



Bethlehem Elementary School

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2026-2027

Welcome

On behalf of the Bethlehem Elementary School staff, we welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year. We are excited to partner with you and thrilled that you are part of our school village. Our goal is to collaborate with families to engage, equip, and inspire students to love learning, lead, and thrive. We believe that ALL students can grow academically in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, engaging, supportive, accepting, relevant, and fun.

Mission

In a changing world, our goal is to create an environment where individuals can reach their fullest potential, experience success, share knowledge, and serve others.

Vision

Engaging, equipping, and inspiring students to love learning, lead, and thrive.

Core Values

At Bethlehem Elementary School, we truly value:

- Honesty
- Treating others the way you want to be treated.
- Hard Work
- Loyalty
- Consistency
- A passion for educating students.
- High expectations for ALL.

Strategy Statement

Students will grow academically in a learning environment that is **safe, nurturing, engaging, supportive, accepting, relevant, and fun.**

Motto

We bring our best, so students can be their best! BES is the best!

School Hours

The regular school day begins at 8:00 a.m., and dismissal is at 2:55 p.m. To allow sufficient time for students to get to their classroom and prepare for the beginning of the day, parents are encouraged to have their children to school by 7:55 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:00. Students should arrive in time to be in class and ready to start the day by 8:00. Students are not to arrive before 7:30 a.m. Bus and car riders are both dismissed at 2:55 p.m. The school phone is answered from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Tardies

Student attendance is essential to the success of ALL students. Students who are consistently at school have more confidence, better peer relationships, and perform better academically. It is important to set good habits in regard to student attendance. It is also essential that students arrive at school on time and stay the entire day. Keeping a good structure and routine is beneficial for everyone. Students are expected to be in school and on time except in cases of emergency, illness, or school-approved absences. –

Attendance policies will be followed in reference to ACS Board Policy 4400.

Attendance

1. Students must be present at least one-half day (11:30 am or 3 hours and 30 min.) to be counted present.
2. Parents should send a note to the teacher stating the reason for the absence on the first day the student returns. Failure to send a note within three school days after the absence will result in an unexcused absence being recorded. Notes should be signed by the parent/guardian. We need a handwritten note or email. Please include Jennifer Anderson in your email for absence notes at janderson@alexander.k12.nc.us.
3. A doctor's excuse will be required for an extended illness.
4. If a child cannot participate in physical education, please send a note to the child's teacher.
5. Make-up work may be requested by the student when he/she is absent. The teacher will set a time limit for make-up work. Failure to make up work within three school days of returning from the absence may result in a reduction in grades.
6. The presence of a fever is the best benchmark for determining whether a child should be kept at home. Students with a temperature of 100.5 or higher, diarrhea, or vomiting illness should stay home until 24 hours after the last symptoms occur (without needing medication).
7. Alexander County School Board policy 4400-R Attendance Regulations and Procedures policy require notification to parents of consequences for unexcused absences and excessive excused absences, referral to the school social worker, etc.
8. Cumulative absences in excess of eighteen (18) days may constitute a valid reason for retention. The extent to which students have made up missed work will be considered.

Tardiness

1. A student is tardy after 8:00 a.m.
2. Tardy slips are to be picked up in the school office when a student arrives after 8:00 a.m. A parent is required to sign in with the student to get the tardy slip for admittance.
3. For every four unexcused tardies/early-outs in a nine-week period, the administration will set up a parent conference to discuss next steps. A doctor's or dentist's note will constitute an excused tardy. After the eighth unexcused tardy or early out, an administrative conference will be held, and an action plan will be developed with our Social worker.
4. Notification to appropriate agencies of excessive tardies is required by the county attendance policy.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

North Carolina law requires that all absences be coded excused or unexcused. According to North Carolina State law, only the following illnesses may be coded as excused:

1. **Illness or Injury:** The child is not physically able to attend.
2. **Medical or Dental Appointments:** Approval is to be gained prior to absence except in emergency cases.
3. **Death in Immediate Family**
4. **Court or Administrative Proceedings:** The Child must be a party to the action or under subpoena.
5. **Religious Observance:** Absence excused if the tenets of a religion to which a student or their parents adhere, require, or suggest an observance of a religious event.

- 6. Educational Opportunity:** An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity, such as travel. Approval must be granted from the school principal **prior** to the absence.

–The student must be in good academic standing, as defined by passing all subjects, on grade level in reading and math, or progressing with growth so as to close any gaps in reading and math.

