

9-12 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK -- AVAILABLE ONLINE

The **2021-22 9-12** Student/Parent Handbook of Blair Community Schools is available on the Internet. Please go to the high school webpage at www.blairschools.org and click the "Handbook" icon. The availability of the Handbook on the Internet allows students and parents easy access to the document and to quickly find answers to questions. This option also allows the school district to save on the cost of printing and disseminating hard copies.

Please complete and return this form by **Friday, August 20, 2021**.

- ☐ **Thank you for providing the 2019-20 9-12 Student/Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the Internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the Internet.**
- ☐ **I prefer a paper copy of the 2019-20 9-12 Student/Parent Handbook.**

RECEIPT OF THE **2021-22 9-12 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the **2021-22 9-12** Student/Parent Handbook of Blair Community Schools. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the district's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook that should be used to responding to harassment or discrimination.

Drug-Free Schools Statement: Receipt shall also serve to demonstrate that you as parent or guardian of a student attending Blair Community Schools have received notice of the standards of conduct of this district expected of students concerning the absolute prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities as described in board policy or administrative regulation. This notice is being provided to you pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Law and 34 C.F.R. Part 86, both federal legal requirements for the district to obtain federal financial assistance. Your signature on this receipt acknowledges that you and your child or children who are students attending this district fully understand the district's position absolutely prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or tobacco on school premises or as a part of the school's activities as herein above described and that compliance with these standards is mandatory. Any non-compliance with these standards can and will result in punitive measures being taken against any student failing to comply with these standards.

Date _____

Date _____

Student's Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

MEDIA RELEASE

In accordance with Board of Education policies student names, photographs, and other work (ex: artwork, writings, etc.) may be released to news media outlets, used in school publications, or placed on district websites. The District understands that some parents may not wish for names, photographs, and other work to be released to the media, used in school publications, and placed on district websites. Please indicate your choice by checking the box below, sign, and return to the school office.

- ☐ My child's name, photograph, and other work **CAN BE RELEASED** to news media, placed in school publications, or used on school web pages.
- ☐ **DO NOT ALLOW** my child's name, photograph, and other work to be released to news media, placed in school publications, or used on school web pages.

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Blair High School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Tammy Holcomb,
Blair High School Principal

2021 School District Calendar

The school district calendar is located on the Blair Community Schools website(blairschools.org) under the ‘Calendar’ tab.

Changes in the handbook are highlighted in **Red**.

BCS Board of Education approved June 15, 2021

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE BOARD

We believe that the Board of Education is responsible to the people and therefore should attempt to reflect the opinion of the community; however, school board members must look to the future more clearly than is required of the average citizen. The results of many of the decisions and actions of the board will not be realized at once, but will set the course of education for future years. The Board of Education supports those educational philosophies and procedures needed to promote an adequate education for this community based upon the needs of the student population.

BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Blair Community Schools ...Where All Students Learn

We believe the following:

- Each child is unique with special talents.
- Human diversity is recognized and respected.
- Each student will achieve proficiency of essential content and skills.
- Change is necessary for continued growth.
- Efficient and effective use of technology will improve student learning.
- Frequent and varied assessments are essential for effective education.
- A supportive environment nurtures, challenges and encourages students to reach their full potential.
- A safe and secure environment, including mutual respect and self-discipline, is essential for student learning.
- A partnership with the community, home, school, and student is necessary for student success.
- Thinking and problem solving skills are essential for student learning.

Pursuant to this basic belief, the Board of Education holds (1) that each person shall be accepted into the educational program as he/she is; and (2) to the degree possible that this community can provide the resources and opportunities for challenging each person within the limits of his/her own capacity to develop.

Blair High School is classified as a "B" school by the Nebraska School Activities Association and is a member of the Eastern Midlands Conference. Additionally, Blair is a member of, and accredited by, the AdvancEd of Colleges and Secondary Schools, as well as the Nebraska State Department of Education.

The official emblem or mascot for the school is the Bear. The Bear is depicted in many forms on uniforms, banners, book covers, etc. The official school colors are Purple, White and Gold. These colors are used in various combinations on school uniforms, decorations, etc.

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GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Wherever “Parent” or “guardian” appears in the Student/Parent Handbook, it shall mean biological parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian.

Withdraw from Attendance

The Nebraska School Law 79-201 requires that all students be in school during all days and hours that school is in session until the age of 18; unless the child has a completed form signed by their parents concurring with the decision to cease attendance in school. Students who must be out due to reasons of health or family emergency may be returned to school on a written statement from parents or guardian to the attendance office.

ABSENCE - PARENTS

Parents should stress the importance of schoolwork and the value of daily attendance. Attendance is an important part of your school record. Please call the school office (426-4941) before 9:00 a.m. if your child is absent. It is very important that your child does not abuse our attendance policy. If your child must be out of school because of a reason other than health or family emergency, please call the office prior to the absence to arrange permission and a make-up work schedule. If a student is absent for more than 3 days in a row the school nurse may make a home visitation to inquire concerning the nature of the absence.

AVAILABILITY OF STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK ONLINE AND HANDBOOK RECEIPT FORM

All grade levels will offer the option of receiving the Student/Parent Handbook online via respective building web pages. This option will allow the district to use technology to offer the handbook to students and parents, thus saving in printing and dissemination costs. The Handbook Receipt is made available during the verification process.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Make-up work will be permitted for illness of the student, illness in the family, death in the family, medical appointments which of necessity cannot be otherwise arranged, and other non-anticipated emergency absences. If you know you are going to be absent for the day, make arrangements for your schoolwork prior to the absence by securing a pre-excused absence (Blue Slip).

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

On absences marked as unexcused, credit may not be given for work made up. Students should be aware of the fact that an excuse from home does not necessarily mean an excused absence will be given. The school retains the right to make final determination on the status of any absence.

ABSENCE - SCHOOL ACTIVITY

If a student is absent from school because of a school activity (band trip, athletic event, field trip, etc.), the student does not need a parent note to be readmitted to school. The student is responsible to each individual teacher to make up all work that is missed. Every effort should be made to complete all make-up work prior to an absence due to a school activity. Absences for school activities do not count toward a student's absence record as part of the attendance policy.

ABSENT TO CLASS OR SCHOOL

Students who **will be absent from school** must bring a note signed by a parent or guardian to school **prior to the absence** stating the reason for the student's absence **or a phone call from a parent must be made to the school prior to 8:30am on the day of the absence. Parents are able to call and leave a message on the school's main line at any time outside of the school day.** Students who do not turn in a note **or a parent does not call or email** will be considered **unexcused**. Forged or fraudulent **notes, phone calls or emails** will be considered as an **unexcused absence** from school and discipline will be administered. Each day an absence list will be distributed to all teachers indicating those students who have been absent from school that day. Questions concerning class absences should be directed to the Assistant Principal in charge of attendance.

If an absence is for a medical appointment, it can be waived if a doctor's note is provided to the attendance secretary.

Pre-excused absence (blue) slips are required if a student is going to be gone for a full day or multiple days. A parent or guardian must contact the school in advance of the absence so that the student has an opportunity to complete work prior to the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

When possible, all appointments such as dental, doctor, or orthodontist, should be made after school hours. If an appointment occurs during school hours, students should bring a statement from the professional's office verifying the appointment. Any student who attempts to deceive the office staff by means of a forged note or a fraudulent phone call will be subject to disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. All students will be allowed a maximum of 5 absences from any particular class per semester. By School Board Policy, all students must be in compliance with 79-201 of Nebraska School Law. The county attorney, as well as the parent, may be notified when the student is absent in excess of three unexcused days per semester to review services available to encourage better attendance. The county attorney, as well as the parents, may be notified when the student is absent in excess of 20 days for the year. Parents or legal guardians will be notified of class absences on the following schedule:

- 4 - 1st notification
- 5 - 2nd notification
- 6 - loss of credit

The use of Saturday School for recovery of attendance shall be assigned a maximum of three (3) times for any combination of absences after the fifth absence. After three (3) Saturday Schools, and the lack of doctor's notes, denial of credit will begin.

2. Absences from class for school-related reasons such as participation in school-sponsored athletic events, field trips, career days, college visitations and special educational programs will not be counted against a student's record of absences from class. A student who has accumulated a total of 3 or more absences during a semester may be denied permission to attend the above mentioned school-related events, should it be determined by the principal

or school counselor, or student's teachers that the student's attendance at school would outweigh the benefits derived from the school-sponsored activity. Absences from school which have educational benefit but which are not sponsored by the Blair Community Schools may, with prior approval of the Secondary Principal, be included in this category.

3. Absences from school, as always, must be accompanied by a note indicating parent awareness and permission. Absences will, as always, be determined excused or unexcused, depending on the reason. The Blair Community Schools fully recognize the right of parents to take their children out of school at any time for whatever reason they deem necessary. However, in order to be completely fair to all students credit for make-up work may not be allowed for certain absences. The Principal or Assistant Principal will consider all the facts and will ultimately decide whether make-up will be allowed for an absence. Students should be fully aware of the fact that all absences except those explained in Number 2 above will count toward a student's total of 5 absences. Absences without parental and school permission will be considered as truancy from school and dealt with according to the established policy concerning truancy.

4. A very important element of the 5-day attendance policy is communication with students and parents. After 4 absences from class, a notice of these absences will be sent to the student's parents. Likewise, when a student reaches 5 days absence in a class another notice may be sent to parents. This notice is very important since it indicates a student is very close to losing academic credit in their classes. Both students and parents are encouraged to contact the student's school counselor at this time, should they be concerned regarding a student's attendance record.

5. At the time a student reaches 6 absences from class, a conference with the student and school counselor or assistant principal will be held. The student will remain in class until this conference is held. At the conference, the student will be given the option of:

- a. Withdrawing from class with the grade of F and no credit, (w/the permission of parents) or
- b. Remaining in class, receive the grade he/she has earned but receive no credit for the course or
- c. Remain in class and apply for a waiver.

Following this conference the parents or legal guardian will be informed of the student's decision by regular mail and will once again be encouraged to contact the student's counselor or assistant principal. Within 7 days of the mailing of this notice the parents or legal guardian may apply for a waiver of attendance. Procedures for application of an attendance waiver are explained in Number 6.

6. Under other special and extraordinary circumstances a parent, teacher, administrator or school counselor may file a waiver of the 5-day absence policy if it is felt that a student should be allowed credit for a class in which the 5-day absence policy was exceeded. The waiver application should be a letter written to the Administrator in Charge of Attendance as designated by the Principal. This letter should explain the reason the waiver should be considered and accompanied by any supporting documentation. Each case will be considered on its individual merits and all decisions reached individually. Circumstances such as, but not limited to, lengthy hospital stays, regular (daily, weekly) medical appointments, prolonged dental work, family emergencies, and chronic illnesses will be taken into consideration. A student's past attendance record, including unexcused absences and truancy from school, will also be considered when looking at an attendance waiver.

7. Should the waiver request outlined in Number 6 above be denied, a denial of credit form would be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools. Further appeal procedures regarding this denial of credit should follow those outlined on pages 48-49 of the handbook (Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, Mandatory Reassignment).

Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism:

Any administrator, teacher, or member of the Board of Education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three (3) days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism".

Excessive Absenteeism:

Students who accumulate three (3) or more unexcused absences in a semester shall be deemed to have “excessive absences”. Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
2. One or more meetings between the school (a school attendance officer, a school administrator or his or her designee, and/or a social worker), the child’s parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
 - a. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
 - b. Educational counseling;
 - c. Educational evaluation;
 - d. Referral to community agencies for economic services;
 - e. Family or individual counseling; and
 - f. Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such a meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child’s attendance records.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney:

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per year. The school shall notify the child’s family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Illnesses that make attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

ACTIVITY PASSES, ADULT PASSES, ADMISSION PRICES

Prices for admission to Blair High School athletic contests are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for high school and younger students. Preschool-age children are free when accompanied by parents. An activity ticket, which will enable a high school student to gain admission to all high school activities for the entire year, will cost \$60.00. An adult pass is available for \$75.00, which enables the holder to attend home athletic events for the entire school year. Elementary students and children of preschool age, accompanied by a parent holding an adult pass, will be admitted free, or the child will be charged a student admission price if not accompanied by a parent. Admission prices for 9th grade and J.V. games, as well as tournaments, post-season contests and other non-athletic activities may vary according to the activity. At times, passes are not accepted at these events. All students participating in any school-sponsored sport or activity, grades 9-12, will be required to purchase a student activity card before being allowed to participate in any sport or activity. Students should refer to the "Extra Curricular Activities Program" section of this handbook for more information.

ATTENDANCE AT AN ACTIVITY

Students attending a school activity may not leave and reenter the activity. This includes school dances and athletic events, as well as all school activities.

AUTOMOBILES AND PARKING

Student parking at Blair High School is located in the lot on the east side of the building. Staff parking is located in

the lot on the south side of the building. Students must obey all traffic signs posted and adhere strictly to the 15 M.P.H. speed limit in the parking lot. Students who abuse this privilege will forfeit the right to park in the school parking lot. Students are not allowed to drive any vehicle during the school day without permission from their parents or legal guardian and the principal. Students who disregard this policy are subject to suspension from school. The principal shall be the final authority in determining who may drive a vehicle during the day.

Students making use of the overflow parking area located directly adjacent to the school building and across Cemetery Road are subject to the same guidelines for automobiles and parking as are those students utilizing the student parking lot.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Blair High School portable “laptop” style computers for student use in the classroom or in the library. Appropriate care and use of computers is expected from all students and adherence to the Internet Use policy (page 21) will also be monitored.

Blair Community Schools will allow students to use privately owned electronic devices to access the wireless network. This wireless access provided to the devices is designed to enhance the students’ educational experience and outcomes. Connecting to the BCS Wi-Fi network with personal devices is a privilege, not a right, and it is not a requirement for students. Permission to bring and use privately owned devices is contingent upon adherence to BCS guidelines. If a privately owned device is used by a student to disrupt the educational environment that student’s privileges may be limited or revoked.

Answers to frequently asked questions concerning BYOD are available.

1. Students may use a privately owned electronic “Internet ready” device on the BCS Guest wireless network with teacher or administrator permission.
2. The use of a privately owned electronic device is to support and enhance instructional activities.
3. Students are prohibited from accessing the Internet using any external Internet service.
4. No privately owned electronic device may be connected to the BCS network by a network cable plugged into a data outlet. Network access is provided via Wi-Fi access only.
5. No student shall establish a wireless ad-hoc or peer-to-peer network using his/her electronic device or any other wireless device while on school grounds. This includes, but is not limited to using a privately owned electronic device as a cabled or wireless hotspot.
6. Voice, video, and image capture applications may only be used with teacher or administrator permission.
7. Sound should be muted unless the teacher or administrator grants permission for use of sound associated with the instructional activities. A teacher or administrator may permit the use of ear buds or other types of headphones.
8. The privately owned electronic device owner is the only person allowed to use the device.
9. No BCS purchased owned academic or productivity software can be installed on personal devices.
10. No student shall use any computer or device to illegally collect any electronic data or disrupt networking services.
11. Devices are brought to school at the students’ and parents’ own risk. In the event that a privately owned device is lost, stolen or damaged, BCS is not responsible for any financial or data loss.
12. Violation of school or division policies, local, state and/or federal laws while using a personal electronic device on the BCS wireless network will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action as specified in the Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct, School Board policy as well as by local, state and/or federal law.
13. BCS personnel cannot attempt to repair, correct, troubleshoot, or be responsible for malfunctioning personal hardware or software.
14. BCS reserves the right to examine the privately owned electronic device and search its contents if there is reason to believe that school division policies or local, state and/or federal laws have been violated. In the event that a student believes that his/her password has been compromised, he/she should immediately reset his/her password using a school computer.

BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All notices of club meetings, athletic and social events, general information for the day and specific instructions are announced in the daily bulletin during AEP period. Students responsible for putting notices in this daily bulletin must have their notices approved by their advisor and in the main office the day preceding the notice.

Announcements made over the public address system will be made only during passing periods, AEP, and at the end of the day. Variations to this will only be made by administrative approval or directive.

The Blair Community Schools recognize the importance of good community relations and the equal importance of being an active participant in community life, especially the community life of youth. With this in mind, the Blair Community Schools will allow, with permission of the school principal:

1. Community, non-religious service groups (i.e., boy scouts, little league, YMCA, Rotary, Optimists, etc.) may post announcements in a place designated by the principal that are:
 - a. youth and/or family oriented
 - b. that pertain to the students at the particular school's grade and age level
 - c. not larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches
2. Any flyers or handouts, from non-school groups, of any nature, must first receive permission (forms available at the Superintendent's Office) from the Superintendent of Schools, in order to be distributed at any level.
3. Flyers must be divided into stacks of 25.
4. The flyers must be delivered to the building secretary (stacks of 25) two days prior to the last school day of the week.
5. Flyers will be distributed to students on the last school day of the week.

When a weather emergency is present, the building principal will make such announcements as are necessary to protect the welfare of students under his/her care, to include making announcements that would otherwise be prohibited by this policy.

