Bennion Junior High School



Student Handbook
2026-2027

Welcome to Bennion Junior High!

Welcome to Bennion Junior High! We're thrilled to have you as part of our Bobcat community. This handbook is your guide to a successful and positive school year. It outlines important policies, procedures, and resources to help you thrive academically and personally. We encourage you to read it carefully and keep it handy throughout the year.

Our goal at Bennion Junior High is to create a **safe, respectful, and academically excellent environment** for all students. We believe that by working together – students, staff, and parents – we can achieve great things.

Bennion Junior High Administration & Staff

Here are some key people who are here to support you:

- **Principal:** John Anderson
- **Assistant Principal:** Andrea Winn
- **Assistant Principal:** Michaela McCarthy

Counseling Center

We're here to help you with academic, social, and emotional support.

- **Registrar:** Sharon Clark
- **Counseling Secretary:** Almarie Wright
- **6th Grade Counselor:** Christi Reed
- **7th Grade Counselor:** Mckinnah Judd
- **8th Grade Counselor:** Austin Thompson
- **Social Worker:** Kysa Osborne
- Find more information at: https://schools.graniteschools.org/bennionjr/counseling-center/

Main Office Staff

- **Principal's Secretary:** Natalie Keefer

- **Financial Secretary:** Rebecca Carpenter
- **Head Custodian:** Zack Nigh

Important Contact Numbers

- **Main Office:** 385-646-5114
- **Attendance/Counseling:** 385-646-5116
- **Granite District Transportation:** 385-646-4280

School Operations

Bell Schedule

Bennion Jr. High School

SSD Schedule (First school day of each week)	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:34
2nd Period (+20 minute lesson)	8:38-9:48
3rd Period	9:52-10:41
4th Period	10:45-11:35
1st Lunch	11:35-12:05
5th Period	12:09-12:58
5th Period	11:39-12:28
2nd Lunch	12:28-12:58
6th Period	1:02-1:52
7th Period	1:56-2:45
Students Leave Building	**2:55 p.m.**

Tuesday-Thursday	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:37
2nd Period	8:41-9:33
3rd Period	9:37-10:29
4th Period	10:33-11:25
1st Lunch	11:25-11:55
5th Period	11:59-12:51
5th Period	11:29-12:21
2nd Lunch	12:21-12:51
6th Period	12:55-1:47
7th Period	1:51-2:45
Students Leave Building	**2:55 p.m.**

Friday	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:18
2nd Period	8:22-8:55
3rd Period	8:59-9:32
4th Period	9:36-10:09
6th Period	10:13-10:46
1st Lunch	10:46-11:16
5th Period	11:20-11:53
5th Period	10:50-11:23
2nd Lunch	11:23-11:53
7th Period	11:57-12:30
Students Leave Building	**12:40 p.m.**

Monthly Grade Level Assembly	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:32
2nd Period (+20-minute assembly per grade)	**8:36-10:00**
3rd Period	10:04-10:51
4th Period	10:55-11:42
1st Lunch	11:42-12:12
5th Period	12:16-1:03
5th Period	11:46-12:33
2nd Lunch	12:33-1:03
6th Period	1:07-1:54
7th Period	1:58-2:45
Students Leave Building	**2:55 p.m.**

P.M. Assembly	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:28
2nd Period	8:32-9:18
3rd Period	9:22-10:05
4th Period	10:09-10:52
1st Lunch	10:52-11:22
5th Period	11:26-12:09
5th Period	10:56-11:39
2nd Lunch	11:39-12:09
6th Period	12:13-12:56
7th Period	1:00-1:46
ASSEMBLY	**1:50-2:45**
Students Leave Building	**2:55 p.m.**

A.M. Assembly	Time
First Bell	7:40 a.m.
1st Period	7:45-8:26
ASSEMBLY #1	8:30-9:25
2nd Period	9:30-10:25
2nd Period	8:30-9:25
ASSEMBLY #2	9:30-10:25
3rd Period	10:29-11:10
1st Lunch	11:10-11:40
5th Period	11:44-12:25
5th Period	11:14-11:55
2nd Lunch	11:55-12:25
4th Period	12:29-1:10
6th Period	1:14-1:55
7th Period	1:59-2:45
Students Leave Building	**2:55 p.m.**

Building Hours

- **Before School:** Students are only allowed in the commons area before school unless they are with a teacher. Students may only enter the halls at the 7:30 AM bell.
- **After School:** Students must exit the building by 2:55 PM, unless they are under the direct supervision of an adult employee (e.g., for a club, sport, or extra help from a teacher).