–The student must complete assignments during the absence and all makeup work or assignments will be submitted within 5 school days of return or the absence will not be excused.

–The student must have a 90% attendance rate prior to the request being granted, regardless of the type of absence.

–Only one trip per year or a maximum of 5 days will be excused per year.

–No educationally excused absences will be granted after April 1 for 3rd through 12th grade students.

- 7. Absence related to Deployment Activities:** - A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting for the purpose of visiting said parent or legal guardian. (G.S. 115C-407.5 Article V (E))

Consequences for unexcused absences in compliance with North Carolina General Statute 115C-378:

- Three unexcused absences:
Parents are contacted in person, by mail, or by phone.
- Six unexcused absences:
A letter is sent to the parents, and a copy of the letter is sent to the school's social worker.
- Ten unexcused absences:
Parents will be referred to the school's social worker for legal proceedings.

Release of Students

1. If a child leaves during the school day, parents must check them out in the office. Notify the school in advance of any changes in persons who are picking up your child that day before through a written note.
2. For every four unexcused early dismissals, the administration will schedule a parent conference. A doctor's or dentist's note should accompany the student when returning to school. This will constitute an excused early dismissal.
3. Students will be called to the office for an early dismissal slip.
4. Unless an early dismissal is for a doctor's visit or some similar reason, children will not be released from the office between 2:30 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
5. Please keep the school informed of any change in the parent's workplace, telephone number, address, etc.
6. Custody papers should be provided to the office to limit controversial situations with blended or separated families. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide current, court-ordered paperwork for the school office.

Student Records

Your child's records are available for review at any time by appointment as outlined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. When transferring to another school, be sure to let our school know as soon as possible. We will send records to the receiving school as soon as we receive a record

request from the receiving school.

Before and After School Care

After-school care is available until 6:00 p.m. The program is housed in room number 101.

Before-school care is available beginning at 6:00 a.m. Parking for before/after school is in the back of the school.

Transportation

The car loading area is in the upper parking lot. Please follow the marked traffic flow or other cars. Overflow lines in **both mornings and afternoons** should be formed on the Bethlehem School Road away from Highway 127. Car loading supervision is provided in the afternoon. Two car signs will be provided to each family on the first day of school or upon enrollment. **These signs must be used daily! Failure to have the sign provided by the school will result in having to park and sign the child(ren) out in the school office.** Do not write additional names on your car sign. When students ride home with other car riders (special circumstances), a written note that has been approved in the office will suffice for the extra passengers. The child(ren) should give the signed note(s) to the adult loading the vehicle. In an emergency situation requiring a different adult to pick up your child(ren), you should call the school office to let the office staff know the person's name. That person will need to park and come into the office to sign out your child(ren) and will need to provide a photo ID. For safety reasons, students are required to stay on the walkway until the car is pulled to the loading area and should be loaded/unloaded on the **right side** of the car (next to the sidewalk). Children should be accompanied by an adult when crossing the parking lot. **To expedite morning unloading, we ask that you pull all the way forward to the east end of the covered walk to unload children.** Please have all materials, coats, etc. ready to unload when you pull into the unloading area. Car unloading is allowed only in the upper parking lot. Pulling into the parking lot in the fire lane is prohibited.

Buses

The safety of students during their transportation to and from school is a responsibility that is shared with bus drivers, parents, and school officials. The School Board wants each student to know what is expected of them when they wait for and ride on a school bus. The rules of student conduct are presented to both students and parents each year. **Please understand that riding a school bus in the state of North Carolina is a privilege and not a right. If conditions warrant, and after due process, that privilege can, and will, be taken away.** Students who fail to observe these rules will be subject to immediate disciplinary action since their failure to do so may affect the safety of others. The administration of the school will determine if the offense warrants parent notification.

Due to safety concerns and capacity regulations on buses, students are **NOT** allowed to ride home with another student if they are not assigned to the same bus. Any time parents arrange for friends to ride home with their child or another child, all parties must send a note to the office and **MUST** be picked up in the car line. No student can be transported by bus unless they are assigned to that bus.

Assigned Bus Seats

Drivers assign seats on the bus for all students for safety and behavior. This is to ensure the safety of the passengers. Once students have been placed in an assigned seat, they are expected to sit in the assigned seat.

After boarding the bus, students shall be seated immediately and remain properly seated for the duration of the bus ride. Properly seated means that during the course of the bus ride, students shall sit

with their posterior on the seat bench and shall not change seats, stand up in/on their seat or sit facing towards the rear of the bus. Unless seated three to a seat, students shall not have any body part in the aisle of the bus.