BULLYING

Bullying typically consists of direct behaviors that may include teasing, taunting, obscene gestures, threatening, and physical contact that are initiated by one or more students against a victim or victims. In addition to direct attacks, bullying can also occur through indirect actions that may include spreading rumors to create intentional exclusion that cause victims to be socially isolated. Whether the bullying is direct or indirect, the key component of bullying is physical or psychological intimidation and targeting that occurs repeatedly over time to create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse.

Students who have been bullied or students that witness bullying are encouraged to report these actions to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other trusted adult. All reports will be investigated and teachers and parents of the students involved will be contacted. Students who initiate bullying actions or are involved in such actions will be disciplined in accordance with the Blair Community Schools Discipline Guidelines.

CARE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are encouraged to bring only a minimum amount of money and NOT to carry large sums of money while attending school or school activities. Valuables are not to be left in unlocked lockers, dressing rooms, classrooms or on book racks. These items should be checked in at the Principal's Office, P.E. and Coaches' Office, student manager or with a teacher. This is your responsibility.

Book bags or any other item used to carry books are to be kept in the lockers during the school day.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Chairs, tables, or other equipment or furniture must never be removed from any room without consulting the

teacher in charge of the classroom.

A teacher's desk and its contents are their personal property and should never be touched by any student.

Students are responsible for all equipment checked out to them and will be held responsible for any lost articles plus a possible fine for any damage beyond normal wear.

A record is made at the beginning of the year of all property assigned to each student, their textbooks, band and athletic property, etc. For any property that shows excessive wear or abuse, a fine is assessed and must be paid before school records will be cleared.

CELL PHONE USE POLICY

Students are subject to disciplinary action for not adhering to the following cell phone policy:

Cell phones can be used only during passing periods and lunch.

Classroom Use-Phone turned off and in a locker or in a teacher designated area during academic block—including AEP. Phones are not to be on or about your person and are not to leave the classroom from tardy bell to dismissal bell.

Taking/Recording/Transferring any pictures or video may result in Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS)-3-day minimum.

Violation of Cell Phone Policy

1stOffense

1stOffense-Cell Phone Privileges Revoked For 2 Weeks. Each day thereafter, for 10 school days, phone turned into the office at the beginning of each day not to be returned until the end of each day.

2ndOffense

2ndOffense- "2 and through"- Cell Phone Privileges Immediately Revoked For The Remainder Of The Semester. Each day thereafter, for the remainder of the semester, phone is turned into the office at the beginning of each day not to be returned until the end of each day.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Blair High School operates under a closed-campus policy. No student is to leave school during school hours without permission from his parents or legal guardians and the principal. Students in Senior Release, Introduction to Education, taking off-campus MCC courses and/or Senior Mentors will be excused for part of the school day.

All students leaving the building must receive permission from the principal to do so. If the office is not informed, it will constitute a truancy and is punishable by making up the time in the detention hall, Saturday School, or suspension from school. Repeated violations will be dealt with according to established school policies.

DANCE RULES

1. All students who come to the dance are to stay inside.
2. If any student leaves, he must leave the school grounds and if any undue confusion results, law enforcement officials are to be summoned.
3. All outside dates must be registered through the Principal's Office. Registration slips will be turned over to the activity sponsor to check as students come in at the door. You must enter with the date you have registered.
4. Non-registered visiting students will not be permitted in the building.
5. Dances will end no later than 11:00 p.m. on weekends. (No dances are allowed during the week Monday through Thursday.)
6. No student will be admitted to the dance later than one hour after it starts.
7. All school rules apply to dances since these are school-sponsored activities.

8. Middle school students are not allowed to attend high school dances.
9. High school organizations may sponsor one dance each semester.

DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term. Incidents of dating violence involving students at school will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District's authority.

Staff training on dating violence shall be provided as deemed appropriate by the administration. Dating violence training shall include, but not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the District's dating violence policy 0504.23.

DETENTION

Detention period is a time when the student is assigned to spend extra time before or after school for any infractions of unacceptable student behavior. Students should fully understand that any staff member in the building has the authority to correct misconduct at any time. Therefore, it is possible that a teacher may assign a detention to a student who is not in any of their classes.

Detentions fall into two categories: 1) Teacher Detentions, and 2) Office Detentions. Teacher Detentions are assigned by teachers for classroom-related offenses. After informing the student a detention has been assigned for inappropriate actions or behaviors, the teacher and student should arrange the time to serve this detention. Generally speaking, students have a minimum of two days following notification of the detention in which to serve their time. It is hoped that the teacher and student can confer during the detention time to discuss and correct the actions or behaviors that resulted in the detention being assigned. Failure to serve a Teacher Detention will result in the detention being forwarded to the office for further action.

Office Detentions are assigned by administrative personnel for tardiness, truancy, failure to serve a Teacher Detention, and other unacceptable actions or behaviors. These detentions will be 45 minutes in length and will be supervised by a faculty member in a designated classroom. Office Detentions take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 3:30 pm. and on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:30 am. Students should report with books and study materials ready to study. Students who fail to serve Office Detentions will be subject to placement in Saturday School, and/or In-School Suspension, and/or SHORT TERM SUSPENSION.

DRESS AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

Take pride in your personal appearance because the impressions you make are important to yourself and your school. If your choice of clothing causes a spectacle, interrupts classroom activities, or embarrasses others, you will not be permitted to remain in school.

Students of Blair High School are requested to wear appropriate clothing, and the following items will NOT be acceptable for wear during school.

- Excessively soiled, excessively tight, and excessively cut and/or torn clothing (including men's cut-off shorts).
- Revealing clothing including excessively short skirts and shorts (meaning no portion of the buttocks will be showing), see-through white tops, strapless tops, midriff tops (meaning tops that show skin above the waistline of the pants/shorts), spaghetti strap tops (straps must be at least two-fingers wide to be acceptable), other loose-fitting tops or off-the shoulder, loose-fitting tops, and low-cut tops (the neckline shall be no deeper than a palm width below the neck).

- Men's tank tops or muscle shirts.
- Sagging pants or shorts (meaning pulled down below normal waistline).
- Clothing bearing logos for alcohol, tobacco, drugs.
- Clothing bearing profanity, sexual messages, or gun violence.
- Underwear worn as outerwear.
- Hats, baseball caps, hoods, do-rags, scarves or bandanas worn as do-rags or other headwear.
- Sunglasses.
- Shower sandals or other shoes not normally used for street wear.
- Other clothing that is unnecessarily disruptive or inappropriate for the school environment.
- Excessive drawing and writing on yourself and/or another student is considered distracting and is therefore not permitted.

When, in the opinion of the building administration, a student is dressed or groomed in such a manner as to violate the Board of Education's policy 504.06, the school administration will advise the student of the violations and take appropriate action. When possible and appropriate, the administrator will contact the parents, present the problem, and seek their cooperation. Should disciplinary action be required, Board of Education policies and state statutes will be followed. Students who miss school time in order to change into appropriate clothing will make up the time missed by serving the time in detention periods.

ENROLLMENT

Students entering Blair Community Schools for the first time must enroll online through the district website. After this process is completed, families will be contacted for an individual conference with an administrator or school counselor for specific registration processes as required by grade level. Enrollment connected to Kindergarten Registration in the spring prior to the school year attending will not require a conference.

Assistance for those families who lack internet or computer services, or for those who require language barrier accommodations, or other types of online enrollment support is available by calling the Administrative Offices at 402-426-2610.

In order to enroll a student for the first time (including Kindergarten) and attend Blair Community Schools, the parent/guardian must:

- Reside within the boundaries of the Blair Community Schools district or be approved through Option Enrollment per Nebraska Rev. §§ 79-215, 79-232 to 79-246, or through NDE Rule 19;
- Provide a copy of current immunization records at the time of enrollment;
- Provide proof of physical examination if transferring in from out-of-state;
- Provide either 1) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate, 2) other reliable proof of the student's identity and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. These documents are required by The Missing Children Identification Act, 1, RRS 43-2001. Students and parents seeking exemptions to this requirement should contact the school nurse or building principal for more information.

HAZING - DEFINED (Grades K-12)

Board of Education policy 504.14-Secret Societies, Initiations, Hazing, or Gang Activities prohibits the organization of school-sponsored fraternities, sororities or secret organizations wherein membership is determined by members themselves rather than on the basis of free choice. The Board considers those organizations or memberships in those organizations detrimental to the good conduct and discipline of the school. Interference with the instructional program of the district by those groups will not be condoned, and no organizational activities are permitted under the sponsorship of the school district or its personnel.

Initiations by classes, clubs or athletic teams are prohibited except with the approval of the administration. Any student who engages in or encourages initiations that have not been approved by the administration is subject to

disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion. The administration may only give consent to initiation activities that are consistent with student conduct expectations and that do not present a risk of physical or mental injury or belittlement.

Hazing by classes, clubs, athletic teams or other student organizations are prohibited. Hazing means any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. Such prohibited hazing activity includes whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, sexual conduct, nudity, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any act which endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person or the coercing of any such activity. Hazing is prohibited even though the person who has been the subject of the hazing consents to the activity. Any student who engages in or encourages hazing is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

In addition, the use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute that indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, is disruptive of a positive learning environment and will not be tolerated.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

School Health Screenings

All students enrolled in a Nebraska school must be screened periodically for vision, hearing, and dental. In addition, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services requires height and weight. A parent/guardian may refuse a health screening, and should contact the principal or school nurse for a waiver for such.

Immunizations and Physical Records

Students enrolling in Kindergarten, entering 7th grade, or students who enroll for the first time into any grade from another state must have a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse, within six (6) months prior to entrance into school, to satisfy Nebraska State requirements as outlined in §79-214 (3). A Sports Physical will not be accepted in place of the physical examination for this requirement. Every student entering the seventh grade shall have a booster immunization containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine.

In addition, a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice nurse, or an optometrist is required within six months prior to entrance into school of a child in Kindergarten, and students who transfer into any grade from another state. For more information about the vision requirement, including the availability of resources for low-income families, please contact the school nurse in your child's school.

Physical exam and vision exam forms, as well as waiver forms, are available in each school office or online at www.blairschools.org.

Immunization Records

As of February 7, 2004, and prior to enrollment, students are required to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, and varicella. School records must show the month and year of each immunization for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, and varicella; month, day and year of each immunization for measles, mumps and rubella before students enter school.

Minimum requirements for school entrance:

1. MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella or MMRV): Need 2 injections, with the first dose given on or after the first birthday and the 2 doses separated by at least one month.
2. DTap, DTP, DT or Td (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis): need 3 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4th birthday. 7th grade only: 1dose of Tdap (must contain pertussis booster); this dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age depending on which brand of vaccine is received.

3. Polio Vaccine: need 3 doses.
 4. Hepatitis B (Hep B): need 3 doses of pediatric Hep B vaccine or if alternate Hep B vaccine used, then 2 doses of adult vaccine specified for adolescents 11-15 years of age.
 5. Varicella: 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
- These are the minimum requirements for school entrance. Additional doses (boosters of DPT/Td and polio) are recommended but are not required by the state. Students not in compliance will not be permitted to enter school. Only the following exceptions apply:
1. Medical exceptions for health reasons substantiated by a signed statement from a physician.
 2. Religious conflict substantiated by the parent or legal guardian and notarized.
 3. Student has begun the required immunizations and continues to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible substantiated by a signed statement from a physician.
 4. Documented history of varicella disease from a parent or health care provider with year of infection constitutes evidence of immunity to varicella.

Communicable and Contagious Diseases

Children showing any signs or symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease will be evaluated by a school nurse and upon consultation with a parent/guardian, may be sent home. If a child has an illness that keeps him/her out of school for more than three days, the child should be under the care of a physician. The chart below outlines common childhood illnesses and diseases. For further information, please contact your child's building nurse or family physician.

Disease	Usual Incubation Period	Minimum Period of Exclusion
Meningitis	2-10 days	Exclude for duration of illness.; return with documented physician approval.
Step Infection, Strep Throat, Scarletina, Scarlet Fever	1-3 days	Exclude until fever-free and under treatment for 24 hours.
Chicken Pox	2-3 weeks	At least 5 days after the first eruption appears or until vesicles become dry.
German Measles	14-21 days for no less than 4 days	Exclude for duration of illness and after onset of rash.
Measles	10-14 days	Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than 4 days onset of rash.
Mumps	2-3 weeks	Exclude until swelling has subsided.
Fifth Disease	6-14 days	Exclude until fever and malaise are gone. May return with rash with documented physicians approval.
Impetigo 4-10 days	Exclude until brought under	Treatment as documented by doctor.
Scabies	Infection caused by mites. Lesions symptomatic after 4-6 weeks.	Exclude until the day after treatment is started.
Pediculosis (Lice)	Eggs hatch 1 week; mature in 2-3 weeks	Exclude until after appropriate treatment is started (and no live lice are found).

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	24-72 hours	Exclude while symptomatic. May return when eye appears normal or with documented physician approval.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	7 days	Exclude until physician approves return with written documentation.
Enterobiasis (Pinworm)	Life cycle about 3-6 weeks.	Exclude until treated as documented by physician.
Hepatitis A	15-50 days	Exclude for no less than 7 days after onset of jaundice. Return with documented physician approval.
Influenza	24-72 hours	Exclude for duration of illness.
Diphtheria	2-5 days	Return with documentation.

Medication at School

For the safety of all students, the following regulations will be enforced for medication at school:

All Medications:

All medications brought to school, whether prescription or over-the-counter, must have a medication permit form filled out and signed by the parent or guardian. These are available in each school office or online at the Blair Schools website. All medications, whether over-the-counter or prescription, must be kept in the nurse's office. Medications brought to school in containers other than the original prescription or commercial container, or without a proper medication permit, will not be administered to the student at school. Such medication will be returned home at the end of the day and the parent will be notified.

Prescription Medication

Prescription medication should be transported to and from school by the parent/guardian. In all cases, such medication is to be brought directly to the office for the principal or nurse to document and secure.

All prescription medication must be in the prescription bottle and properly labeled by the pharmacy with the student's name and directions for administration.

Medications brought to school are limited to a 30-day supply or 30 pills only.

Only the amount of medicine prescribed by the physician will be dispensed at any one time. A note from the physician, or an updated prescription bottle that is properly labeled by the pharmacy with the student's name and directions for administration, is needed to change the dose given.

Over-the-Counter Medication (OTC)

OTC medication such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or other OTC medications for minor health issues may be brought to school for student use, but must be brought directly to the office for the principal or nurse to document and secure.

OTC medications must be in the commercial container. OTC medication sent to school as individual loose doses/pills or in baggies, envelopes, or other containers not original to the OTC medication will not be given to the student.

Expired OTC medication will not be given, and will be sent home.

Stock Medication

Schools do not provide any type of medication to students. Each student must provide their own medication per Medication at School regulations.

Asthma or Anaphylaxis Medications and Diabetes:

In 2006, the State of Nebraska passed legislation providing for student possession and self-administration of prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication, and for student self-management of diabetes at school and

school-related activities. The school district has developed procedures and forms to implement the self-management plans, and these are available through the Director of Student Services office. Please contact your child's building nurse or principal for more information.

HELP FROM TEACHERS

Any student who requires additional time at school under the direction of a teacher to adequately master assigned work may arrange such sessions with teachers. Most students welcome this opportunity and voluntarily take advantage of it, but, if it seems advisable for the welfare of the student, teachers have the authority to require students to come in for an extra session of supervised study. When this is found advisable, every effort will be made to best fit the mutual convenience of the student and teacher.

HIGH-ABILITY LEARNER PROGRAM

According to the Nebraska Revised Statute §79- 1107 (3), a high-ability learner is a student “who gives evidence of high performance capability in such areas as intellectual, creative, or artistic capacity or in specific academic fields, and who requires accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs in order to develop those capabilities fully.” At this time, the Blair Community Schools identifies learners with high ability as students who show evidence of high performance ability in intellectual and academic areas. Initial screening of all students takes place during 3rd grade and continues yearly through the 8th grade. Instruments that may be used to identify high-ability students in our district are outlined below.

Nomination for the High Ability Learner Program

The Blair Community Schools recognizes five different paths for nomination of a student for further review of criteria and for potential identification for the high-ability program:

- Scholastic aptitude measures;
- Standardized achievement tests;
- School achievement records;
- Teacher nomination;
- Participation in a gifted program in another school district.

Identification for the High Ability Learner Program

The Blair Community Schools utilizes the following multiple criteria for identification of intellectually and academically gifted high-ability learners. Nominated students must meet three (3) of the following four (4) criteria to be officially identified:

1. **Norm Referenced Standardized Achievement Test:**
 - a. On a group achievement test, score at or above the 95th percentile in Math and at or above the 95th percentile in either Reading or Language Usage using NWEA MAP testing given in grades 3 – 8.
2. **Ability Measure:**
 - a. On the ability measurement OLSAT-8, administered independently or in small groups by the HAL Coordinator in grades 3 - 8, achieve a score at the 98th percentile in one of the primary areas or achieve scores at the 96th percentile or above in two of the primary areas (verbal, nonverbal, composite).
 - b. On the group ability measurement CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) administered at the 3rd grade (prior to 2015-16), achieve a score at the 98th percentile in one of the primary areas (verbal, nonverbal, quantitative, composite) or achieve scores at the 96th percentile in two of the primary areas (verbal, nonverbal, quantitative, composite).
 - c. If an Ability Measure score is not available for a potential candidate, parents have the option to hire a professional, certified psychologist who can administer the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV). A score of Superior or Very Superior would qualify as meeting this criteria requirement. Parents are responsible for all costs associated with this test.
3. **Academic Performance:**
 - a. Grades 6-8:

- i. Consistent high past performance as demonstrated by report card grades with a Cumulative GPA of 4.0. Consistent high past performance is defined as the 4.0 GPA being maintained for two (2) consecutive semesters; OR...
 - b. Grades 3-8:
 - i. Achieve a score at or above the 90th percentile on two of three categories of the SAGES2 Screening Assessment for Gifted and Middle School Students.
- 4. Gifted Behavioral Characteristics Rating:**
- a. Achieve scores at or above the 90th percentile on the SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Students Ages 5 through 18) in all core areas completed by teachers; OR...
 - b. Achieve scores at or above the 90th percentile on the Renzulli “Scale for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students” completed by teachers.