Calendar

School Begins .....August 12

School Ends .....May 26

Holidays and Other Non-Attendance Days

Labor Day ..... September 7

Compensatory Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences..... September 18

Fall Break ..... October 15 & 16

Teacher Contract Day for End of Term (student recess day) ..... October 19

Teacher Contract Day (student recess day).....October 20

Thanksgiving Break ..... November 25, 26, & 27

Winter Break..... December 21 - January 1

Teacher Contract Day for End of Term (student recess day) .....January 4

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ..... January 18

Compensatory Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences ..... February 12

Presidents' Day ..... February 15

Teacher Contract Day (student recess day) ..... February 16

Compensatory Day (student and teacher recess day)..... March 12

Teacher Contract Day for End of Term (student recess day) ..... March 15

Spring Break..... March 29 - April 2

Teacher Contract Day (student recess day) .....April 5

Junior High School Parent/Teacher Conference Schedule

Fall Conference ..... September 16 & 17

Spring Conference ..... February 8 & 9

Beginning and Ending of Terms

1st Term: August 12- October 14 (45 days)

2nd Term: October 21- December 18 (40 days)

3rd Term: January 5 - March 11 (45 days)

4th Term: March 16 - May 26 (46 days)

Closed Campus Policy

Bennion Junior High operates under a **closed campus policy**. This means:

- **No leaving campus:** Students may not leave campus during school hours without permission from both the school and a parent/legal guardian.
- **Street Pass:** If permission is granted, the student will be issued a street pass from the Attendance Office. Leaving campus without a street pass will be considered sluffing.
- **Lunch:** Students may not leave campus for lunch.
- **Outside Food Deliveries:** Food deliveries from outside services like DoorDash are not permitted and will be confiscated.

Assemblies

Throughout the year, we'll have several school-wide assemblies.

- Students will report to the auditorium by class and must remain seated with their class and teacher throughout the assembly.

- Students are expected to be respectful at all times so the assembly can proceed smoothly. Students may be removed if their behavior interferes with the assembly.
- Students must remain seated until dismissed.
- Based on seating availability, family members may be allowed to participate in school assemblies. Please check in at the main office for a visitor pass.

Academic Expectations & Resources

Chromebooks, Textbooks, and Other School Materials

- You're expected to care for your Chromebooks, books, and other materials provided by Bennion Junior High.
- **Fines will be issued** for stolen, lost, abused, or misused items.
- The cost to replace a Chromebook is **$270.00**
- The cost to replace a Chromebook charger is **$27.00**

Lost and Found

- All lost and found items are taken to the table in front of the main office.
- Put your name on your belongings in case you lose them!

Lunch

- Lunch is served in the cafeteria daily.
- The cost for lunch is **$1.65 per day**.
- Application forms for free and reduced lunches are available online at https://paypams.com .
- Students may only be in the cafeteria during lunch. Make sure you're in the appropriate area by the time the tardy bell rings.
- More information about nutrition services can be found at: https://www.graniteschools.org/nutritionservices/.

- You can also bring lunch from home.
- All food and drink are to be consumed in the cafeteria.
- Remember to clean up the tables and floor after eating lunch.
- Outside food deliveries such as DoorDash are not allowed and will be confiscated.

Clubs and Intramurals

We offer many opportunities for you to get involved, meet new friends, and develop leadership skills!