Students are expected to behave accordingly on the bus and know the rules for riding the bus. The drivers have the same authority on the bus as teachers have in the classroom. Loud and boisterous noise and improper conduct can cause a distraction to the driver which can lead to serious safety hazards on the bus. Students' conduct on the bus should be no different than what is expected in the classroom. If it is not allowed in the classroom, it is not allowed on the bus. Destructive behavior on the bus will not be tolerated, and students will be held responsible.

Parents of students who have been approved by the Board of Education to attend a school outside his/her district must provide transportation. Exceptions may include some exceptional children and daycare services.

According to Policy Code 4300: Student Behavior Policies, students riding buses will comply with the student code of conduct. Also, **the aisle of a school bus must be kept free of objects that could obstruct an emergency evacuation of the bus.** Any large object that cannot be held on a student's lap or placed safely on the floor in the space under the seat immediately in front of the student is not permitted on the school bus. Examples of such large objects include, but are not necessarily limited to certain musical instruments, science fairs and other types of projects, athletics and P.E. equipment, bags, flowers, balloons, and other such items that could pose a safety problem.

To ensure safety from objects rolling IN or UNDER a bus, objects must be secured in a bag. Students will not be permitted to bring games, sporting equipment, band instruments, etc. on a bus unless they are secured in a school bag.

BES buses use video recording devices with audio recording capability.

Bethlehem Elementary School has installed safety and security cameras on all school buses. Electronic video and audio recordings will be viewed to investigate incidents reported by bus drivers and administrators. They may also be viewed at random. Viewing and listening to electronic and audio recordings is limited to individuals having legitimate educational or administrative purposes. In most instances, individuals with legitimate or administrative purposes will be the Superintendent, administrators, transportation director, bus driver, and other supervisors. It is our hope that the installation of these cameras will help to improve our students' safety and security while riding student transportation.

By riding the bus, it is implied that all students and parents understand these rules and will abide by them. **Stating that they did not know the rules does not excuse a student from misbehavior or infractions of the rules.**

Please be aware that it is a violation of North Carolina Public School Law for a parent to board a school bus or harass a bus driver. Should there be a situation that needs to be addressed, please do so by contacting the school office.

The safety of your child(ren) is the utmost priority for the staff at Bethlehem Elementary School. If the bus driver cannot clearly see your home from the road, please have an adult waiting at the bus stop. Any **K-2** student who does not have an adult waiting at the stop and the bus driver cannot clearly see your home, your child(ren) will **NOT** be released from the school bus. In such instances, your child(ren) will be brought back to school and will need to be picked up in the school office.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students failing to follow the enclosed bus conduct policy are subject to

losing this privilege.

Bus Level Consequences
● 1st offense: Silent lunch ● 2nd offense: Office consequence (revisiting PBIS matrix - writing reflection sheet) ● 3rd offense: Office consequence ● 4th offense: Student suspended for 1 day from the bus ● 5th offense: Student suspended for 3 days from the bus ● 6th offense: Student suspended for 5 days from the bus ● 7th offense: Up to 10 day suspension from the bus Consequences reset at the end of each nine-week period. *Discipline is at the discretion of administration*

**Offenses that fall within the school discipline matrix will be issued the appropriate consequence according to the school discipline matrix.*

Offenses worthy of Bus Discipline Referral

- Delaying the bus schedule
- Fighting, smoking, using profanity, or refusing to obey the instructions of school authorities or a school bus driver while riding on a school bus
- Tampering with or doing damage to a bus
- Refusing to meet the bus on time at designated stops
- Unauthorized leaving the bus when en route from home to school or vice versa
- Playing (horseplay), throwing objects, or otherwise distracting the driver's attention while the bus is in operation
- Failing to observe established safety rules and regulations required by law or adopted by the county or city board of education
- Having an electronic device or phone out while riding the bus.

The principal may revoke a student's riding privilege for violation of bus conduct and/or safety regulations.