INJURIES

An injury incurred at school or in a school-sponsored activity should be reported to a teacher, coach, principal, or nurse immediately, regardless of whether or not you have school insurance. A school nurse will be on duty during the year. Notify the nurse’s office immediately if you are injured or become ill during school.

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY USE

The Blair Community Schools recognize the fact that the use of electronic technology for communicating, transmitting, storing, retrieving, and manipulating data is an integral part of the educational process. It is also important that students learn to use technology lawfully and responsibly. Students are prohibited from and subject to disciplinary actions for the following:

- The creation, display, access, transmission, reception, exchange or distribution of any text, image or sound that is indecent, obscene, racist, sexist, pervasively vulgar, defamatory, illegal, or that promotes harm to self or others.
- Use of technology for solicitation or proselytization for commercial, religious, political, personal or any other non-educational activity.
- Use of technology that violates local, state, or federal law. This includes attempts to gain unauthorized access, from within or outside the district, to proprietary computer systems including, but not limited to, network file servers.
- Introduction, transmission or creation of any computer “virus” using school district computing hardware/software.
- Installing any licensed or unlicensed software on any school-owned computer without specific authorization from the principal.
- The unauthorized use of pictures or videos of students or staff taken at school, school activities, or on school property, with school owned or personal photography or video devices.

District electronic technology, including computer hardware and software, is to be used for educational purposes only and any information carried or contained on district equipment is subject to audit or review by district personnel. All computer programs, data files, and/or software creations and social networking sites and resources of any description, which reside on district computers, personal devices, and/or storage media, are subject to this review.

School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school’s information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions, and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

LIBRARY

The school library is organized to aid students with their schoolwork and technology needs. It serves as a reference center for supplies, resource materials, and technology assistance, and makes available a variety of books to be read for pleasure, personal interest, and class required reading. The library is open from 7:50 a.m. until 3:50 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Policies governing the checking out of library materials, use of the library, fines, etc., are listed here.

1. Students using the library should be there for research, recreational reading, ~~or~~ browsing, assistance from the media specialist, open block, or for other library-related activities. Disruptive behavior will result in being sent out of the library.
2. All students using the library during an academic block or AEP should have a pass from the appropriate teacher. Students may enter and leave to use the library on their lunch break, during open block, and before or after school.
3. All materials leaving the library must be checked out at the circulation desk. Additional technology materials may be used by students involved in related subject areas with teacher permission.
4. Library fines are accrued at \$0.05 per day late for overdue books. Please be sure to renew or return books on time and pay fines promptly.
5. All other school rules will be observed.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker for the storage of books and equipment. Do not trade lockers with another student. You are responsible for the locker that you have been assigned. It is the student's responsibility to see that his locker is kept locked and in order at all times.

Since lockers are a permanent part of the building, students are expected to keep them in good, usable condition.

Students should secure materials for classes during passing periods and before school. All hallways are off limits during lunch periods, and students are not allowed to go to their lockers during the lunch period since classes are in session. No one should leave classes and go to their locker without special permission.

Periodic locker checks will be conducted throughout the year by the staff in order to see that lockers are clean and neat and in good repair.

Lockers are the property of the school and are in the building for the use of the students.

Although a student may have control of his school locker as against fellow students, his possession is not exclusive against the school and its officials. A school does not supply its students with lockers for illicit use in harboring pilfered property or harmful substances. It is the proper function of school authorities to inspect the lockers under their control and to prevent their use in illicit ways or for illegal purposes.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles that are found should be taken to the main office, and it is there that you should inquire for anything that you have lost.

LUNCH PROCEDURE

All Blair Community Schools offer breakfast and lunch to every child every school day. The school breakfast and lunch menus are published monthly. The menus may be found on the district website under the departments drop down in the food services section.

All 9-12 students operate under a closed lunch period, which means that all students must eat their lunch in the

school cafeteria. Students are allowed 30 minutes for lunch.

The school district uses a point of sale system to track student purchases, prepayments and account balances. Each student is assigned a unique number, which is required at the time of purchase.

School Lunch applications for free or reduced price meals are distributed to each household before the beginning of the school year, are available at the school office, and can be downloaded from the school website. These application forms are to be completed annually and returned to:

Dr. Ryan O'Grady, Director of Student Services
Blair Community Schools
P.O. Box 288
Blair, NE 68008

Households will be notified of their eligibility in writing or verbally. Carryover of previous year's eligibility is for up to 30 days into the current school year or until a new eligibility determination is made.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Food Service Program, please contact Dr. Ryan O'Grady, Director of Student Services, at 402-426-2610 or email at ryanogrady@blairschools.org.

Per Board of Education policy 802.05-Free or Reduced Cost Meals Eligibility and Meal Charges, the District shall establish and communicate guidelines for meal charges. The purpose of these guidelines is to establish consistent meal account procedures and to alleviate the financial burden that unpaid meal charges place on the District.

District Contact Person

The contact person for questions relating to free or reduced meal eligibility and other questions or concerns regarding student meal accounts, meal charges, or negative accounts is:

Dr. Ryan O'Grady, Director of Student Services
Email: ryanogrady@blairschools.org
Telephone: 402-426-2610

Student Account

Blair Community Schools will establish for each school student a school food service account so that all students can receive a breakfast and/or lunch which meets the criteria for a USDA reimbursable meal.

Free and Reduced Applications

At the beginning of each school year, parents are encouraged to complete an application before their children can be approved for free and/or reduced price meal benefits. Students are permitted to use the previous year's eligibility for the first thirty (30) days of a new school year. Students who have been Directly Certified by the Department of Social Services are not required to complete an application. The Parent/Legal Guardians of Directly Certified students will receive a Notification Letter from the School District Office. If charges occur before the meal application is approved then charges must be paid as accrued.

Parent Responsibility

Families who do not qualify for subsidized meals are responsible for providing either a meal or the money to pay for a meal for their student. Although the Board permits a student to have a school food service account, parents are responsible for all student meal expenses. The District is aware that unforeseen circumstances do arise which makes it difficult to pay for school meals. Under these circumstances, please contact the building principal or the district contact person to make alternative arrangements. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their students' breakfast/lunch account activity through myschoolbucks.com online system. This system can be used to confirm payments have been received, make payments, monitor daily account activity, and has the ability to automatically send out balance alerts to parents as their students draw down from their accounts. To register, go directly to www.myschoolbucks.com.

Prepayment of School Meal Accounts

At the start of each school year, parents will be encouraged to deposit money into a student account so that adequate funds are readily available to purchase meals. Payments may be made by signing up for a [myschoolbucks](http://myschoolbucks.com) account, or sending checks, and cash to the school office for deposit in their student's account. Checks should be made

payable to Blair Community Schools.

Guidelines and Notification Process for Meal Charges

1. It is the expectation of the District that the parent is responsible for full payment if their child purchases a breakfast or lunch meal or makes other food purchases that result in a debt transaction to the student's account.
2. When the initial debt transaction occurs, the student will be notified to inform the parent that a debt transaction has occurred for which the parent will be responsible for payment. Students with a negative account balance will be served a courtesy meal until the account is paid in full. A courtesy meal is defined as the basic meal offering of the day meeting the federal requirements for a reimbursable meal.
3. School staff will prohibit students from charging seconds or a la carte items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.
4. Upon reaching \$25.00 of debt transactions, the principal or designee will contact parent by phone informing them of the debt. The student will be served additional courtesy meals until the debt balance reaches \$50.00. Thereafter, if a student does not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance, a meal will not be provided.
5. After the initial notification by the principal or designee, the Director of Student Services or designee will notify all parents of students with a negative account balance.
6. Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from seconds or a la carte purchases.
7. If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in the free or reduced meal program, the district will use available resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students or adequate funds to purchase a meal may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The District is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. Parents will be held responsible for all debt balances on the child's school food service account. The Board expects that parents will pay for their child's meals on a pay-as-you-go basis and rectify any outstanding balances when notified. The District will contact households regarding negative meal charges, the availability of the free and reduced meal program, and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. All positive and negative balances remaining at the end of a school year will be carried into the following school year. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year. The District may restrict participation in non-instructional activities such as graduation ceremonies, school dances, athletics, and other non-instructional activities for students with delinquent meal charge debt.

Nondiscrimination Statement – Federal School Lunch Program

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

- Fax: (202) 690-7442
- Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

MAIL

Blair High School may refuse to accept letters addressed to students in care of the school. Mail that solicits students or does not pertain to school business will be marked "refused" and returned to the post office.

MAKE-UP WORK

With the alternating day block schedule, students will be able to access teachers during the AEP time each day to get information regarding make up work. For example, if the student misses "A" day, that student can contact the "A" day teachers during the "B" day AEP time and get the work made up prior to the next "A" day. Students are encouraged to make up work as soon as possible following an absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out about make up work and communicate with each teacher following an absence. Students can also access individual teachers before and after school by appointment. Students may not receive credit for work missed due to an unexcused absence. Work not made up in the allotted time allowed by the teacher may result in the student not receiving credit.

At Blair High School, our goal is to assist students in every way possible to meet the curriculum standards and objectives for all courses they take in high school. When students miss school for any reason, they are accountable for the learning and instruction that occurred in their absence. All make up work must be completed and will be accepted for full credit throughout the semester. Various academic support programs like the PASS program, as well as, discipline procedures requiring students to serve detentions, attend Saturday school, or serve in-school suspension time, may be used to assure the completion of all work. Teachers will inform students of missing work on a regular weekly basis and establish plans for making up the work. If the missing work is not completed in a timely fashion, the teacher will notify parents. In addition, the teacher may consult with the administrators or counseling staff to provide reinforcement or provide alternatives for completing the work.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Blair Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person(s) has/have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Title: Director of Student Services – Dr. Ryan O'Grady
Address: Box 288
Blair, NE 68008
Phone #: 402 426-2610

ONLINE VERIFICATION (GRADES PK-12)

The SIMS Online Verification process for all students will also include 1) availability and receipt of the Student-Parent Handbook for grades PK-12, 2) the student Media Release form for students in grades PK-12, 3) school messaging services for families and students for students in grades PK-12, and 4) NSAA Parent and Student Consent for activity participation for students in grades 7-12. Parents will be required to log into their SIMS account to verify student information and either acknowledge access or give/deny consent to the items listed above.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents may make appointments for conferences with teachers, the counselor, or the principal at any time by telephoning the school office (426-4941). We encourage parents to communicate with us on items of concern, interest, etc. Take an active interest in your child's education. It is very important that they know that you are interested and concerned.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held during the first and second semesters. At this time the parents will be given a chance to visit with their child's teachers to discuss their academic progress.

PASS PROGRAM

The PASS is for students in grades 9-11 who are failing two or more core classes. Once referred to the program, students will attend twice weekly until the student is passing all core classes. This will remain in effect until the end of the semester.

Coursework = Priority goes to past due work, then current work for all students in the PASS.

If a student fails to attend the PASS, he/she will be assigned a Saturday School.

PEP RALLIES

Pep rallies are held periodically to support co-curricular activities and to create a positive school climate. While activities are an important part of the educational experiences, emphasis is placed on academics. With this in mind, pep rallies are scheduled accordingly.

POSTERS

During the school year there always seems to be a great deal of confusion concerning the putting up of posters. Therefore, the following guidelines are for the purpose of clarifying the situation:

1. All posters must be approved by the office.
2. For the sake of eliminating confusion during the school day, posters should be put up before or after school only.
3. Posters may be placed only in designated areas. Check with the office. No posters may be placed on glass surfaces.
4. Masking tape or "Fun Tak" only should be used for putting up posters. No scotch tape is allowed.
5. Remember, anyone putting up a poster has the responsibility of taking it down.

PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND CONSENT / OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Protection of student Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. 1232H, requires Blair Community Schools to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or

8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Following is a schedule of activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the upcoming school year. Other surveys that are not listed here, but may take place during the school year, may be administered with parental permission. Please notify the School Counseling Office no later than September 1st if you wish to opt out. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 or older or an emancipated minor under State law).

- Release students names to military
- Release student names to higher educational institutions
- Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey

POWER OF ATTORNEY

A limited Power of Attorney is generally considered when a parent desires for a person (other than the parent) to assume rights and responsibilities for a child. Information concerning a Limited Power of Attorney may be obtained through the building principal. A validly executed Power of Attorney will be honored if signed by a parent, subject to any limitations as stated in the Limited Power of Attorney document.

RETAKES POLICY

Common Summative assessments (assessment OF learning) are used to provide a final picture of the student's achievement toward the learning goal and essential standard. If mastery is not achieved, more instruction and learning takes place with reassessment until the student demonstrates mastery.

- ***BHS students in grades 9-12 are offered retake options.***
- *Reassessment is for full credit. The only exception on full credit reassessment is for AP (Advanced Placement) courses or Dual Enrollment courses through a college or university.*

SAFE SCHOOL PLANS

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

Blair Community Schools is expanding safety procedures and programming to include Standard Response Protocol (SRP). SRP is a protocol widely accepted and used across the state and region that addresses a spectrum of scenarios that are planned for and trained on by students, teachers, staff, and administration including weather events, fire, accidents, community events, intruders, and other threats to student safety. RP is based on these four actions: Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, Hold and Shelter. Staff and students will be training on SRP throughout the school year. An informational sheet with more detail can be found at the end of the handbook.

Safe Schools Alert

Blair Community Schools is now using SafeSchools Alert, an anonymous tip reporting system that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns via telephone, text, email, or web link directly to our administration. You and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, threats, or any safety issue you are concerned about through SafeSchools Alert. Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged with notifications sent directly to administration for investigation and follow-up. An information banner, with reporting links, is located on the district's main web page and each building's web page.

Video Surveillance on Campus

In order to promote student and staff safety, and deter unauthorized access and destructive acts, the Board of Education authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment on school property, and in school building and school buses. Information obtained through video surveillance and electronic monitoring may be used to identify intruders and persons breaking the law, Board, policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. Video recordings may be used as evidence in disciplinary actions and criminal proceedings. Any person who takes action

to block, move, or alter the location and/or viewing angle of a video camera shall be subject to disciplinary action. Video cameras may be placed and used in locations deemed appropriate by the superintendent or designee including but not limited to entrances, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, parking lots, and school vehicles. Cameras will not be placed in areas where students, staff, or visitors have a reasonable expectation of privacy such as restrooms, dressing rooms, or locker rooms. Board policy and state statutes shall govern the access, conveyance, and retention of video images or recordings.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE (Grades K-12)

An application for transportation is available on the Blair Community Schools website, or from any school office, the Administrative office or the transportation director. This form must be completed and turned in by the parent before receiving bus service. For safety reasons and/or to prevent excessive time in picking up students, children riding the bus are required to travel from where the student resides to a designated pickup point.

Bus drivers do not have the authority to transport unauthorized riders or to make route deviations. In cases of emergency, please contact the Transportation Department at 402-426-4509.

Safety Rules

Bus riders should:

1. Follow the directions of the bus driver the first time they are given.
2. Keep hands, feet, and all body parts to themselves and not extend any body part through the windows.
3. Use an indoor voice, use language that is not offensive or inappropriate to others.
4. Remain quiet when the bus is stopped at a railroad crossing.
5. Sit down and sit back in the bus seat while the bus is in motion.
6. Treat school equipment with respect.
7. Always cross in front of the bus and when crossing a traffic lane, students should wait for the driver's "all clear" signal before they proceed.
8. Keep the bus clean at all times and keep all items out of the aisle.
9. Please do not bring items on the bus that could potentially cause a riding safety concern. Call the transportation office with questions and for approval.
10. Follow all school rules as listed in the student handbook, as riding the bus is considered part of the school day.

Disciplinary Procedures

The riding privilege of a student may be suspended/revoked for violation of the safety rules or for conduct which is detrimental to the safe operation of the school bus. Violations will be documented and the student may face disciplinary action. Students may lose riding privileges on the first offense for extreme violations. Multiple violations will result in loss of riding privileges.