Clubs:

- Art
- Black Student Union
- Book
- Chess
- Chinese Culture
- Coding
- Creative Writing
- Debate
- Dungeons and Dragons
- MESA
- People of the Pacific (P.O.P.)
- Sewing Club
- Yearbook Club

Intramural Programs:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Basketball

- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Track and Field

Technology Agreement & Internet Access

The use of technology can be valuable for your education. Using district-owned technology and school Internet access is a privilege, which may be authorized and suspended.

- All students are required to sign the **Acceptable Use of Technology Terms and Conditions** each school year to use school computers.
- Granite School District uses **BARK** to actively monitor student use of all district-owned devices. This includes monitoring for worrisome content whether you use your account on a school or personal device.
- **Prohibited actions include (but are not limited to):**
    - Accessing, storing, or creating offensive, profane, or pornographic files/software/applications.
    - Plagiarizing works or violating copyrights or trademarks.
    - Damaging, altering, or modifying district-owned hardware or software.
    - Attempting to bypass computer security.
    - Downloading and using non-approved software.
    - Harming, defaming, harassing, or otherwise cyberbullying any individuals.
- You do not have an expectation of privacy in files, disks, documents, e-mail, etc., that have been used or created with district equipment.
- Personal contact information (physical addresses, phone numbers, personal e-mail addresses, etc.) may not be entered on Internet sites open to public access.

Class Fees and Other Fees:

- Fees are collected in each class where they're required. Some elective classes have a fee.
- An optional cost is the yearbook, which is **$20.00**. We encourage students to purchase a yearbook starting in January to ensure they get one at the end of the school year.

Student Conduct & Safety

The administration, faculty, and staff at Bennion Junior High are committed to creating a school atmosphere that strives for academic excellence and a safe learning environment for all. We ask for the support of students and parents to help us reach these goals.

Citizenship Counts: Graduate of Granite

Your overall citizenship grade will reflect your behavior for the entire grading period. Each new term is a fresh start and an opportunity to improve. Your citizenship will be evaluated using the Graduate of Granite Characteristics.

Scoring an overall score of 3.0 or higher will qualify you for Paws for Play at the end of the quarter! Paws for Play is a fun activity planned that could be an assembly, field trip, pizza, or something else fun!

Fighting, Threatening, Intimidating, Assault, & Battery

Fighting will not be tolerated at school, on the way to or from school, at any school function, or at school-sponsored activities. This will result in immediate parent contact and administrative action, which will include **suspension from school** and possible referral to the police and district.

- People who promote, instigate, or encourage fighting will also be deemed responsible and are subject to disciplinary actions.
- You may also be given a **$50.00 fine** and/or required to take a "Safe Course" with your parent/guardian.

Language Policy

The use of foul or abusive language is not permitted at Bennion Junior High. Foul and profane language shows a lack of respect and detracts from the learning environment. Our students are expected to treat others with respect and kindness. Inappropriate language will be addressed, and consequences will be given as appropriate.

- The use of any derogatory language, including **racial slurs**, whether directed at an individual or group or not, will result in **suspension from school**.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Granite School District prohibits discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), or retaliation on the basis of race, color, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other legally protected classification in all educational programs, activities, admissions, access, treatment, or employment practices and provides equal access to scouting groups and other designated groups.

- Related inquiries and complaints may be directed to a school administrator or to the **Director of Educational Equity, (385) 646-7413**.
- You may also contact the **Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-569**.

Granite School District Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

The illegal use, possession, distribution, sale or being under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, over-the-counter prescription medications, or intoxicants of any kind by students is prohibited in all Granite School District schools, on school grounds, at school-sanctioned activities, or when students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district. Violations also include student use, possession, distribution or sale of drug paraphernalia, or imitation controlled substances.

Tobacco Use: The possession of tobacco or e-cigarettes for students under the age of 21 is against United States Federal Law. Violators in schools, at school activities or on school grounds will be issued citations by the school administration.

- **First offense:** May include suspension and/or a **$25 fine**.
- **Additional offenses:** A **$50 fine**.

- Fines may be waived for one offense if the student attends the district QUIT program with their parent/guardian.

SafeUT App and Crisis Line

All calls and texts are confidential. Please report any information you have concerning weapons, bullying, threats, or individuals in crisis.