Visitors

Parents are encouraged to visit the school frequently and to actively participate in the education of their child(ren). However, we respectfully request that parents avoid conferences with the teacher during lunch visits and morning arrival times, but rather schedule a conference for a mutually acceptable time. Bethlehem Elementary School's front door remains locked during the school day. Visitors will need to use the buzzer system to alert the office staff. (School Board Policy - 5020 Visitors to the School) Visitors must provide a valid driver's license or photo ID card to log in on the computer (located in the office) and have their picture taken. A visitor pass will be printed, which must be worn while in the school building. The pass is valid only for the area in the school for which the person indicated upon signing in. For example, if you indicate you will be in the cafeteria to have lunch with your child, the visitor's pass will only allow admission to the cafeteria. Upon leaving, visitors should report to the office to log out on the computer. All staff members have been instructed to escort any person without a visitor's pass to the office to check in. All exits are secured so that the entrance is not accessible from the outside. Please do not request staff or students to allow your entrance through exterior doors without first checking in at the school office and obtaining a pass. The security of our children is of utmost concern in formulating this policy. If you need to give your child a message, medication, homework, lunch money, etc., our office staff will assist you. Interrupting class is a disturbance of valuable instructional time.

Weather Procedures

When school is canceled because of inclement weather, announcements will be made on local radio stations, WBTV, WSOC, social media pages, and through the school messaging system. Other emergency situations may arise requiring early dismissal. **WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD TO GO IN CASE OF EARLY DISMISSAL.**

Reporting Student Progress

Report cards will be sent home each nine weeks. Report cards will be distributed on the fifth school day following the end of the grading period. Report cards are to be signed and returned immediately. Mid-grading period progress reports are sent to report progress. Students in grades 3-5 can also be checked on Parent Portal. To access the Parent Portal, a parent/guardian must see the school Data Manager with a valid driver's license. **Parent-teacher conferences may be arranged by calling your child's teacher or the school office.**

Medicine/Health Matters

Board of Education policy requires that an *Authorization to Give Medicine* form be completed and signed by a parent and a physician before any medicine, **prescription, or over-the-counter medication** can be given at school. A parent note must be sent in for sunscreen and lip balms. A written record is maintained of all medications administered. All medicine is to be provided by the parent. **Medications are not to be transported on the buses or brought to school in book bags by students.** A copy of the medicine policy is provided with this handbook. A copy of the head lice policy has been provided with this handbook and can also be found on the Alexander County School's website under the Board of Education Policy Manual.

Dress Code

Policy Code: 4316-R Student Dress Code At all times, students' dress should be appropriate, modest, and clean.

1. Shirts and blouses: Must have at least 2 to 3 inches of fabric at the shoulder area and must not have low armholes.
2. Shorts, skirts, and dresses: Must be of modest length (fingertip length).
3. Pants: All pants, shorts, etc. are to be worn at the waist at all times. Holes in pants are allowed only if the holes are below the students' fingertips when their arms are at their side.
4. Visible body piercing: Students are prohibited from wearing body piercings that may be considered a safety issue or interfere with the learning environment.
5. Slogans, pictures, logos, symbols, etc.: Students may not wear clothing/jewelry that displays anything vulgar; displays sexual references, any weapons that promote violence, racial comments, gang markings, or makes reference to alcohol, tobacco, or a controlled substance advertisement.
6. Disruptive Clothing: Any other clothing that teachers and/or administrators deem as disruptive is not allowed.
7. PE and Fitness Classes: Students are expected to follow the dress code established by the Physical Education/Athletic Department.

These items should **NOT** be worn in school unless specifically designated promotional days by the principal, and the enforcement applies to both male and female students.

1. Halter, spaghetti-strap, single-strap, or strapless clothing without appropriate cover.
2. Bare midriff and bareback tops.
3. Revealing low-cut tops that expose any portion of private body parts.

4. See-through clothing - unless layered to meet appropriate dress code standards.
5. Shorts, skirts, and dresses: Must be of modest length (**wrist length**). No spandex sports shorts (ie: volleyball shorts)
6. Exposed undergarments.
7. Pajamas.
8. Slashed or cut-up clothing - private parts cannot be exposed. –Holes in jeans must be below the knee
9. Hats, bandannas, hoods, and headgear of any kind - unless part of a uniform, for religious reasons, or for special events.
10. Shoes with wheels or bedroom slippers.
11. Gloves, bracelets, and necklaces with any metal spikes or brads. chokers, and dog collars.
12. Chains or jewelry that may be used as a weapon, cause injury or hinder movement.
13. Hair curlers, pick/combs.
14. Dark glasses worn within the building – medical exceptions will be honored.
15. Trench coats and costumes with cloaks and capes or full masks.
16. No Face paint

Money: Please discourage your child from bringing more money than they need to spend each day. **PLEASE SEND MONEY FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN IN ENVELOPES or PLASTIC BAGS WITH THE CHILD'S NAME, TEACHER, AND PURPOSE OF MONEY.**

Violations of the Dress Code:

Consequences for students who violate the Student Dress Code Policy will be in accordance with the school code of conduct and may include the following consequences.