Snow Route Information

When conditions make driving hazardous, information about snow routes will be broadcast prior to 6:30am by the school messaging service, on KMTV (3), WOWT (6), KETV (7), Fox 42, and KFAB, KBLR and KHUB radio.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of severely inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. The same conditions may also necessitate early dismissal. School closing, delayed starting time or early dismissal will be announced over KMTV (3), WOWT (6), KETV (7), Fox 42, KFAB, KBLR and KHUB radio. Families will be notified by an automated telephone call from the Superintendent's office. Reports in the morning will be between 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. If no report is heard, it can be assumed that school will be in session.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

The Blair Community Schools, in cooperation with the Blair Police Department, sponsor a school-community Liaison Officer during the school year. The officer assigned to Blair High School will act as one of the staff at the school conferring with students, lending support and assistance when needed, serving as a resource person for both students and staff, and in general, promoting the positive aspects of police/community relations.

SCHOOL DAY

Blair High School is on an A/B Block Schedule. Students are required to fill A and B days with 4 periods per day totaling 8 periods. Students may be in the building after school for teacher-student conferences or school activities.

DAILY TIME SCHEDULE	
Block 1/5	8:10-9:39
Passing	9:39-9:45
AEP	9:45-10:16
Passing	10:16-10:22
Block 2/6	10:22-11:51
Passing	11:51-11:57
Block 3/7	11:57-1:56
Passing	1:56-2:02
Block 4/8	2:02-3:30

PLC TIME SCHEDULE	
Block 1/5	9:50 - 11:03
Passing	11:03-11:09
Block 3/7	11:09 - 12:22
Passing	12:22-12:28
Block 2/6	12:28 - 2:11
Passing	2:11-2:17
Block 4/8	2:17 - 3:30
BREAKFAST - 9:30-9:45	
Will be eaten in the cafeteria.	

SCHOOL - SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students are to be in school on time either the day of the activity or the morning after a night activity and in attendance all day in order to be allowed to participate. If a student is ill, he is not to attend the school activity. There may be extreme cases when a student may not be in school all day but still takes part in an activity. This must be approved by the principal. This includes all practice sessions as well as the activity itself.

SCHOOL MESSAGING SYSTEM- Telephone, Email, Text (Grades PK-12)

Blair Community Schools uses a messaging service to notify parents via telephone, email, and text regarding academic progress, school information, or school and/or district activities. Parents may choose to opt out of messaging services. Please contact your child's school for more information.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions, and automobiles may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The term "dangerous object" shall include noxious or flammable material, fireworks, devices intended to administer an electric shock (tasers, electric batons, prods, or stun guns) chemical weapons (i.e. mace, pepper spray), martial arts weapons or other instruments including those which eject a projectile or substance of any kind, or any replica or facsimile of any of the above, whether functional or nonfunctional, whether designed for use as a weapon or for some other use.

SENIOR RELEASE

Seniors will have the option of taking one or two blocks of release time out of their eight-block schedule. Release time will be 1st, 4th, 5th or 8th block unless there are extenuating circumstances. It is important that all seniors first plan academic curriculum required for graduation and suggested college preparatory curriculum needed for college as a first step in making a senior schedule.

Students may use the release time for part-time employment, attending college classes, volunteer service, or other opportunities which will be beneficial. Students failing one or more graduation requirements will be required to stay at school during senior release.

SEXTING PROCEDURES (Grades K-12)

If it is discovered that a student has, or that an administrator has reasonable suspicion that a student has, indecent material, nudity, sext messages, or similar material on his/her cell phone, tablet, computer, or other electronic device, school administration will notify the School Resource Officer or his/her designee. Police may conduct an investigation. Consequences from the district will be based on the findings of the investigation.

SNEAK DAYS

Blair High School strictly prohibits any kind of "sneak day" activity on the part of a class or individuals of a class. These types of activities are considered truancy from school and are dealt with in like fashion. It is the philosophy of the Blair High School that these types of activities have no real school purpose.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. Social media venues are very public. What you contribute leaves a digital footprint forever, usually even after it is deleted. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, enemies, parents, teachers, or a future employer to see. Make sure what you post promotes a positive image to the world.
2. Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful, constructive way. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
3. Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, last names, any phone numbers, addresses, birthdates, and pictures. Do not share your password with anyone besides your parents, and teachers if necessary.
4. Linking to other Websites to support your thoughts and ideas is recommended. However, be sure to read the

entire article prior to linking to ensure that all information is appropriate for a school setting.

5. Do your own work! Do not use other people's intellectual property, including pictures, without their permission. It is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste other's thoughts without proper attribution. When paraphrasing another's idea(s) be sure to cite your source with the specific web address.
6. How you represent yourself online is an extension of yourself. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity.
7. Blog, wiki, and other online posts should be well written. Follow writing conventions including proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. If you have permission to edit someone else's work be sure it is in the spirit of improving the writing.
8. If you run across inappropriate material, that makes you feel uncomfortable, or is not respectful, tell the supervising adult right away.
9. Cyberbullying is not tolerated. What constitutes cyberbullying, the actions you should take to document cyberbullying if you feel you are a victim, and the actions that may be taken against participating individuals are clearly outlined in the student handbook.
10. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in the project and/or access to future use of online tools.

SECTION 504 DISTRICT COORDINATOR (Grades K-12)

Blair Community Schools designates the following employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended:

Dr. Ryan O'Grady, Director of Student Services
(402) 427-2711
ryanogradey@blairschools.org

The Director may, at his discretion, delegate this responsibility to an appropriate staff person.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Blair Community Schools offers a variety of high quality services to students with disabilities from birth through the school year in which the student turns 21. Special education is specially designed instruction provided to meet the unique needs of a child with a verified disability. Special education staff provide interventions, accommodations and modifications to support a student's participation and progress in the general curriculum. Parents and families work with school staff to develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) that addresses the needs of the student. The amount of special education services provided to a student varies according to individual need and is determined by the student's IEP team. Accommodations and modifications may be supported in the general education setting with adjustments by the general education teachers as well as services provided in a resource setting by the special education teacher. Continuous assessment and evaluation of the student's progress is managed through the IEP process. Students participate in all district and state assessments and may participate with accommodations as identified and indicated in the student's IEP.

GRADES K-12 STUDENT FEE SCHEDULE

2021-22 School Year

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, Blair Community Schools is required to set forth its guidelines for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by adopting the following fee schedule in accordance with policy 504.20-Student Fees. This fee schedule is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations, which may be updated from time to time.

1. Fees for Non-specialized Attire Required for Specified Courses and Activities

Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate when the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity. The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive material hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

2. Fees for Personal and Consumable Items

Students are responsible for fees and costs associated with any personal and consumable items required for participation in extracurricular activities or for school courses.

a. Extracurricular Activities:

- i. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities. Such items include, but are not limited to specialized and non-specialized clothing, shoes, and equipment for the student's personal use in each individual activity they are involved in. General specifications are:

1. 7-12 Basketball: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments.
2. 7-12 Football: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, mouth guard.
3. 7-12 Track: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel.
4. 7-12 Volleyball: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments.
5. 7-12 Wrestling: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, headgear, mouth guard.
6. 9-12 Baseball: Sport shoes, shorts/pants, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, glove.
7. 9-12 Cross Country: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel.
8. 9-12 Golf: Sport shoes, shorts/pants, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, clubs, balls.
9. 9-12 Soccer: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, shin guards.
10. 9-12 Softball: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, glove.
11. 9-12 Tennis: Sport shoes, shorts, shirt, socks, undergarments, cold/wet climate apparel, racket.

b. School Courses

- i. General School Course Materials: Students are required to furnish supplies needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and other common personal or consumable items. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.
- ii. Damaged or Lost Items: Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of

school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

- iii. **Materials Required for School Courses:** Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Culinary I and II have a \$20 fee and students taking Nutrition have a \$10 fee.
- iv. **Field Trips and Specialized Items Required for School Courses:** Students may be required to pay for field trips or provide specialized items for school courses. Such field trips and specialized items must have prior approval of the principal. Fees required for field trips or specialized items for school courses are subject to the District's Fee Waiver Policy (Section 10).
 - 1. Field Trips:
 - 2. Specialized Items:
 - a. Grade 6-12: Chromebook User Fee-not to exceed \$40.00. Parents also may purchase this device outright for their child's use throughout grades 8-12 at a cost not to exceed \$160.00
 - b. Grade 6-12: Physical Education Attire - not to exceed \$10.00 for shorts and \$10.00 shirt
 - c. Grade 9-12: Choir Ensemble clothes - not to exceed \$100.00; T-shirt - not exceed \$15.00
 - d. Grade 9-12 Marching Band/Pep Band: T-shirt - not to exceed \$15.00; shoes - not to exceed \$40.00
 - e. Grade 9-12 Drama: Uniform fee: \$10 per play
- v. **Music Course Materials:** Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 10). The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.
 - 1. Instrument rental fee of \$75.00 for those using a school instrument.

3. Fees for Extra-Curricular Activities

Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. Students have the responsibility to pay for fees required for participation and to pay for specialized equipment or attire for extra curricular activities or to pay a reasonable usage cost for such items. Fees required for participation or for specialized equipment or attire are subject to the Fee Waiver Policy (Section 10). The costs for attending local, regional, state, or national workshops or conventions are the responsibility of the student and/or organization and not subject to the Fee Waiver Policy. Admission fees are charged for entrance to extracurricular activities and are the responsibility of the student and not subject to the Fee Waiver Policy.

- a. **Fees Required for Participation**
 - i. All sports physicals not to exceed \$100.00
 - ii. Grade 6-12 Activity Card: \$60.00
 - iii. Grade 7-12 Uniform Usage Fee for each sport activity: \$10.00
 - iv. Grade 12: Graduation Gown, Stole, Cap: not to exceed \$55.00
 - v. Grades 9-12 Club Dues or Membership
 - 1. FFA: \$25.00
 - 2. FBLA: \$20.00
 - 3. Thespian: \$30.00
 - 4. Drama: \$5.00
 - 5. MCC: \$5.00

6. SkillsUSA: \$20.00
7. Spanish Club: \$5.00
8. Speech: \$10.00
9. NHS: \$20.00
- vi. Grade 5-12 Instruments: Not to exceed \$75.00 rental fee those using a school instrument
- b. Fees Required for Specialized Equipment or Attire
 - i. Grade 9-12 Show Choir: Costumes, attire/props - not to exceed \$350.00
 - ii. Grade 9-12 Speech: Professional outfit not to exceed \$100.00
 - iii. Grade 9-12 Musical: Costumes, attire/props - not to exceed \$200.00
 - iv. Grade 9-12 Dance/Cheerleading: Outfit - not to exceed \$1500.00
 - v. Grade 9-12 Jazz Band: Dress pants, skirt or dress, shirt - not to exceed \$100.00
 - vi. Grade 9-12 Flag Squad: Uniform, shoes - not to exceed \$225.00
 - vii. Grade 9-12 FBLA:
 1. State Leadership Conference-not to exceed \$250.00
 2. National Fall Leadership Conference-not to exceed \$600.00
 3. National Convention-not to exceed \$2,000.00
 4. Officer Polo shirt – not to exceed \$40.00
 - viii. Grade 9-12 FFA:
 1. T-shirt - not to exceed \$15.00
 2. Hoodie - not to exceed \$30.00
 3. FFA jacket not to exceed \$70.00
 4. State Conference-not to exceed \$250.00
 5. National Conference-not to exceed \$600.00
 6. Convention clothes: white shirt or blouse; black pants or skirt, and black shoes – not to exceed \$100.00
 - ix. Grade 9-12 Skills USA/VICA:
 1. State or National Official Dress: black pants/skirt, white shirt, tie, Official red blazer or windbreaker – not to exceed \$150.00. Competition uniform state and national competition: Official competition uniform - not to exceed \$100.00

4. Fees Required for Post-secondary Education Costs

Students are responsible for post-secondary education costs. The phrase “post-secondary education costs” means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and post-secondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, books, or other fees, except tuition, books, materials, and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

5. Fees Required for Transportation Costs

Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

6. Fees for Copies of Student Files or Records

The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students’ files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student’s files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

- a. \$.10 per sheet.

7. Fees Required for Participation in Before and After School Programs or Pre Kindergarten Services

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in pre-kindergarten services offered by the District except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost. The Before and After School program offered by the Blair Community Schools Foundation is an optional service not operated by the school

district and any charges or fees for this program are the responsibility of the student.

8. Fees Required for Participation in Summer School, Correspondence or Online Courses, or Sports Clinics

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school, sports clinics, fees for online or correspondence courses, or other fees not required by law or regulation for instruction.

- a. Summer sports clinics (not to exceed \$60.00 for each clinic).
- b. Summer courses (not to exceed \$200.00 for each course)

9. Fees Required for Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," concession stand, a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

- a. 6-12
 - i. Breakfast: \$2.10 per day
 - ii. Lunch: \$3.05 per day
 - iii. Extra milk: \$.55 each
 - iv. Extras or ala carte menu items: Separate from the lunch program and priced individually.

10. Waiver Policy

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) field trips and specialized items required for school courses, (2) required fees for participation and specialized equipment or attire in extracurricular activities, and (3) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses and musical extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for a waiver of fees for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials, and the fee waiver must be submitted prior to the time the fee is due or the time the specialized equipment or attire is needed.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Blair Community Schools offers parents the opportunity to purchase group accident insurance through a third-party company at a nominal cost. Forms will be made available through individual building mailings or at the District Administrative Offices

STUDENTS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students and adults with disabilities who are in need of special accommodations for conferences and meetings should contact the school office at least one week prior to the event so that proper arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. Questions concerning accommodations should be directed to the principal or the Director of Special Services at the School District Administrative Offices.

STUDENT PASSES

Passes are needed whenever a student is traveling in the halls other than passing periods. Students are never excused from classes to leave school without the approval of the office. Students wanting to leave the building are to request a permit from the principal in order to do so. When a student is detained after class, he should present an

admit slip to the teacher of his next class signed by the teacher who detained him.

STUDENT I.D. CARDS

All students are issued a Student Identification Card at the beginning of each year. The identification card also serves as an activity card when the activity sticker is purchased and affixed to the I.D. card. Students who lose these cards must pay a \$5.00 fee for replacement.

STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Student directory information is designed for use internally within the school district. It may include the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially reorganized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received, dates of attendance at this district, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, E-mail address, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information.

The district is required to supply class lists including name, address, and phone number to college and military recruiters upon their request.

Notification of the intent to opt out of any student directory information should be made in writing to the school principal not later than September 1st of each school year, or no more than 2 weeks following enrollment.

Directory information given to the public at Blair High School includes the following:

- Name and grade of Honor Roll Students
- Activity and Athletic Team Rosters including grade level, height, and weight
- Activity lists, awards, and honors
- Academic lists, awards, and honors
- Senior class list with names and pictures for graduation/commencement publication

STUDENT USE OF THE BUILDING

If students enter the building prior to 8:00 a.m., they should go directly to the cafeteria, commons, or library. Many students, however, come to school early for academic help or stay late for school activities, and this is certainly encouraged. Students should go directly to the teacher they need to see for help in the morning, and students involved in activities should likewise go to the activity directly after school. Athletes should remember to take books and coats with them to the locker room and not return to the main part of the building after practice.

Students are not allowed in the gym or locker rooms without permission from one of the P.E. teachers. Individuals or groups using areas of the building must be accompanied by a faculty sponsor.

TARDINESS

Students are considered tardy to school if they are not in their first block class by the 8:10 tardy bell. Students who are tardy should report directly to the office for an admit slip. A tardy to school is neither excused nor unexcused, and pre arranged appointments (doctor, dental, etc.) are the only reasons considered acceptable for arriving late to school. Any tardy after 8:35 shall be considered an *unexcused* absence from the student's first block class.

After a student has been tardy to school four (4) times, a Detention Notice will be issued. The detention is to be served that evening or the next morning, and detentions will continue to be issued for the 5th through 8th tardy to school. On the 9th tardy, the student will be sent home with an out-of-school suspension (OSS) and will not be readmitted until a parent meeting has occurred and an action plan is developed and provided to the County Attorney for follow up. Students are back to zero-tardy status at the beginning of the school year and the new semester.

TELEPHONE REGULATIONS

The school telephone in the office is for the purpose of conducting school business, not for private calls made by students. Students will not be called out of class to answer phone calls except in emergencies. Students misusing the phone, such as making obscene phone calls or dialing 911 will be disciplined according to school policies.

TEXTBOOKS

Books are loaned to students without cost. Please use book covers and take care of them. All items being loaned to a student are loaned at the student's risk. Teachers will assess a fee for lost or damaged books at replacement cost.

THERAPY DOG

Therapy dogs in schools can perform wonders: The animals relieve students' stress, help kids learn to read, and even boost test scores and attendance. A therapy dog will be in the High School on a daily basis and will be under the control of handlers at all times.

TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

The following policies and procedures are established in order to assist in the fair resolution of student, faculty, and staff grievances. A grievance here under is a claim by a student, faculty member, or staff member (grievant) that a violation of Title IX or Section 504 regulations has occurred. Whenever a grievance occurs, the following procedure will be followed and every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible.