- Download the app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
- **SafeUT Crisis Line:** 1-800-273-8255

Bullying/Harassment

Every student has the right to feel safe and learn at school. We are committed to preserving these rights and will not tolerate harassment or bullying in any form.

Bullying includes these three components:

- Unwanted or aggressive behavior involving a real or perceived power imbalance.
- Intent to hurt, intimidate, humiliate, or cause harm - AND -
- The behavior is repeated or has significant potential to be repeated - OR - a single egregious event.

We encourage students to treat one another courteously and with respect. Students who engage in harassment or bullying behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal actions.

- If you have a problem with another student or feel that you are/have been the victim of bullying, you should report it to the counseling office or to the school administration to be resolved.
- You can report all types of bullying/harassment issues anonymously through the "SafeUT CrisisLine" (Safe UT App) located on the school website.

Sensitivity/Allergies

Some individuals who are sensitive or allergic to fragrances can suffer negative reactions if exposed. These reactions can be severe, even causing individuals to become ill and unable to attend school. Therefore, please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, or other scented products at school.

School Rules & Procedures

Dress Code



Bell Schedule & Dismissal

- Students are allowed to be in the cafeteria only until the 7:30 AM bell rings.
- Students are asked to clear the building no later than 10 minutes after the release bell unless they're working with a teacher or in a club or team.

Hall Pass

- It's each student's responsibility to be in class during class time.

- If an emergency arises, the student may be issued a hall pass.
- Students are to report directly to the location indicated on the pass and then return promptly to the classroom.
- Students found in the halls or bathroom without an official pass may be considered truant (or sluffing).
- Only one student may use a hall pass at one time.
- Chronic misuse of the hall pass process will result in the student being placed on a **No Hall Pass List** restriction.
- Each teacher has the discretion of refusing hall pass privileges for their classes.
- Hall passes will not be given when there is a guest teacher.
- Students who are tardy to a class may not use a restroom pass that period.

Tardy Policy

Timeliness is essential. The passing time between classes is sufficient for students to arrive on time. When the bell rings, students must be in their seats and prepared with the appropriate materials. Otherwise, they are considered tardy.

- Tardies are counted school-wide, not per class.
- If a student is tardy **5-14 minutes** to a class, they will be marked "way late".
- If a student is tardy **15 minutes or more** to a class, they will be marked absent.
- Each new week is a fresh start on the tardy count.
- Tardies will affect a student's citizenship grade.
- The administration has the right to change the tardy policy throughout the year.

Consequences for Tardies (Per Quarter):

Number of Tardies Per Week	Consequences
1st Tardy	Warning
2nd Tardy	Warning & Parent Contact

3rd Tardy	Lunch Detention & Parent Contact
4th Tardy	Lunch Detention & Parent Contact
5th Tardy	Parent Contact and After School Detention
6th Tardy	Parent Contact and After School Detention
7th Tardy	In Person Parent/Guardian Meeting for goal setting and outlining future consequence options
8+ Tardies	One or more of the following options, as outlined in parent/guardian meeting: • Parent phone call and after school detention • Overnight suspension (student cannot return to school without a parent meeting) • Friday School (after school detention on Friday early out day to complete missing work)
	Students caught being truant: If a student is in the hallway without permission when they should be in class, they are subject to a $5 truancy fine each time they are caught.

Students who are habitually tardy throughout the year may be provided an escort to help them get to and from class on time.

Bennion Junior encourages and rewards students for being early to class and present each day. Student rewards include PBIS Points, early out to lunch, or class donuts. After multiple tardies, students will receive consequences that include but are not limited to reduction of citizenship grade, contracts, calls home, lunch detentions, after-school detentions, counselor or administrator conferences, and in-school or overnight suspensions. Students may also lose privileges like participation in athletics, school activities, and celebrations.

Food, Candy, Gum, Soda

As a general rule, food, candy, gum, and soda are **not allowed in classrooms**. Teachers have the discretion of allowing these items for special occasions or for incentives. Vending machines are provided for students to purchase snacks but should only be used **before/after school and at the beginning of lunch**. Students are not to use the

machines during class time or during transitions. Student use of machines is at their own risk and refunds are not given.

