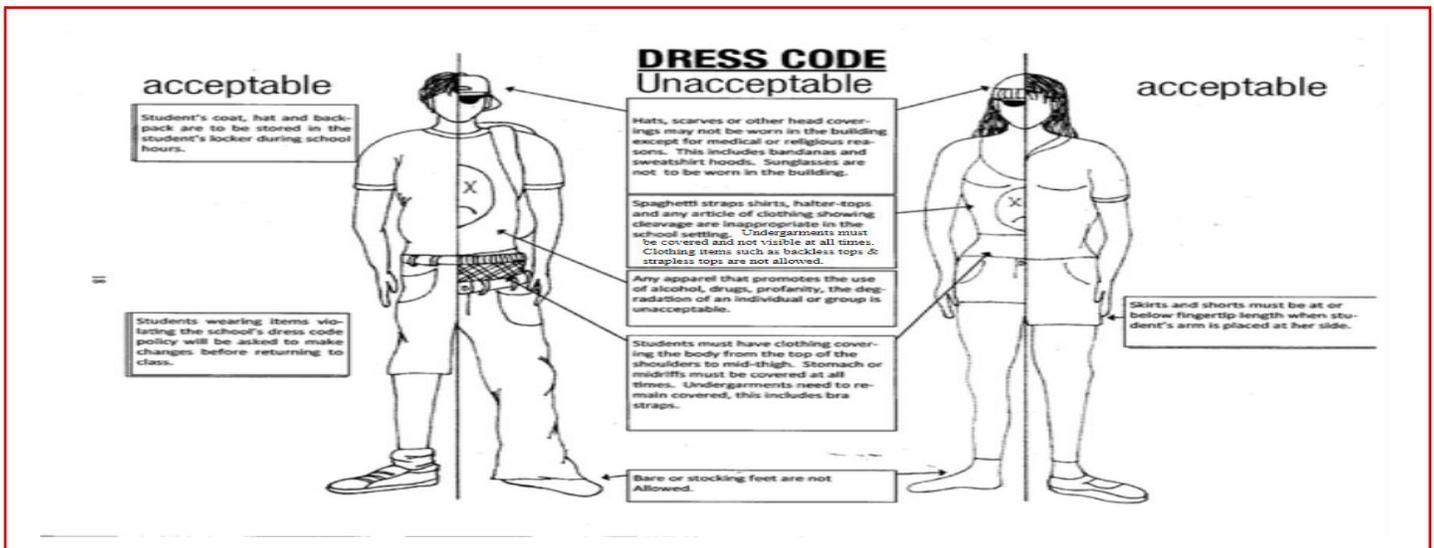
Student Privacy: Activities involving collection, disclosure or use of personal information, for marketing or selling information. The administration of any survey containing information related to : political affiliations, mental and psychological problems, sex behavior; illegal, and anti social, - see WI statute for completest .S.C. 1232(h)

Student Religious Accommodations: The district offers fair and equal educational opportunities. No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any curricular, co-curricular, student services, recreational or other program or activity on the basis of any of the following "protected classifications": sex (including transgender status, change of sex, gender expression and/or gender identity), sexual orientation, race, national origin, ancestry, color, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. For information on Student Religious Accommodations, Student Privacy and Recruiter Access to Students/Records, contact the Superintendent's office at 715-345-5444.

Student Dress Code - Board Policy 443.1 Responsibility for the appearance and grooming of students enrolled in the district rests with parent(s)/guardian(s) and the students. They have the right to determine student dress provided that attire is not destructive to school property; complies with the health code; meets safety requirements, school district policies, state and federal laws; and does not interfere with the educational process. **RULE:** Parent(s)/guardian(s) have the responsibility to see that students are dressed and groomed in accordance with what are considered to be normal community standards.

1. Students are expected to wear hair styles and clothing that will not present a health or safety hazard. Special requirements will be necessary in certain areas such as physical education, art, band, driver education, science labs, and shops; i.e., safety glasses, aprons, etc. Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that present safety hazards are not permitted.
2. Grooming and clothing styles which prevent the student himself/herself or other students from doing his/her/their best work because of blocked vision or restricted movements is not permitted.
3. Students are not permitted to wear clothing styles that create or are likely to create a disruption of classroom order, school order, distract from or interfere with the educational process. Headwear is not permitted to be worn in the building during the instructional school day, except that the building principal has the authority to identify areas where and in which situations headwear may be worn, including classrooms, based on school activity, medical, safety, or religious reasons.
4. Any fashion item that distracts from or interferes with the educational process or presents a safety risk; displays suggestive, offensive, obscene, libelous, graphics and/or statements; denigrates others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; displays sexually degrading or racially motivated graphics or statements; is determined to be gang related; and/or pertains to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products is not permitted.
5. Articles of clothing that cause excessive maintenance problems, that cause damage or noise problems, or present safety risks, e.g., cleats on boots, shoes that scratch and/or mark floors, trousers with metal rivets that scratch furniture, etc., are not permitted.
6. Clothing which relates to or displays alcohol, tobacco, weapons (such as gun or knife), gang insignia, or illegal products is not permitted to be worn at all school facilities and functions, at any time.
7. In order to represent the school and district before the public in a situation where appearance can detract from the group or the occasion, students shall meet reasonable dress standards for the occasion.

The superintendent (or his/her designee) in collaboration with principals shall develop appropriate grade level and school rules, regulations, and student discipline consequences which comport with the spirit and standards of this policy, and they shall be posted in parent/student handbooks.



Use or Possession of Electronic Communication Devices: A personal electronic device, includes but is not limited to, laptop computers, net-book computers, handheld computers, cell phones, tablet devices, digital cameras, digital readers, music players, flash drives or other storage devices, and other portable computing devices, or accessories not owned or issued by the District. Elementary and secondary schools will designate specific guidelines for student Device use, which are appropriate for age, grade, and maturity levels of students, and which require appropriate student use of technology. Such guidelines will be included in the schools' annual notices, student handbooks, student codes of conduct, and parent handbooks. Generally, students in the district will be permitted to possess Devices on district/school grounds and during district/school-sponsored events and activities within the following parameters.

- A. Students shall not use Devices in a manner that detracts from and/or disrupts the learning for oneself or others.
- B. Students shall not use Devices in school bathrooms, locker rooms, and/or other dressing areas at any time.
- C. Students shall not use Devices at other times identified in advance by a district/school-issued rule Or directive.

Youth Options Program: The Youth Options Program is an opportunity for Wisconsin public high school juniors and seniors to take one or more courses for high school and college credit at a UW institution, a Wisconsin technical college, or one of the state's participating private or tribally-controlled colleges. A Youth Options student does not pay tuition for a college course if the school district determines the course qualifies for high school credit and is not equivalent to a course already offered in the school district.

Stevens Point Area Public School District
Ben Franklin Junior High School
2000 Polk Street
Stevens Point WI 54481

Parent Teacher Conferences
November 7, 2019 - 4-8 p.m.
November 11, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
and 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.