1. As used herein, the term "grievant" means the individual student, parent, faculty member, or staff member filing a grievance under this policy; the term "days" shall mean days when school is in session except that when a grievance is filed on or after May 15, "days" shall refer to Mondays through Fridays, excepting legal holidays.
2. A grievance may be filed by an individual grievant, or by a parent on behalf of a student grievant, if the grievant feels that sex discrimination or discrimination on the basis of a disability has occurred in this school district.
3. No grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event, which is the subject of the grievance.
4. The inclusion of time limits in this policy is for the purpose of ensuring prompt action. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the grievance within the time period specified, unless there is a mutually agreed extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

Procedures:

Level I - A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event which is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal, or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level II - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level I, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it, and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days after the oral response at Level I. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the grievance is based and an explanation of how such facts result in sex discrimination or discrimination on the basis of disability. The principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level III - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance at Level II, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the school superintendent. The superintendent will respond in writing to the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter.

Level IV - In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level III, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the Director of Title IX and Section 504 who will convene a grievance committee for the purpose of examining evidence of sex discrimination or discrimination on the basis of disability in the case submitted. The grievance committee will consider all relevant evidence presented in connection with the grievance and may request individuals to testify before the committee. Within twenty (20) days after receipt of the written grievance, the grievance committee shall determine what action, if any, should be taken to resolve the grievance. The decision of the grievance committee shall be final and a copy of such decision shall be delivered to the grievant.

TRUANCY

Absences without parental and school authority and consent will be considered truancy. The penalty may be detention, Saturday School, short-term or long-term suspension from school. Loss of grade credit may result for every class missed.

VISITORS

All visitors are to check in at the Principal's Office. No one is to enter a class in session without the principal's permission. We encourage parent visitation of classes and often allow others to observe classes. However, interruption of classroom processes to confer with a teacher or a student is forbidden without proper authorization. All visitors should first check in with the main office and receive a "visitor's pass." This pass should be worn at all times when visiting the building.

Students bringing visitors will be discouraged and student visitors will only be allowed in special and extraordinary circumstances for a half of a day.

In the extraordinary circumstances when approval is granted, students wishing to bring a visitor to school must secure permission for this visitor at least one day in advance. No visitor passes will be issued during the first two weeks of a semester, the last two weeks of the semester, or on the day before or after a vacation period.

WORK PERMIT

Students, ages 14 and 15, must have work permits in order to accept any type of employment. Work permits will be issued through the assistant Principal's Office in accordance with the same law. Students desiring such a permit must supply the office with the name of the employer and a list of the hours that the students will be working.

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

The School Counseling Department is proactive, providing services for all students in grades 9-12 at Blair High School. Students' needs are met through a comprehensive curriculum based on three major areas including academic, career, and personal/social domains. Counselors are actively working with students individually, in classes, and in small groups. The primary focus of the school counseling program is the growth of each individual through self-understanding and self-direction in order for them to make a positive contribution to school, home and community.

STUDENT RECORDS

TRANSCRIPTS

Official school records including grades, immunization records, and test scores are kept for all students in grades 9-12. Unofficial transcripts are available through the online grade parent web access.

CUMULATIVE FOLDERS

All students in grades 9-12 have an official cumulative folder, which holds all important papers regarding the student's school history. This information may include grades, test reports, transcript release forms, health records, and copies of important school communications.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect of the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write to the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the records they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(Optional) Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request).

4. Student directory information is designed for use internally within the school district. It may include the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially reorganized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received, dates of attendance at this district, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, E-mail address, photograph and other likeness, and other similar information.

The district is required to supply class lists including name, address, and phone number to college and military

recruiters upon their request. Parents will also have the opportunity to deny the inclusion of their child's information in class lists requested by college or military recruiters.

Notification of the intent to opt out of any student directory information should be made in writing to the school principal not later than September 1st of each school year, or no more than 2 weeks following enrollment.

Directory information given to the public at Blair High School includes the following:

- Name and grade of Honor Roll Students
- Activity and Athletic Team Rosters including grade level, height, and weight
- Activity lists, awards, and honors
- Academic lists, awards, and honors
- Senior class list with names and pictures for graduation/commencement publication

5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Blair Community Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

REGISTRATION

Student registration is held in February for the next school year. Counselors present classroom sessions to all students prior to registration to assist students with using the Course Selector, choosing classes to meet graduation requirements, and designing four-year plans for high school. Students learn about post-secondary options and specific requirements for college.

Students must register for eight classes each semester. Some courses require permission as indicated on the students' registration worksheets.

Students register with their AEP teachers on registration day. Parents are encouraged to attend this conference to review four-year plans and look at student transcripts.

GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE

Any student who plans to participate in college-level athletics should become familiar with the eligibility requirements established by NCAA for Division I and II schools as well as NAIA schools. Students need to complete an eligibility form and send official academic records to the NCAA Clearinghouse following their junior year of high school. In addition, interested students should schedule a conference with their counselor to review academic credits and core courses to ensure that their high school curriculum will be approved by the NCAA. Students must also register to take the ACT test administered during their junior and/or senior year. More detailed information is available at www.blairschools.org or from the School Counseling Office.

Schedule Change Requests

Students have the opportunity to request changes to their first and second semester schedules in early August. Changes will be made based on course availability. Limited schedule changes will be made in December for the second semester. The procedure for requesting a change in December is included on the second semester schedule change form and must be followed.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who transfer to Blair High School during high school will be classified by grade according to: Grade 9 - first year of high school; Grade 10 - second year of high school; Grade 11 - third year of high school; Grade 12 -

fourth year of high school and beyond until graduation.

A credit check will be done to determine the student's status in meeting Blair High School graduation requirements. Students must meet all of Blair High School's requirements in order to receive a diploma from Blair.

Each student's courses will be transferred according to Blair High School's current policies. Five credits will be given for courses that meet five (5) days a week for one semester. Courses that meet less than five (5) days a week will be given comparable credit.

Each student's grade point average will be computed based on a comparability study of courses offered at Blair and those being transferred. All courses and grades will be transferred based on the standard 4.0 (Level II at Blair High School) scale with an "A" being a 4; "B" a 3; "C" a 2; a "D" a 1. Class rank will be generated after the first semester of attendance at Blair High School.

Blair High School uses a system of weighted grades for Level I courses with an "A" being a 5; "B" a 4; "C" a 3; "D" a 2. Courses that are given a weighted grade at another school will only be given commensurate credit at Blair if the course is offered at Blair and the level of academic rigor is comparable with that expected of students at Blair. The High School Principal will determine the comparability of courses based on consultation when necessary with the Director of School Counseling and the appropriate department chair. Appropriate written documentation such as course descriptions, curriculum guides or personal correspondence from instructors may also be required to substantiate the appropriate weighted grade level of a course.

After a Blair High School transcript is made, the parents and student will receive a copy to review.

CHECKING OUT

Any student leaving school permanently must obtain a checkout sheet from the School Counseling Office on the morning of the last day of attendance. A parent/guardian must notify the School Counseling Office before students may obtain the checkout form. Each student is asked to have his teachers sign the form indicating that all books are returned and/or fines paid. This form will provide a record of the grades at the time the student checked out. All obligations must be taken care of before any school records may be transferred to another district.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Changes in your address/phone number must be reported to the School Counseling Office.

GRADUATION

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits
Science	30 credits
Social Studies	30 credits
Physical Ed/Health	15 credits
Personal Finance	05 credits
Electives	110 credits
TOTAL	260 credits

SEMESTER GRADUATE

Early graduation from Blair High School is endorsed by the Board of Education provided students have met all graduation requirements, attended high school a minimum of seven semesters, and have the permission of their parents.

Students who wish to graduate after seven semesters must meet with their school counselor, complete the documentation stating the reasons why graduating early is a positive choice.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Students at Blair High School are classified by grade levels according to the number of years they have been in high school. Students will be classified by grade as follows: Grade 9 - first year of high school; Grade 10 - second year of high school; Grade 11 - third year of high school; Grade 12 - fourth year of high school and beyond until graduation.

COMMENCEMENT

Seniors must have all graduation requirements completed in order to be allowed to participate in graduation/commencement exercises. No students will be allowed to participate in this ceremony without having the necessary credits to graduate. This is a school board policy (611.07) and any exceptions to this policy must first be approved by the Board of Education. Disciplinary situations, which necessitate suspension from school, may result in a student not being allowed to participate in commencement activities. All students receiving a diploma from the Blair Community School District must be in attendance at Blair High School during the semester preceding their graduation date. Students who elect to graduate after seven semesters will be given a diploma in May. Commencement exercises for all students will be held in May.

CREDIT FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Blair High School will accept up to 20 hours of credit from other high school programs for student use toward fulfilling graduation requirements. Examples of these programs include summer school, night schools or independent study high schools. Students will be granted 5 credit hours for 75 hours of class time. Five credits will be the maximum allowed for one course. All institutions from which credit will be accepted must be fully accredited through either the Nebraska Department of Education or a nationally recognized organization such as the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. Students must seek approval of courses they take from their counselor before they register for the courses. Students may take courses from other institutions if they are retaking a failed course or if Blair High School does not offer the course. Credits in excess of the 20 hours may only be accepted with the approval of the principal.

COLLEGE CREDIT

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Metropolitan Community College Articulation - Students who complete the following courses at Blair High School have the option of articulating this credit to Metropolitan Community College: Accounting I & II, Advanced Drafting Practices, Advanced Mechanical Drawing, and Architectural Drawing I.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement English can take the advanced placement exams which are held in May every year. Colleges and universities have advanced placement policies which state the exam scores needed in order to earn college credit. For more information, contact the Admission Office of each specific college or look on college websites.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Blair High School has many opportunities available to students who wish to earn college credits while they are still in high school. When students enroll in the courses they will have the option of taking each class as high school credit only or for high school and college credit. When students enroll in college after high school graduation, they will need to request official transcripts from the college that sponsored the dual enrollment to show the college credit earned. Students will need to check with the individual colleges they wish to attend to see if the college will accept the dual enrollment credit. A representative from each college will visit dual enrollment classes in the fall to complete necessary paperwork and explain the collection of fees.

COLLEGE/CAREER

SCHOOL COUNSELING WEBSITE

www.blairschools.org

Students and parents will find valuable information and links on the School Counseling web page.

Go to “Blair High School,” then “Counseling.”

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Students applying to 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, vocational and technical schools may apply online or by completing a paper application. Students completing online applications should request that transcripts be sent to the appropriate colleges. Students completing paper applications should bring the application, a check or money order for the application fee (no cash please) to the School Counseling Office at least three days before the application deadline.

COLLEGE VISITS

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit post-secondary schools that they are considering for attendance after high school. Juniors and seniors may use up to 3 school days per year for the purpose of visiting schools. Students should research information about the school before they visit.

An appointment must be made at the college by either the parent or student. Students must have parent permission to make a college visit. Parents are encouraged to accompany students on these visits. Once the parent has given permission for the visit, the student will email their Counselor to request an absence form. Students must obtain this pre-excused form at least one week in advance. Students who have excessive school absences, poor grades, or several discipline referrals may not be allowed to use school days for college visitation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Senior students are eligible for scholarships, which are offered by colleges, universities, vocational and technical schools, local organizations, foundations and corporations. Information about these scholarships is made available daily to students through the School Counseling Website and student bulletin. In addition, parents or students wishing to complete computer searches for scholarship information can do so by visiting the school counseling website.

FINANCIAL AID

Senior students planning to attend post-secondary institutions after high school may wish to apply for federal financial aid. Information about this process will be made available to all senior students and parents in December.

RESOURCES

Nebraska Career Connections

Nebraska Career Connections is a web-based student resource that is available to all Blair High School students. Each student has an account which can be accessed through the BHS School Counseling website. Students will use Nebraska Career Connections in classroom activities taught by counselors for college and career research and planning.

TESTING/ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT

The assessment program at Blair High School includes measures of achievement, ability, career interests, and aptitudes. These tests provide valuable information, which assists students in identifying strengths and areas to improve. These test results are interpreted to students, parents, and staff in order to assist students with future planning. (See the following chart.)

Grade 9: preACT, MAP

Grade 10: preACT, PSAT, MAP

Grade 11: ACT, PSAT Achievement test (optional), Advanced Placement Tests (optional)

Grade 12: ACT/SAT College Entrance Test (optional), Advanced Placement Tests (optional)

Our SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement Code Number is 280265.

HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

Students who are physically unable to attend regular academic school programs due to a medical disability may apply to be served by this program. Generally speaking, a student must be in need of home or hospital services for a period of at least two weeks. A student or their parents or guardians must present a note to the school from a doctor stating that the student is medically unable to attend classes for this period. Homebound instruction will be coordinated through the School Counseling Office and the Director of Special Services. Students who are enrolled in a homebound program are eligible to receive a waiver of attendance under the attendance policy.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

All students will be assigned to a teacher known as the AEP Advisor. Each AEP will consist of approximately 18 students. AEP meets daily with the purpose of orienting all students and emphasizing the development of a one-to-one relationship between the AEP Advisor and the student. In addition, AEP Advisors will assist students in the areas of program planning and class scheduling.

GRADING PROCEDURES

ACADEMIC LETTERS

Students who have achieved Honor Roll Status at Blair High School for 5 consecutive semesters are awarded an Academic Letter for Scholastic Excellence. This letter is exactly the same as those students receive when lettering in a sport. This letter is intended to emphasize the importance that Blair High School puts on academic excellence and to encourage students to that end. Students may receive one additional letter for 7 consecutive semesters on the Honor Roll.

GRADING

A serious attempt is made at all times to evaluate, in the best possible manner, the progress of students. The following grading system has been devised for that purpose:

A (93-100)

B (85-92)

C (77-84)

D (70-76)

F (Below 70)

P Indicates that the student is passing regular work in the class.

I Incompletes are assigned in cases where the student's work is incomplete at the end of a grading period. This may be due to absence because of illness, etc. Incompletes must be made up within one week following the end of a grading period.

NG No grade.

WF Withdraw with failing grade.

CHEATING

Students who are cheating on tests or helping other students cheat will not be tolerated. This applies for daily work as well. Plagiarism or claiming others' work as your own is considered as cheating and dealt with accordingly. Specific penalties for cheating will be assigned by the individual teacher and may be reflected in a student's final grade for the course.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Final examinations at the end of each semester of 18 weeks are required. The student must take these examinations in order to receive credit. Examinations cannot be taken early without permission from the principal. Final examinations will count no more than one-fifth of the final grade for the semester for each individual class.

FAILING GRADES

A FAILING GRADE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER MEANS THAT NO CREDIT IS EARNED. If during your four years in high school you have failed a required subject, it is your responsibility to register for the course again. The course or courses will be taken as soon as they can be worked into your schedule in order that you meet the full requirements for graduation.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The GPA range is from 4.0 (highest) to 0.0 (lowest). Because of the weighted grading scale explained below, some students may earn a grade point average in excess of 4.0. Students who transfer to Blair High School from another accredited institution should refer to the section labeled Transfer Students, located in the School Counseling section of this handbook.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (SENIORS)

All seniors will be limited to six classes that will count towards their grade point average. Seniors who plan to take seven or eight classes will complete contracts indicating which course(s) will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Courses in which a senior receives a grade of “Pass” do not count towards the grade point average. A grade of “Fail” will count on the grade point average and no credit is earned.

Any course from the English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language departments may not count as Pass/Fail courses. All other courses that are considered elective courses may be identified as Pass/Fail classes. Seniors who take more than six classes per semester will complete a Pass/Fail contract with their school counselor. Students will not be allowed to change their senior Pass/Fail contract after two weeks into each semester. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of participation and effort in Pass/Fail courses.

WEIGHTED CLASSES

All classes at Blair High School are assigned to two levels indicating the relative difficulty and/or intensity of the given course. These levels are then assigned “mark points” to correspond with the grade achieved in the particular course. The mark points achieved, along with the credits attempted, are used when determining a student’s rank in class and grade point average.

MARK POINT TABLE			
Level I		Level II	
Grade Mark Points		Grade Mark Points	
A = 5		A = 4	
B = 4		B = 3	
C = 3		C = 2	
D = 2		D = 1	
F = 0		F = 0	

REPORTING OF GRADES

ON-LINE GRADES

Parents may set up accounts to have on-line web access to grades, attendance, behavior and transcripts. Direct email links to teachers are provided for ease in communication.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are issued to all parents twice a semester to inform students and parents of the student's achievement in each class being taken.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued two times during the school year, once each semester. The first and second semester report cards are issued to parents approximately 2 weeks after the end of the semester. Should you not have trouble accessing your child's report card electronically through the portal call the school office at 426-4941.

RECOGNITION OF GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

CALCULATION OF GRADES

All courses at Blair High School are graded on a semester basis. Teachers will use either percentage grades or total point grades. Each individual teacher will have grading policies and grade categories that are appropriate for specific courses. Students will receive the grading policies at the beginning of each course.

HONOR ROLL

To be eligible for Honor Roll status at Blair High School a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average for the grading period. Those students who have accumulated a 3.5 or higher grade point average will be named to the Honor Roll. Blair High School students in grades 9-11 must be taking 40 credits attempted during a semester for Honor Roll Status. Seniors must be taking 30 credits attempted during a semester for Honor Roll Status. Generally, all courses receiving an "A-F" grade and in which students receive credit are considered when Honor Roll is determined. Pass-Fail classes are not considered. Students receiving a grade of an "F" are automatically disqualified from Honor Roll consideration.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION - CLASS OF 2024 AND BEYOND

Blair Community Schools is committed to recognizing the academic success of its students in a variety of ways, including at the high school graduation ceremony. The goal of our laude recognition model is to celebrate academic excellence while at the same time creating a system that eliminates the competition between students that exists in a traditional class rank formula.