- Food in classrooms and hallways may be subject to confiscation.
- Food and drinks outside of the Cafeteria.

Prescription Medications at School

Students may retain and self-administer medications subject to the following:

- **May not exceed one (1) dosage for the day.**
- Medication (prescription or non-prescription) must be taken by prescription or manufacturer's directions.
- Medication (prescription or non-prescription) shall not be sold, shared, or otherwise given to others.
- A responsible adult must transport syringes (insulin pens accepted) to and from school, and they must be kept in a locked cabinet or drawer in the office.
- Parents may request for emergency medications (e.g., epi-pens, inhalers) be locked in the Counseling Center Office.

Snow

When it snows, students should leave the snow on the ground. Rocks and other unsafe objects can hide in the snow so leave it undisturbed. Dress appropriately for cold weather conditions.

Bikes/Skateboards/Rollerblades

- Bicycles must be parked in the bike rack within the fenced bike area and locked. The school is not responsible for any theft or damage to bicycles on school campus.
- Rollerblading and skateboarding are **not permitted on school grounds at any time**. This includes all school buildings, parking lots, paths, sidewalks, playgrounds, stairs, and stairwells leading to or from school buildings.
- Students on roller blades or roller skates must remove the equipment before entering school grounds.
- Students on skateboards must dismount before entering school grounds.

Transportation

Transportation by bus is a **privilege**, dependent on the good behavior of the student. Continuous violations of bus safety rules, including misuse of a bus pass, will result in parent notification and disciplinary action. Please note that any reoccurrence of the misbehavior may result in the **suspension or termination** of the student's bus privileges. It would then be the parent's responsibility to get their student to and from school.

- Please direct all transportation inquiries and concerns to **(385) 646-4280**.
- Please see the Granite District bus policy at www.graniteschools.org/transportation/ or call Granite District Transportation (**385-646-4280**) for more details.
- You can also follow the location of your child's bus by downloading the **Here Comes the Bus** app in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Granite District Code: **29318**.

Attendance

385-646-5116

District attendance procedures are as follows:

- **Excusal Notes** must be received within **Ten (10) school days** following the return from an absence; the school may deny excusal notes that are received after that point in time.
- After **five (5) absent days** within a school year, the school will mail the student/parent/guardian the **First Attendance Inquiry letter** notifying the student/parent/guardian of the attendance policy.
- After **five (5) unexcused days** within a school year, the school will mail the student/parent/guardian the **Second Attendance Inquiry letter** asking for the parent(s)/guardian(s) help with their student's attendance. This letter shall be followed-up with a phone call or direct contact with the family from school personnel.

- After **ten (10) unexcused days** of being absent within a school year, the school will mail the student/parent/guardian a **Third Attendance Inquiry letter** inviting the family to attend a Group Attendance Support Meeting (hosted by a District representative and held at Bennion Junior).
- After **fifteen (15) unexcused days** of being absent within a school year, the school will mail the student/parent/guardian a **Fourth Attendance Inquiry letter** inviting the family to attend an Individual Attendance Support Meeting to implement a Student Attendance Plan (hosted by a District Representative and to be held at your school).
- For secondary schools, missed periods will accrue into days of absences.

Absences are excused by turning in a note or calling Sharon Clark at **385-646-5116** or emailing her at **sclark@graniteschools.org**. Notes should list student's first and last name, date(s) of absence, reason for absence and a legal guardian signature.

Excusing Absences

If you miss school, return with a parent excusal note which includes your name, grade, dates of absence, and parent/guardian signature. Take the note to the Registrar's Office. Be sure to check your weekly attendance summary on your student account.

Checking In Late

School begins at **7:45 AM**. Students arriving after 8:00 AM, must check in at the Attendance Office. Students should be accompanied by a legal guardian or bring a written note signed by their legal guardian to excuse the tardiness. If a student is more than **15 minutes late**, it will be considered an absence.