Laude Model Recognition Criteria:

- Summa Cum Laude ("with the highest honor") - This is the highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate summa cum laude, a student must achieve a 4.39 or higher grade point average on a 4.00 weighted scale.
- Magna Cum Laude ("with great honor") - This is the second highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate magna cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 4.20 but less than a 4.39 on a 4.00 weighted scale.
- Cum Laude ("with honor") - This is the third highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 4.00 but less than a 4.20 on a 4.00 weighted scale.

DISCIPLINE & LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTE TO PARENTS

Because neither the school nor the parent deals with all aspects of the student's life, it is essential that a sound working relationship between the parent and the school exists. The school and the parent must establish a close working relationship and parents must accept their responsibility in helping to solve the student's school problems. The parent cannot expect the school to handle the student's problems alone. Since there is a considerable carry-over between the home and the school, a problem cannot be identified as a strictly home or a strictly school problem. Therefore, an open and constructive relationship between the parent and the school will greatly enhance the possibilities of discovering a workable solution to the student's problem.

Good discipline originates in the home. The parent/guardian is the first teacher of his child, and should develop in him good behavior habits and proper attitudes toward school.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The school board policy concerning student behavior is as follows: School Board policy 504.03 states that "on important charges every effort should be made to consult with parents before a disciplinary decision is reached." Students at all levels have a basic responsibility toward school to conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit on their school and themselves. This basic responsibility is to apply not only to school hours but also to other times, especially while attending school activities at home and away.

Student attendance at school is a mandatory charge to parents for those children under sixteen years of age and continues as a privilege beyond that age. However, such attendance at any age level carries with it an obligation for the student to conduct himself within the framework of accepted school behavior. Failure to fulfill the obligation can result in the loss of the right and privilege of public schooling for those under sixteen as well as those sixteen and over.

Disciplinary considerations will be made according to the students' best interests and correction of the problem. Present age, grade level, and prior disciplinary record of a student will be considered, if appropriate, when disciplinary actions are administered. In other extreme situations, a student may be suspended or expelled from school by the superintendent or principal on the basis of evidence that strongly indicates that the student has committed any offense contrary to school or state policies. Examples of offenses that might result in the suspension or expulsion of a student at Blair High School are:

1. Insubordination--A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with directions of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, principals, or other school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under the authority of the school personnel.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct involving an opposing school's team or delegation or a student's own school team or delegation. Unsportsmanlike conduct directed at representatives of an opposing school or the officials of a school contest.
3. Nuisance items, lasers, lighters, matches, spitballs, water pistols, water balloons, firecrackers, snowballing, electronic games, etc.
4. Lewdness, public indecency, use of profanity or obscenity, or displays of obscene literature.
5. Verbal and physical sexual harassment that is sufficiently severe, persistent and pervasive so that to limit the student's availability to benefit from education.
6. Gross disrespect for teachers, school officials and other employees.
7. Behavior that seriously interferes with class work or the activities of the school, such as:
 - a. Possession of or use of tobacco or imitation tobacco products on school property or at school-sponsored events (cigarettes, electronic cigarettes/e-cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.).

- b. Gambling.
- c. Willful use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, bullying as defined on page 13 of the Student-Parent Handbook, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes an interference with school purposes.
- d. Hazing by classes, clubs, athletic teams or other student organizations, as defined on page 16 of the Student-Parent Handbook is prohibited. Hazing means any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization.
- e. Willfully causing or attempting to cause damage to private or school property on school grounds or during an educational function or event off school grounds.
- f. Willfully causing or attempting to cause physical injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or to any student.
 - On the school grounds.
 - Off the school grounds at an educational function or event.
 - On any property of The Blair Community Schools.
- g. Threatening, bullying, or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from that person.
- h. Knowing, possessing, handling or transmitting any object that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or an explosive device including but not limited to guns, knives, ammunition, fire works, etc.
 - On the school grounds.
 - Off the school grounds at any educational function or event.
 - On any property of The Blair Community Schools.
- i. Engaging in the unlawful selling, use, possession, under the influence of, or dispensing of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or alcoholic liquor, or possession of drug paraphernalia.
- j. Truancy--absence from school without school or parental authority.
- k. Theft--the taking or possessing of that which belongs to the school or another student without prior consent of the school or individual.
- l. Displays of Affection -- Public demonstrations of kissing, embracing, or other intimate contact will not be allowed.
- m. Sexual assault, harassment or attempting to sexually assault any school employee or student.
- n. Use of racial or ethnic comments that may be deemed socially and personally unacceptable.
- o. Disrupting the classroom environment through verbal or physical action.
- p. Public Indecency, regardless of age, as defined by R.R.S. 28-806.
- q. Use of paging devices, cellular phones, or other similar communication devices are not permitted during instructional time.
- r. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska, which interferes with school purposes.

BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school

- purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
 6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product (including electronic nicotine delivery systems). The District may use drug dogs or other detection devices in the enforcement of this policy.

That the following penalties be assessed for the offenses indicated when such **offense occurs on school premises, at school-sponsored activities, or in a school-owned vehicle:**

1. engaging in the **unlawful selling or dispensing** of a controlled substance, an imitation controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103, the penalty shall be expulsion for the remainder of the semester. (Copies of the above statutes are available upon request in the Principal's Office.)
2. engaging in the **unlawful use or possession** of a controlled substance, paraphernalia or an imitation controlled substance, or a counterfeit controlled substance or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103, the penalty shall be **ten days suspension** and drug/alcohol evaluation and counseling before readmission for the first offense and expulsion for the remainder of the semester for the second offense.
3. being under **the influence** of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor, **ten days suspension** and drug/alcohol evaluation and counseling before reentry for the first offense, expulsion for the remainder of the semester for the second offense.

For students involved in school activities: No participant in any Blair High School activity may be involved in the use of tobacco, in any form whatever, engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of illegal drugs; counterfeit controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, inhalant, or alcoholic beverages.

The following penalties will be invoked if involvement occurs between the opening day of practice and the conclusion of the season and/or state tournament when such activities are sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, Blair Community Schools, or any other organization recognized by the school district.

Students who are involved and/or participate in special school events, such as Homecoming, Jr/Sr Prom, parades, speaking events, field trips or other events as determined by the principal, may be subject to these penalties.

1. **FIRST OFFENSE** - Will result in a two-week suspension from interscholastic contests or activities. If no contest or activity occurs within the two-week suspension, the student will miss the next scheduled event following the suspension. The student must continue to attend and participate in all practices and meetings during the suspension.
2. **SECOND OFFENSE** - Will result in the forfeiture of all privileges of participation in the sport or activity, including practices, for the remainder of the duration of that season.
3. **THIRD OFFENSE** - Will result in the forfeiture of all privileges of participation in all sports and activities for that school year.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

There are seven types of disciplinary procedures in effect in School District No. 1 of Washington, County, Nebraska and the Blair Community Schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS shall mean administrative or teacher actions reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include counseling of student-parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, requirements that a student receive counseling, or restriction of extracurricular activity.

EMERGENCY EXCLUSION shall mean exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools within the system until the circumstances justifying the exclusion have been resolved.

SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools within the system for a period not exceeding five school days.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION may also be authorized for a student subject to the infractions for which a short-term suspension is authorized. Specific rules for the In-School Suspension room have been established and will be given to students at the time this is assigned.

LONG-TERM SUSPENSION shall mean the exclusion of a student from attendance in all schools within the system in accordance with R.R. S. 79-256.

EXPULSION shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools within the system in accordance with R.R.S. 79-256.

MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT shall mean the involuntary transfer of a student to another school within the system in connection with any disciplinary action.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Administrators or teachers may take actions regarding student behavior, other than emergency exclusion, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion or reassignment, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include counseling of students, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, or requirements that a student receive counseling or restriction of extracurricular activity.

2. EMERGENCY EXCLUSION

A student may be excluded from school on an emergency basis upon a clear factual situation warranting exclusion or indicating that (a) the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the school community or (b) the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of the student or others or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education. The student may not be excluded for a time longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers upon which the exclusion was based.

Five (5) Days or Less If the exclusion is for five (5) days or less, the student shall be given oral or written notice of the factual situation upon which the exclusion is based and given an opportunity to present an explanation of his/her version of the facts. Within 24 hours following the exclusion, or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, the principal shall send a written statement to the student and/or the student's parents or guardian describing the factual basis for the principal's action. The principal shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents before or at the time the student returns to school.

Greater Than Five (5) Days If the exclusion is for longer than five (5) days, the hearing procedures specified in Board Policy 505.04 shall be followed.

3. SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

The principal may deny any student the right to attend or to take part in any school function for a period of up to five (5) school days on the following grounds:

- A. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion.
- B. Violation of school rules adopted by School Board pursuant to the Student Discipline Act.

The student shall be given oral or written notice of the factual situation upon which the exclusion is based, and an opportunity to present an explanation, or his version of the facts. Within twenty-four (24) hours, or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the exclusion, the principal shall send a written statement to the student and his/her parent or guardian, describing the factual basis for the principal's action. The principal shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents before or at the time the student returns to school.

4. SATURDAY SCHOOL

Saturday School is a disciplinary placement for those students committing non-disruptive infractions. Specific guidelines for Saturday School are:

- 1) The number of Saturday School sessions assigned to a student will not exceed three for attendance infractions.
- 2) Saturday School will be held in the Blair High School Library. During these sessions, no other students will be admitted to this area.
- 3) Students must bring books, study materials, or other appropriate class work with them to Saturday School. They must use this time for quiet study.
- 4) Students will be allowed to use computers, books, magazines, and other school materials for class work

ONLY.

- 5) Saturday School begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 11:00 a.m. Students must be on time. Late students will be instructed to leave the premises, will not be given credit for the Saturday School, and will receive SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION in lieu of the Saturday School placement.
- 6) Students will be expected to study in a quiet manner during Saturday School. All school rules and policies apply to Saturday School. Students who fail to comply with the directive of the supervisor or violate any school rule or policy, will be asked to leave, no credit will be given, and will receive SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION for their actions.
- 7) Failure to attend an assigned Saturday School will result in SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION.
- 8) The principal or assistant principal will interpret, determine, or otherwise make judgment on all other items concerning Saturday School placement, policy, and alternative disciplinary procedures.

5. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Guidelines for assignment to In-School Suspension are the same as those outlined in Number 3 above, Short-Term Suspension. I.S.S. is considered by school officials as an alternative method of Short-Term Suspension and is given as determined necessary by the principal and assistant principal.

Specific guidelines for I.S.S. are:

- 1) The number of days a student is assigned to the I.S.S. Room will be determined by the principal or assistant principal. These are the only people who may assign students to this suspension from classes.
- 2) Students may be assigned to the I.S.S. Room for any offense, which causes a student to be suspended from school on a short-term basis.
- 3) This area will be isolated from all other students and no one will be admitted to this area except for those faculty members in charge.
- 4) Students must bring all books and study materials with them to the I.S.S. Room. No student may leave this room during the day. Students assigned to the I.S.S. Room will receive credit for work accomplished while in this room, but this work must meet all the requirements that a student not assigned to the I.S.S. Room is responsible for, i.e., on time, neat, completed, etc.
- 5) Specific Information:
 - a) Students assigned to the I.S.S. Room should arrive at the main office no later than 8:20 a.m. in order to be taken to the I.S.S. Room. Students will be dismissed BY THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL at 3:30 p.m. Students may not leave until dismissed.
 - b) Students will work only on assigned work.
 - c) Students will be allowed one restroom break in the morning and one in the afternoon and will be released by the teacher at about 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
 - d) All students will eat lunch in the I.S.S. Room.
 - e) Dawdling, leaving the room without supervision or permission, sleeping, not working on assigned school work, talking or any other misbehavior will result in additional disciplinary action.
 - f) Absence from school will not count as a day of I.S.S. (i.e. 3 days of I.S.S. equals 3 days served. This includes prearranged doctor and dentist appointments.)
- 6) Additional time may be assigned for any infractions of the specifics listed above.
- 7) Generally speaking, a student will not be assigned to the I.S.S. Room more than twice for the same offense during a semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the assistant principal in charge of discipline.

6. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION, EXPULSION,

MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT

The following student conduct shall constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

- 1) Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a

substantial interference with school purposes;

2) Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;

3) Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

4) Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;

5) Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;

6) Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor;

7) Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this subdivision shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;

8) Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137;

9) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

10) Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or

11) A repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established pursuant to section 79-262 if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.

It is the intent of the Legislature that alternatives to suspension or expulsion be imposed against a student who is truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from required school activities.

When the decision is made to discipline a student for a long-term suspension, expulsion, or the mandatory reassignment, the Principal will make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian and inform them of the situation which resulted in the discipline. The Principal will also inform the parent/guardian that the materials required by law will be mailed to their home via certified mail. A copy of the hearing request may be picked up at the school office and the process for initiating a hearing begins upon receipt of a signed request. The notice will include the rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated, the acts of the student which constitute cause of Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment, a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student, the penalty the principal has recommended, and any other penalty to which the student may be subject, a statement that the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony. The notice shall be accompanied by a form upon which the student and the student's parent or guardian may request a hearing. The student, student's parent or guardian and appropriate school personnel may discuss and settle the matter prior to the hearing stage.

CREDIT FOR SCHOOL WORK DURING SUSPENSIONS

Students who violate any part of the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Blair High School Parent/Student Handbook and receive a Short-Term or Long-Term Suspension for such violation may request the opportunity to receive credit for schoolwork during the period of the suspension.

Such requests must be made to the Principal by the student or parent at the beginning of the suspension or before the student returns to school from the suspension.

When a request for credit for school work during a Short-Term or Long-Term Suspension is made, school

personnel will notify teachers and collect books and assignments. It will be the responsibility of the student or parent to pick up these materials from school. All school work must be completed and turned into the teacher within two school days upon the student's return to school from the suspension or as agreed upon by the student, teacher and Principal in order to receive full credit for the work. Penalties for late work will apply (as with assignment or test) should work not be turned in within two days.

Students who violate any part of the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Blair High School Parent/Student Handbook and receive an In-School Suspension for such violation will receive full credit for schoolwork during the period of the suspension when that work meets all the requirements and criteria set forth by the teacher. The work must be completed during the In-School Suspension or must be turned in to the teacher by the regular due date.

Students who are expelled from school receive grades of "F" for all classes taken at the time of the expulsion.

DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ACT OF 1986

Use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The District is required by the Drug Free Schools and Community Act of 1986, as amended to refer to all instances of unlawful selling, use, possession or dispensing of controlled substance or alcoholic liquor on school premises or at school-sponsored activities for prosecution. In addition, the provisions of the code of conduct contained in this section provides for sanctions up to and including suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

Drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and reentry programs are available and the explanation or information of such programs may be obtained from the counseling office or school administration. When deemed necessary by the school principal a requirement for reentry to school, following a suspension, may include drug and alcohol screening or rehabilitation completed at the student's expense.

NOTE TO 19-YEAR-OLDS

State law requires schools to enforce the same rules on all students, regardless of their age.

Please make sure you read and follow all the school policies set forth in this handbook. Remember, being 19 does not ever exempt you from school rules.

NOTIFICATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

The Principal or his designee shall notify, as soon as possible, the appropriate law enforcement authorities of the county or city of any act of a student, which is known or is suspected of being a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code. In addition, criminal citations may be issued to students, at school, for violations of the Nebraska Criminal Code.

REFUSAL TO ACCEPT REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL

As required by law, notification to parents of many disciplinary matters must be made by registered or certified mail. State law stipulates that notification be sent and that receipt of this notification is not a necessary part of carrying out the stated discipline. Consequently, refusal to accept registered or certified mail does not void the stipulations of the discipline as stated in the letter.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

NOTE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The student activity program of the Blair Community Schools is an important part of the education program. It includes a variety of activities, which are viable components of the classroom activities. As such, the activities program strives to provide for the needs of young people, giving each student additional opportunities to acquire and develop skills, attitudes and appreciation according to his individual interests, needs and abilities. These activities help the student develop into a responsible and effective member of the community.

Blair High School Downlist Policy

Blair High School promotes student achievement both academically and in activities. The first priority for our students is academics and activities are a right and privilege. With that in mind, the following policy has been enacted for students to maintain eligibility during the season and pertains to students with failing grades.

If the student is failing one (or more classes)

First Week

- Coach is notified and speaks to player
- Player is still able to play and practice

Second Week

- Coach is notified and speaks to player, Activities office notifies student and parents
- Player is still able to play and practice, understanding that following week they will be ineligible to play

Week three and beyond

- Coach is notified, player is called to the activities office and informed of game participation suspension until grade is passing, parents are notified
- Player is still able to practice

Grades will be reviewed Tuesdays and activity suspensions will go into effect Wednesday morning. The player is eligible immediately once the grade is passing or permission has been granted by the teacher.

STUDENT CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Blair High School endorses and participates only in those activities approved and sanctioned by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and listed in their annual publication "National Advisory List of Contest and Activities".

Generally speaking, these are activities that are conducted on a national scale. Blair High School does not endorse or nominate students for "Who's Who" type recognition programs.