Checking Out

When it is necessary for a student to leave school for a portion of the day or for the remainder of the day, a legal guardian must come into the school. For the safety of our students, identification is required. Students will not be excused from class before a legal guardian's identification is verified. The student will then be released to the legal guardian or other authorized person as listed on the emergency contact card.

Street Pass

A legal guardian may choose to write a note to request a street pass to allow their student to be excused without a guardian coming into the school to release the

student. This note must be presented to the Attendance Office prior to the beginning of school. The note will be exchanged for a street pass. The student will then show the street pass to the teacher during the period they are scheduled to leave. The student will be able to leave class at the time indicated on the street pass note. A street pass will not be issued with a phone call.

Notes requesting a street pass must contain the following:

- First and last name of student
- Student Number
- Date and time of early check out
- Reason for early check out
- Legal guardian phone number and signature

Vacation

If a student is going on a vacation for up to **10 school days**, please contact the Attendance Office to get this excused. Students are responsible for their schoolwork during the absence. If a student will be absent longer than 10 days, it is best to discuss the options with Mrs. Clark or your student's counselor in the Attendance Office.

Personal Items

Items which may detract from the educational process or may present a hazard to others are not to be brought to school. Items confiscated by teachers or administrators will be returned to your parent/guardian only at the discretion of the administration. The school will assume no liability for any item lost or stolen.

- Items such as **weapons, slingshots or other projectile devices or similar items** will be referred to law enforcement officials.
- Other items such as **lighters, matches, laser pens, fireworks, elastic bands, water toys and guns, confetti eggs, silly string, or other similar things** are not allowed at school.
- Personal items such as **electronic games and gaming devices** are prohibited and fall under our district electronic devices policy.

- We discourage you from bringing any items of value to school such as collectible cards, irreplaceable photographs, large amounts of money, etc.

Cell Phones and Smart Watches

While we recognize the importance of cell phones/smart watches, and understand that many parents want their student to have cell phones/smart watches at school, we restrict cell phone/smart watch use at Bennion Junior High for these reasons:

- Cell phones/smart watches create distractions to the learning environment when not strictly regulated.
- There are safety issues associated with cell phones/smart watches such as cyber bullying and sexting.
- Cell phones/smart watches are often lost, stolen, or damaged when used freely at school.

Rules for cell phones at Bennion Junior:

- Phones/smart watches must be put in a backpack or binder from the bell at **7:45 AM until the final bell at 2:45 PM**. This includes lunch and passing times.
- Phones/smart watches may only be used with permission from a teacher or other school official.
- Parents needing to contact their students are encouraged to call the school directly. A school official will get a message to the student and allow them to use their cell phone/smart watch if necessary.
- Headphones and earbuds are **not permitted from 7:45 AM - 2:45 PM**.

Consequences for violating the Bennion Junior High cell phone/smart watch policy:

- **1st offense:** Phone taken to office. Student may pick up phone from office at the end of the school day.
- **2nd offense:** Phone taken to office. Parent/guardian must pick up student phone from office.
- **3 or more offenses:** Phone taken to office. Parent/guardian must pick up student phone from office. Administration will meet with parent/guardian upon pick-up.

Visitors on Campus

All visitors must check in at the main office. Legal guardians and family members are always welcome at Bennion Jr. Please report to the main office when you arrive on campus, where you will sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Due to liability issues and school board policy, **no student visitors can visit the school as the guest of a student**.

Class Change Policy

The policy for elective class schedule changes at Bennion Jr High is as follows. Schedule changes will only occur during the first week of each semester. Students will be required to attend their scheduled classes the first two days of the semester, after school on the second day they may start requesting schedule changes. Please note, students will not be able to change out of full year electives in January. School Counselors will do their best to accommodate schedule change requests but may not be able to meet every need based on class sizes and when classes occur. Schedule changes will not be made to accommodate a lunch change, align your schedule with friends, or teacher change.

Schedule change requests must be made by filling out a request through Counseling Center.

Schedule changes requested after the first week of the semester will require administration approval following a parent/teacher meeting.