A complete listing of these contests and activities may be found in the School Counseling Office or the Principal's Office.

STUDENT ACTIVITY CARD REQUIREMENT

As a means of contributing to the support of the entire activities program at Blair High School, all students that

participate in any sport or activity at the High School level will be required to purchase an activity card prior to participation in that sport or activity. Purchasing an activity card once during the year will allow students to participate in any or all of the sports programs or activities offered at Blair High School. All sports and activities offered at Blair High School are listed in the "Co-Curricular Activities Program" section of this handbook. Students are encouraged to purchase their activity card at the beginning of the school year in order to get the most benefit from the card. The cost of a student activity card is \$60.00. If an activity has any of the following the activity card needs to be purchased:

- Have a paid sponsor
- Travel
- Entry Fees
- School purchased uniforms
- Any other expenses paid by the school

GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

A. A student can miss no more than three days (four or more periods equal one day and three or less periods equal one-half day) for VARSITY LEVEL activities per season unless cleared by the Activities Director and Principal. If the activity is scheduled all year, the student can miss a maximum of three days each semester. This excludes District and State Competition, but includes National Events.

B. Students will not be released from school for activities below the varsity level, unless cleared by the Activities Director and Principal.

C. Activity trips are not to exceed a one-way distance of fifty (50) miles unless proposed by the Principal and given final authorization by the Superintendent of Schools. (Classroom field trips must adhere to Board Policy 607.05.)

D. The Principal may disallow students to participate in co-curricular or academic trips during school time, if the student has had excessive absences, truancies, tardies, unsatisfactory classroom performance, disciplinary considerations, or any conflicting considerations.

E. Field trips and activities conducted during the normal scheduled classroom period are not considered school time missed.

STUDENT SENATE

The purpose of the Student Senate is to: (1) encourage student participation in activities, (2) to provide a means of creating a better fellowship and understanding between faculty and students and among students themselves, (3) promote the general welfare of the school and (4) provide an opportunity for student participation in decision making.

The High School Student Senate consists of five representatives elected from each class plus five officers. The representatives are divided equally among the four high school grades with each class electing their own representatives.

CLASS GOVERNMENTS

Class officers are elected at the beginning of the school year. Each class functions as an organization for specific purposes that may vary from year to year.

ATTENDANCE AT AN ACTIVITY

Students attending any school activity (including school dances and all athletic events) may not leave and reenter an activity.

SCHOOL CLUB AND ORGANIZATION OFFICE

The school encourages students to participate in activities and organizations of the school. However, so that no student accepts more responsibility than is reasonable, the following rule shall apply: no student may serve as president of more than one organization, club, or class during the school year.

SEMESTER GRADUATES

Students who graduate at semester cannot hold office in school organizations. They cannot continue to participate in school activity programs after the end of the first semester.

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

The school works cooperatively with the churches in the community; activities are not scheduled on Wednesday evening or Sunday. Exceptions to this will occur only when an activity is a state-sponsored activity or for special performances or activities approved by the Superintendent of Schools. Practices on Wednesday will end by 6:15 p.m.; practices on Sunday will be allowed if there is a Monday performance and approval is granted by the activities director.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

If school is dismissed early because of inclement weather, all scheduled practices and activities will be canceled for that day. When school is dismissed for more than one day, or dismissed early for other reasons, activities and practices are scheduled at the Superintendent's discretion.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Students must be in attendance a full day of school in order to take part in an activity (practice or performance) scheduled that same evening unless the absence has been excused in advance of the absence. If the activity is scheduled during the school day, a student must be in attendance that part of the day preceding the activity unless excused in advance. Students participating in activities must be in attendance at school, on time, the day following an activity. Students missing the day following a school activity may not be allowed to participate in the next activity or performance.

STUDENT INSURANCE

A student accident insurance policy, as well as coverage for participation in some athletic events, is offered to students at the beginning of the school year. There are varying fees for different coverage, and students and parents interested in this insurance should contact the Activities Director's Office for more information.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Students must obtain purchase orders from their club and organization sponsors when purchasing items, which will be charged to a particular activity fund account. These purchase orders must be signed by the Principal. Students may be personally liable for all purchases not having the proper signatures and authorization.

FUNDRAISING

All fund raising projects must be of an appropriate form and scheduled through the activities director. Each request must be approved by the Superintendent and a purchase order number acquired before materials can be ordered. Each organization is limited to one fund raising project per semester and is solely responsible for collection of funds.

SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Students suspended from school are ineligible to participate or attend any school activity or attend any practice during the period of suspension.

FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are to be approved by the Principal's Office and should be completed before May 1. The scheduling of buses must be done at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. Transportation requests are to be submitted to the activities director. Teachers supervising buses should read the bus regulations closely and insist that students follow the rules.

Students are not allowed to drive on field trips. This pertains to all school-sponsored trips and is restricted for reasons of insurance and liability.

All students attending a field trip must have a permission slip signed and on file with the teacher sponsoring the trip prior to the trip. Field trip permit forms may be obtained in the school office.

SCHOOL BUS ACTIVITY RULES

The school bus rules are to be enforced by all school sponsors. School bus sponsors are required to maintain order in the bus at all times, regardless of the lack of specific regulation for a problem.

The following rules of conduct must be followed by all students while riding the bus:

1. The sponsor is in full charge of the busload of students. Students shall comply promptly and cheerfully with requests. In the event that the sponsor does not control the students, the driver is directed to speak to the students. If this does not work, the driver is then to return immediately to Blair with the load of students.
 2. The sponsor may assign students to seats.
 3. Students must be on time. The bus cannot be detained for those who are tardy.
 4. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.
 5. Except for ordinary conversation, students shall observe quiet conduct on the bus; singing and cheering in unity will be allowed, but not screaming or unnecessary yelling.
 6. Students will not throw waste on the floor of the bus or out the windows.
 7. No part of the student's body shall be extended out the bus window at any time.
 8. Students should remain seated while the bus is in motion and for the duration of a trip.
 9. Damage to the bus shall be reported to the driver.
 10. Seats may not be reserved.
 11. Students must be quiet while the bus is stopped for railway crossings.
 12. Students should not leave the bus from the emergency door except in an emergency.
 13. Everyone who rides on the bus to an event must return to school on the bus.
 14. Food is fine, but do not make a mess. All trash must be picked up, brought to the front of the bus and deposited in the trash container there.
 15. Loose cans or bottles cannot be allowed on the bus. Pop may be taken on activity trips; however, beverages must not be consumed by students, drivers or sponsors while the bus is transporting students to and from an activity.
 16. Drivers are not responsible for personal belongings left on the bus.
- Time schedules may vary slightly with a seasonal change of activity. It is the activity bus rider's responsibility

to know that schedule when it is announced. Any student that is in an activity is expected to ride the activity bus. If for some reason the student must ride with his/her parents, then the parents are responsible to contact the activity sponsor and ask for permission. The activity sponsor has the authority to grant or refuse permission because he is responsible for the welfare of these students. No student may drive his own vehicle to or from an activity when participating in that activity.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Whether you are a spectator or participant, school policies apply at all school-sponsored events. Co-curricular activities are an extension of the school program; therefore, all school policies will be strictly enforced. In addition, certain extra requirements for students involved in co-curricular activities may be enforced.

Refer to the Athletic Code of Conduct for athletic participants in addition to regular school rules and policies, and talk to your activity sponsors for more information.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY

Any great tradition is a long time in building; it takes the hard work of many young adults and the loyal support of parents and community. As a member of a Blair co-curricular activity group, you have inherited a tradition that is one of the finest in the State. We believe in excellence and that total effort must be exerted to finish first; however, it is the striving, not necessarily the arriving, that brings out the best in a person. Some good must result in the attempt a team or group makes to win. Winning is merely one result of that attempt. There must be a complement to that win, which naturally comes to the group, which also made the attempt but lost. You automatically assume a leadership role when you are involved in a co-curricular activity. The student body, the community, and other communities judge the school by your conduct and attitude, both at school and away. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make BLAIR proud of you, and your community proud of Blair High School.

DRUG FREE ACTIVITY STATEMENT

The faculty at Blair High School is committed to endorsing a "Drug Free Lifestyle" for the students of our school. The drug-free lifestyle for students means no illegal use of any drug or alcohol. The adult commitment to appropriate drug-free role modeling means no use of illegal substances and responsible use of legal substances.

BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES

No participant in any Blair High School activity may be involved in the use of tobacco, engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of illegal drugs, inhalant, or alcoholic beverages. The district may use drug dogs or other detection devices in the enforcement of this policy.

The following penalties will be invoked if involvement occurs between the opening day of practice and the conclusion of the season and/or state tournament when such activities are sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, Blair Community Schools, or any other organization recognized by the school district.

Students who are involved and/or participate in special school events, such as Homecoming, Jr/Sr Prom, parades, speaking events, field trips or other events as determined by the principal, may be subject to these penalties.

1. **FIRST OFFENSE** - Will result in a two-week suspension from interscholastic contests or activities. If no contest or activity occurs within the two-week suspension, the student will miss the next scheduled event following the suspension. The student must continue to attend and participate in all practices and meetings during the suspension.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE** - Will result in the forfeiture of all privileges of participation in the sport or activity,

including practices, for the remainder of the duration of that season.

3. **THIRD OFFENSE** - Will result in forfeiture of all privileges of participation in all sports and activities for that school year.

SENIOR HIGH ACTIVITIES OFFERED

MCC - (Medical Careers Club) is a student organization whose goal is to assist those students desiring to enter a healthcare profession, through state and national competitions and activities. The club is open to students taking courses related to the healthcare field (anatomy, biology, etc.)

Membership is open to students in grades 9-12 who have taken a Family and Consumer Sciences Course.

FBLA - The Future Business Leaders of America is a career and technical student organization for students in grades 9-12 who are interested in business and business-related careers. This active organization provides many opportunities for students to develop strong leadership skills, complete valuable school and community service projects, and learn more about career options.

FFA - The Future Farmers of America is a club for students 14 to 21 years of age and interested in Agri-Business. Members of the organization may study Ag production, resources and supplies, processing, horticulture, conservation, and related areas. The goals of the organization are to improve agriculture, better local communities, promote better home living, and develop responsible citizens.

SkillsUSA - The national student organization serving, trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education students with leadership, citizenship and character development programs and activities. Chapter activities are considered an essential and integral part of the students' development. Skills USA's mission is based upon the premise that the craftsman and technician must have more than just technical skills.

Foreign Language Clubs - The Spanish Club promotes activities that are associated with Spanish and French speaking people and their cultures.

Bear Tracks - This newspaper is published by students in Advanced Journalism once or twice a month, representing newspaper reporting in miniature form.

Tattler - This annual yearbook publication depicts the yearly activities that occur at Blair High School.

Drama - A three-act play is presented in late fall and a musical in the spring. Any senior high student is eligible to try out for any of these productions. Students may become involved in the annual Conference, District and State One-Act Play and Speech contests sponsored by the Eastern Midlands Conference and Nebraska School Activities Association. These activities are often presented to the public. The Drama Department also produces a play for the elementary students during the winter months.

Forensics (Speech/Debate) - Students are eligible to participate from November through early April. Speech contests are held in the Omaha area during the year; Conference, District, and State Competition are held in the spring.

National Forensics League is an honor organization that rewards participation and achievement in Forensics activities. Membership is based on points acquired by participation and established by the NFL.

Instrumental Music - The Instrumental Music Department offers marching band, concert band, jazz band and various small instrumental groups designed for students of different abilities and interests.

Vocal Music - Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, Show Choir and various small groups that audition from the large groups are offered.

National Honor Society - The Honor Society is affiliated with the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Blair High School.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION

The Blair High School Faculty Council shall consider the following criteria in selecting and retaining students for membership in the Blair High School chapter of the National Honor Society:

A. Scholarship-minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average

B. Character

The student of character:

Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability).

- ☐ Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct.
- ☐ Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- ☐ Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability.
- ☐ Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- ☐ Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility.

C. Leadership

Under the NHS guidelines, a student is considered to have acceptable leadership if he or she exhibits the following qualities:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully hold school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted

D. Service

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Quiz Bowl - Students may try out for and participate in a number of Quiz Bowl activities. Yearly events include the annual Eastern Midlands Conference Academic Championships, Peru State Contest, State Fair Competition, Brain Stormers, along with various other events.

Thespians - Membership into this organization is acquired through a point system set by International Headquarters. Points are acquired through participation in theatrical events during the school year.

Cheerleading - Students on the Cheerleading Squad are given the responsibility of encouraging school spirit, demonstrating sportsmanship at athletic events, conducting pep rallies, decorating the building, Homecoming, and downtown windows. They are elected in the spring and are under supervision of the Cheerleading Sponsor. Students trying out for Cheerleading must have a 2.0 grade point average. Those making the squad must maintain that average.

Dance Team - The Dance Team consists of 10-16 members who are selected in the spring of the year and directed by the Dance Sponsors. These students perform for home boys and girls basketball games, and during homecoming week. Team members attend a summer camp each year. The group is also active in various activities

throughout the year. Students trying out for Dance Team must have a 2.0 grade point average. Those making the Team must maintain that average.

B-Club - The B-Club is available for any student who has earned a letter in an athletic event.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Role of the Student Athlete

Blair High School encourages student participation in the athletic program and attempts to involve as many students as possible. High school athletics is a competitive experience; therefore, not all who try out make the team, nor do all those who make the team receive the same participation opportunities in contests. Student athletes who are members of teams are expected to demonstrate character that promotes team unity, such as respect, cooperation, and unselfishness. Ultimately, the participation level of individuals is a coaching staff decision.

1. You should participate for the enjoyment of the activity and the benefits it may offer.
2. Your goal shall be to win with honor, but the real emphasis should be on the satisfaction of having given your best possible performance and your maximum contribution toward a team effort.
3. Your action will at all times be governed by the rules of good sportsmanship.
4. You must learn to be humble in victory, and in defeat to analyze the loss to constructive means for improvement.
5. All opponents will be considered worthy, respected challengers - not enemies to be defeated.

Role of the Spectator

The Board of Education has adopted the following policy for all Blair High School Activities: Sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and integrity are the responsibility of all spectators (including students).

1. Spectators should learn the rules and tactics of the game, and accept the judgments of the coaches and officials.
2. Spectators should cheer positively. Show appreciation of good effort and plays by both teams. Do not lessen the contest with profanity, degrading language or gestures.
3. Spectators should respect players, coaches, and fans.
4. Spectators should not address or respond in a negative manner to any player, coach, spectator, or official.

Spectators are invited to attend co-curricular activities as guests of the school district. Any spectator, including students, parents, or other adults, who behave in a manner inconsistent with school district expectations and this policy shall be removed from the event by school representatives. Restricted attendance at future events may be enforced. (Board of Education Policy 504.03R1, Sportsmanship)

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Appearance:

1. Athletes will always be neat, clean and well-groomed while participating.
2. All athletes will take pride in their dress and appearance. No outlandish dress or attire will be permitted.

Practices:

1. Athletes are expected to attend all practices. Should an athlete not be able to attend a practice and is at school all or part of the day, he/she must notify the coach, activities director, or school administrator. Students may be required to attend practice and not participate as determined by the coach.
2. Unexcused absences will be handled in the following manner:
 - a. First offense will result in the athlete missing the next scheduled contest.
 - b. Second offense same as first offense with conditioning for one week.
 - c. Third offense will result in dismissal from the squad for the season.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

FALL SPORTS

Football - A complete football program is offered in the fall of the school year. It consists of varsity, junior varsity and freshman programs with all levels of competition playing an interscholastic schedule.

Cross Country - A complete varsity and junior varsity interscholastic schedule is offered boys and girls in grades 9-12.

Girls Golf - A complete interscholastic schedule is offered to girls (9-12) in the fall of the school year.

Volleyball - Volleyball is offered to all girls in grades 9-12. A separate schedule of interscholastic competition is offered for freshmen, junior varsity and varsity.

Girls Softball - A complete varsity and junior varsity interscholastic schedule is offered for girls in grades 9-12.

WINTER SPORTS

Boys Basketball - The basketball program consists of interscholastic competition on the freshman, reserve and varsity levels.

Girls Basketball - The girls basketball season coincides with the boys basketball program. Interscholastic competition is offered on the freshman, reserve and varsity levels.

Wrestling - The wrestling season coincides with the boys and girls basketball season. A varsity and junior varsity schedule is offered to all students in grades 9-12.

SPRING SPORTS

Boys Track - All boys in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to compete in track events during the spring season. A freshman, junior varsity and varsity interscholastic schedule is offered.

Girls Track - Girls track is offered to all girls in grades 9-12; freshmen compete with 10-12 competitors. A complete interscholastic schedule is offered.

Boys Golf - A varsity and junior varsity interscholastic schedule is offered to all boys in grades 9-12 who wish to compete in golf.

Boys Soccer - A varsity and junior varsity schedule is offered to all boys in grades 9-12 who wish to compete in soccer.

Girls Soccer - A varsity and junior varsity schedule is offered to all girls in grades 9-12 who wish to compete in soccer.

Boys Baseball - A varsity and junior varsity schedule is offered to all boys in grades 9-12 who wish to compete in baseball.

Girls Tennis - A varsity schedule is offered all girls in grades 9-12 who wish to compete in tennis.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Weightlifting is offered in the summer and after school during the school year to any student. Athletes not involved in a sport are encouraged to participate in weightlifting during the off-season; athletes involved in a sport are encouraged to participate during the season.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to represent Blair High School in interscholastic athletic competition or any school activity, a student must abide by the eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

If you do not understand any of the rules listed below or you need an explanation of other requirements, consult the high school principal or activities director.

1. Student must be an undergraduate.
2. Student must be enrolled in at least 20 hours per week and regular in attendance.
3. Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the 11th day of the current school year.
4. Student is ineligible if 19 years of age before August 1 of current school year.
5. After a student's initial enrollment in grade 9, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership.
6. Student must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding semester.
7. Student must have received 20 semester hours of credit the immediate preceding semester.
8. Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules. Each sports season ends with its respective state meet.
9. A student shall not participate in sports camps or clinics during the season of a sport in which he/she is involved, either as an individual or as a member of a team.
10. A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
11. A student shall be ineligible to represent a school in interscholastic competition at the varsity level if the school is located in a school district other than the district in which his/her parents maintain their domicile. (Check with school administrator for an interpretation of rule if the school district where parents reside has no high school or if there are two or more high schools in district.)
12. A student is ineligible if his/her parents have changed their domicile to another school district and the student has remained in former school, which is in a different school district. (EXCEPTION: If parents have moved after school has started, the student will be eligible to compete for the remainder of the school year, or if parents have moved during the summer which immediately precedes the school year and the student is in grade 12 and has attended the high school for two more years, the student is eligible for that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.)
13. Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent. If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Activities Director for his review and a ruling.
14. A student shall not participate in a contest under an assumed name.
15. A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

PHYSICALS AND PARENTAL PERMISSION

Provisions are made for all athletes in grades 8-12 to receive physicals through the Blair Schools at the Blair Clinic. Any student who is unable to attend the regularly scheduled physical time must schedule and pay for his/her own physical. Seventh grade school physicals are accepted in place of the athletic physical.

Additionally, parents must sign the parental permission portion of the physical card before a student is allowed to participate in an athletic program.

Both portions of this card are kept in the Activity Director's Office.

TEAM TRAVEL

The Blair District provides transportation to and from athletic contests. Team members are expected to travel to and return from a contest by the same mode of transportation. Exceptions are made only when absolutely necessary and then permission must be granted by word of mouth directly to the athlete's parents from the coach or sponsor.

QUITTING A SPORT

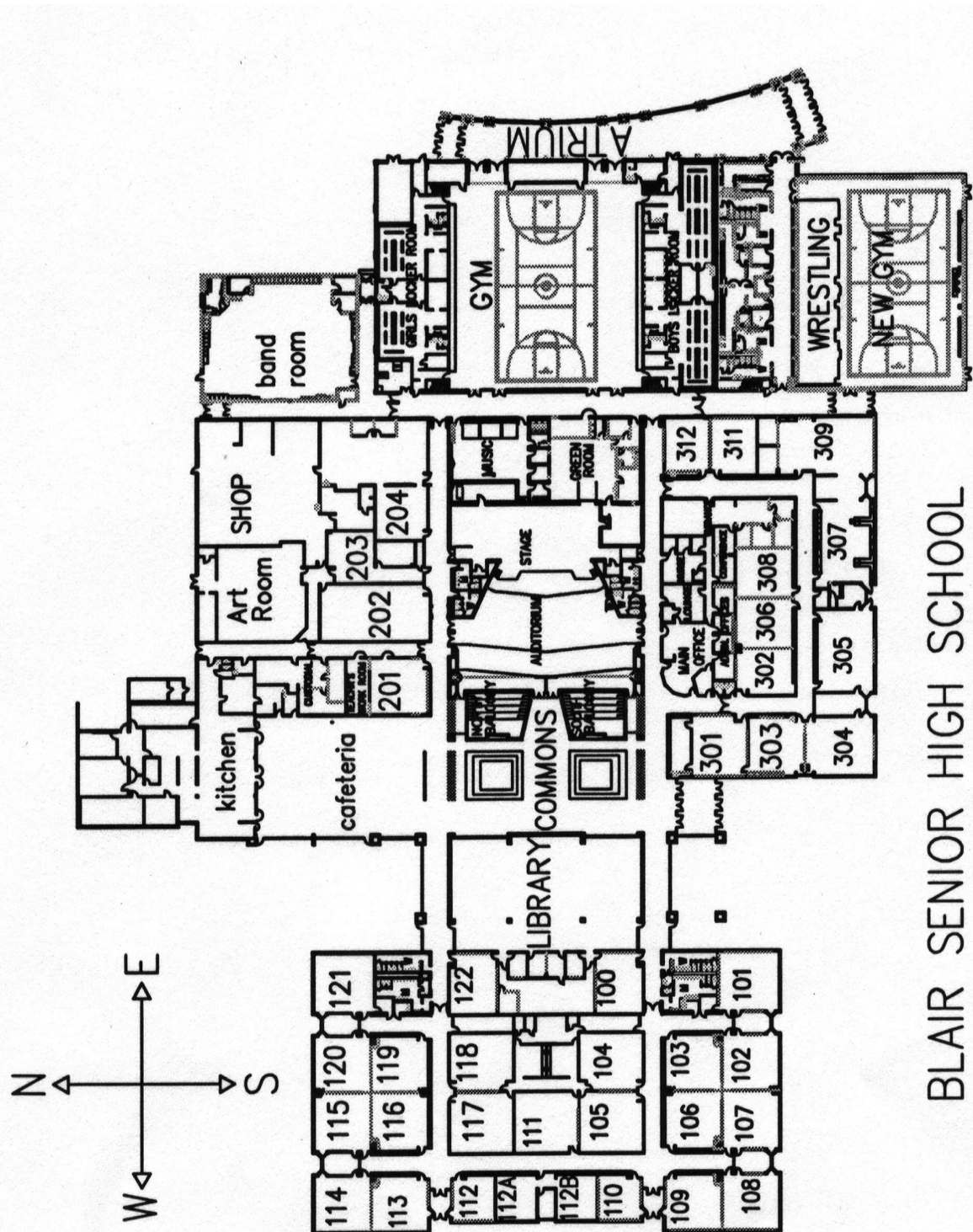
If a student is participating in one sport during a season and decides to quit that sport and participate in another

sport during that same season, the student shall be restricted from practice or competing in an event for seven school days. This change must be approved by the coaches of both sports. No student who has practiced or competed in one sport will be allowed to change to another sport if the district or state meet in the student's former sport is in progress or has been completed, or the season has ended.

UNIFORM USAGE FEE

All students that are involved in any activity that requires the use of a uniform, purchased by the School District, will be charged a \$10.00 fee per activity for uniform usage. This fee must be paid, in full, prior to the issuing of a uniform to the student. Parents or students with questions should contact the Activities Director for more information.

MAP OF BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL



BLAIR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Blair High School Hall of Fame is to recognize those students who, during their high school years, have achieved a level of excellence deserving of recognition in the areas of academics, athletics, and activities.

ELIGIBILITY: Those students who are eligible to be inducted into the Blair High School Hall of Fame must meet at least one of the criteria in any one of the categories listed below.

1. Athletics

- A. A member of an All-State Team as selected by the Omaha World Herald or Lincoln Journal Star.
- B. An Individual Event Champion at the state level in any N.S.A.A. sanctioned state championship contest.
- C. State Championship Teams (N.S.A.A. sanctioned sport).
- D. Member of Nebraska Coaches Association All State Team (cross country and golf only).

2. Activities

- A. An Individual Event Champion at the state level in any N.S.A.A. sanctioned state championship activity.
- B. State Championship Teams or Casts (N.S.A.A. sanctioned activity).
- C. Music Distinction.
 - 1. Instrumental Criteria (A, B, and C must be met).
 - a. Selection and participation in the all state band, orchestra, or jazz band 3/3 years;
OR, selection and participation in all state band orchestra, or jazz band 2/3 years;
 - b. Four (4) superior solo ratings (Elkhorn and Districts).
 - c. Outstanding member award.
 - 2. Vocal Criteria (A, B, and C must be met).
 - a. Selection and participation in the all state choir 2/3 years; and participation in all state choir 2/3 years.
 - b. Two (2) superior solo ratings at district music contest.
 - c. Recipient of 1 of 2 outstanding member awards.

3. Academics (Academic Distinction) (criteria A and B must both be met or any one of criteria C and D)

- A. Top 5% of the Senior Class (based on class rank as of the end of the first semester of the senior year.).
- B. A composite score of a 33 or above on the ACT test or a composite score of a 2180 or above on the SAT test.
- C. A National Merit Scholar.
- D. A Presidential Scholar.

4. Dramatic Arts Distinction (criteria A, B, C, and D must all be met)

- A. Attain the rank of Honor Thespian at Blair High.
- B. Participate in a minimum of 10 plays at Blair High School, choosing from the Fall Play, One-Act Play, JV/Children's Play, Musical. (16 plays in four years are possible.)
- C. Successfully complete at least 3 lead or major parts from the areas of:
 - 1. acting
 - 2. directing (student director, music director, choreographer, stage manager)
 - 3. technical direction (lighting and/or sound technician, set foreman, scenic artist, properties manager)
 - 4. costume/makeup design
 - 5. theatre business (publicity manage, sales manager)
- D. Receive at least three of the following awards:

1. Best Actor/Actress, Blair High School
2. Best Technician, Blair High School
3. Best Thespian, Blair High School
4. Superior Rating in an Individual Event, Nebraska Thespian Festival.
5. Member of first place group event, Nebraska Thespian Festival.

SELECTION: Any senior who has met the eligibility criteria will be inducted into the Blair High School Hall of Fame.

INDUCTION: Induction ceremonies for the Blair High School Hall of Fame will be held at the annual Honors Night for all recipients. The High School Principal will present the awards. Students will only be inducted into the Blair High School Hall of Fame during the school year they will graduate from Blair High School. Teams will be inducted during the year in which the Honor was received.

AWARDS: Each recipient will have a plaque, with a 5" x 7" picture of the student, placed in the Hall of Fame display case. The plaque will carry the appropriate description of the student's achievement and year of graduation. All student photographs will be formal "graduation type" pictures. Teams will be displayed as an 8" X 10" group picture and in the uniform of the particular sport involved.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: All head coaches, and activity sponsors of N.S.A.A. state sanctioned activities, vocal and instrumental Music Directors, the High School Counselor(s), the High School Principal, the High School Activities Director, and the District Superintendent will serve as the Hall of Fame Committee. The High School Principal will chair this committee.

MEETINGS: The Blair High School Hall of Fame Committee will meet annually on or about the 1st Monday in March to select the students to be inducted into the Blair High Hall of Fame.

CHANGES: Any changes in the eligibility for membership in the Blair High School Hall of Fame can be made only by a majority vote of all committee members. Any approved change will take effect during the school year following the affirmative vote (i.e., a change approved on March 1, 1989 will take effect beginning with the 1989-90 school year).

APPENDIX: COVID Supplement

The following rules and expectations will be effective during the 2020-2021 school year. These rules and expectations are intended to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff members, and the overall community. Because of the fluid nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the District's continued collaboration with health officials, these rules and expectations are subject to change at any time. The District will send parents and students written notification of any such changes. It is each family's responsibility to monitor for, understand, and adhere to any such changes, including those changes implemented on short notice. If a parent or student ever has any questions about the interpretation or implementation of these rules and expectations, the parent or student should promptly contact their building administrator.

1. Masks. Unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent, All staff, parents/guardians, approved visitors, and all children entering and/or exiting the school are required to wear a face mask or cloth covering at all times. Masks are required in closed-door environments at all times unless eating. This includes in school vehicles. An appropriate mask is a double cloth mask that does not interfere with or disrupt the operation of the school or the learning environment. Masks must be worn in a manner that covers the student's nose and mouth. A student may remove their mask only when a staff member gives the student permission, such as during mask "breaks", during lunchtime, or during competition in extra-curricular practice. If a staff member provides specific mask directives to a student, the student shall comply with those directives. **Students who do not comply with the mask requirement or directives may face discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.**

Students are highly encouraged to follow health and safety best practices outside of the school setting, including frequent hand washing and social distancing.

2. COVID-19 Symptoms. A student who experiences, or has experienced within 24 hours, any of the following symptoms must notify their administrator prior to coming to school or prior to entering a school vehicle:

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Muscle or body aches
5. New loss of taste or smell
6. Sore throat
7. Nausea or vomiting
8. Diarrhea

The administrator will then evaluate the student's symptoms to determine if the student may report to school or will be given academic work to complete at home. Students who miss school due to potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will generally not be counted as an unexcused absence. However, if the administration determines that the student has violated other rules or has not been honest about his or her symptoms, the student's absence may be deemed unexcused and the student may face other consequences. A student's arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of potential symptoms could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

A student who fails to report COVID-19 symptoms because the student wants to participate or compete in activities may face additional activity consequences.

3. Potential Exposure. Parents and students who have reason to suspect that the student may have been exposed to COVID-19 must promptly inform a building administrator. Potential exposure includes, but is not limited to, coming into close contact with a person who tested positive or is awaiting test results, a family member in the household who has tested positive or is awaiting test results, traveling to a “hot spot,” or receiving notification from a health official or medical professional of a potential exposure. Students who plan to travel outside of the community are encouraged to consult with a building administrator in advance to determine the potential consequences (such as mandatory quarantine) of such travel. Any student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 will not be allowed on school grounds or in a school vehicle until the District, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that the student may safely return to school. A student’s arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of a potential exposure could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

4. Academic Work at Home. A student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 and is not allowed on school grounds will not face an academic penalty unless the administration determines that the student has otherwise violated school rules. Any COVID-19 related student absence will not be counted as an unexcused absence. During a student’s COVID-19 related absence, the student is expected (to the extent that he or she is able) to work with his or her teachers to obtain and complete coursework and assignments. A teacher retains the discretion to grade student work during a student’s COVID-19 related absence.

5. Activities. A student will not be permitted to participate in activities if the student has possible COVID-19 symptoms, has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or would otherwise jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff. The District, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine when a student may return or participate in an activity. Any student who fails to promptly report COVID-19 symptoms, potential exposure, or otherwise takes action or inaction that could jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff will be subject to discipline, including the removal from the activity for the remainder of the year.

6. Failure to be Honest. These rules and expectations are designed and will be implemented to ensure, to the extent practicable, the health and safety of all students and staff. The District will endeavor to balance the need to ensure the health and safety of school premises, while not intruding on a family’s confidential medical information. With that in mind, students and families are expected to be honest with the District regarding a student’s potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. If a parent is uncomfortable or unwilling to provide specific information to the District about a student’s potential exposure or symptoms, the family need only inform a building administrator of the fact that there may have been a potential exposure or potential symptoms. A parent may, but will not be required to, divulge any specific information about the potential exposure or symptoms, such as medical information. In any circumstance, if the District determines that a parent or student has not been honest or forthright with information or facts provided (or not provided) to the District about a potential exposure or potential symptoms, the District may exclude a student for a longer period of time (for health and safety reasons) or may impose disciplinary consequences, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

7. Other Health and Safety Rules. At any time, a staff member may impose or require a student to undertake other health and safety requirements (such as frequent hand washing, maintaining social distancing, and the like). A student must follow such health and safety requirements or face discipline.

8. Assumption of the Risks. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has endeavored to reopen schools for the benefit of student learning and development. However, there is no guarantee that the school

environment will be completely safe and free from COVID-19 or other related risks and hazards. Any parent who is uncomfortable with the risks associated with sending their student to school must promptly contact a building administrator to discuss alternative educational options. A parent who elects to send their student back to school does so understanding, assuming, and accepting the associated health and safety risks, including the possibility that the student may be exposed to and/or contract COVID-19.

APPENDIX: Standard Response Protocol

IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.

LOCKOUT! GET INSIDE. LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS.

STUDENTS

Return inside
Business as usual

TEACHER

Bring everyone indoors
Lock perimeter doors
Increase situational awareness
Business as usual
Take attendance



LOCKDOWN! LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

TEACHER

Lock interior doors
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Do not open the door
Maintain silence
Take attendance



EVACUATE! TO ANNOUNCED LOCATION.

STUDENTS

Bring your phone
Leave your stuff behind
Follow instructions

TEACHER

Lead evacuation to location
Take attendance
Notify if missing, extra or injured students



SHELTER! HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY.

STUDENTS

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

TEACHER

Lead safety strategy
Take attendance



HOLD! IN YOUR CLASSROOM.

STUDENTS

Return to your classroom
Remain in your classroom

TEACHER

Close and lock the door
Remain in classroom
Open door for students who need to get out of the hallway
Continue teaching



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APPENDIX: Report it!

Blair Community Schools

FOR
EMERGENCIES,
PLEASE CALL

911!

Report it!

SafeSchools Alert is our district's tip reporting service. If you have information about a threat to our safety, do your part and report it! And remember, you can remain anonymous.

REPORT TIPS ON:

- Bullying
- Intimidation
- Harassment
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Other

4 EASY WAYS



<http://1641.alert1.us>



1641@alert1.us



712.227.5375



Text your tips

to 712.227.5375