1st offense: The student is given a warning and may be required to change clothes. If the loan of a T-shirt or shorts will not correct the problem, the student's parents will be called to provide appropriate clothing.

2nd offense: The student will change clothes; the student's parents will be called and the student will receive school-level discipline.

3rd offense: The student will change clothes and will be given ISS or sent home for the remainder of the day if the parent does not provide a change of clothes.

4th offense: Multiple violations of the dress code will be considered insubordination.

School administrators reserve the right to address these and additional issues and concerns as needed and retain final authority in all such decisions.

Breakfast/Lunch Cost:

Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost during the 2026-27 school year.

Please refrain from sending sodas to school with your child. — Spilled sodas can create sticky surfaces that are difficult to clean and, as noted, attract pests, which can compromise the classroom environment.

Reducing distractions and potential messes helps maintain a classroom atmosphere where students can "love learning, lead, and thrive".

While sodas are discouraged, the school provides breakfast and lunch at no cost, ensuring students

have access to beverages and meals during the day.

School Books and Materials: Students are responsible for the care and safekeeping of school books and materials, including calculators. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged items.

Lost and Found: Items found at school are placed in the lost and found cubby outside the gym doors.

Bringing Things to School: To prevent misunderstandings about purchases to or from students, buying, selling, and trading of items is **not allowed**. The only time students should bring toys, games, etc. to school is when their teacher instructs them to do so. The student will assume responsibility for any items brought to school.

Student Behavior

Students are expected to follow all school and county policies. We firmly believe that a safe and orderly environment is necessary for the best learning to occur. Self-control and respect for others are exemplary attributes for all students at Bethlehem Elementary School. Students are expected to act in such a manner that they are a credit to their school and community. Some general student regulations are as follows:

1. Obey all State and Federal laws.
2. Bullying will not be tolerated at Bethlehem Elementary School.
3. Show respect for teachers and other students through actions and comments.
4. Show good sportsmanship and manners.
5. Listen and follow teachers' directions.
6. Students will not possess inappropriate objects, including knives, fireworks, etc.
7. Students will use their time wisely.
8. Students will respect school property, including materials and equipment.
9. Horseplay in restrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, and the playground is unacceptable.
10. Profanity is not allowed.
11. Students will refrain from chewing gum.
12. Skateboards are prohibited on school property.
13. Wheeled or motorized bicycles and skates are not allowed on walkways or the track.
14. With 24-hour notice to the teacher, birthday cupcakes or cookies may be sent to school. **All snacks of this nature should be purchased from a store with a list of ingredients on the container. This will provide the ingredients to avoid situations of food allergy reactions.**
15. Personal party invitations for birthdays or special occasions may be sent to school -- if **every** child in the class is to receive one. If only a few students are to be invited, please make party arrangements at home.
16. Rolling book bags are prohibited.
17. Students are **not allowed** to have cell phones at school. If a cell phone is being utilized during school hours, the device will be surrendered to the teacher, principal, or principal designee. Parents will be contacted and will be required to pick up the device at the school office. [House Bill /Board Policy 4318](#)
 - First Offense–Warning and document
 - Second Offense–Device will be taken and parent will pick up in the office–Silent Lunch
 - Third Offense–Major Write up with ISS and phone will be banned from school.
 - Fourth Offense–Out of School Suspension
18. Water bottles should contain water and flavors that do not contain sugar. We have spills throughout the day and it is hard to clean up sugary substances. Our cafeteria provides meals and beverages for breakfast and lunch for students to have access during the school day. We strive to maintain a safe and orderly environment for all students.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework for improving and integrating all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. A key to improving outcomes are the strategies to support students at every level. In PBIS, these interventions and strategies are backed by research to target the outcomes schools want to see. Using our SOAR matrix helps students understand the expectations for positive behaviors.

Bethlehem Elementary PBIS Matrix

	Classroom Voice Level: as directed (Red-Green)	Hallway Voice Level: Red	Bathroom Voice Level: Red	Cafeteria Voice Level: as directed (Red-Green)	Recess Voice Level: Green	Bus and Car Riders Voice Level: Loading=Red Road= Red-Green
S We will be safe.	Use materials and equipment properly.	Enter and exit using the right hand door. Keep hands and feet to self.	Put trash in its place. Keep water in sink.	Use utensils appropriately. Walk. Attend to your space.	Use equipment as intended. Respond appropriately.	Keep hands, arms, feet and objects to self.
O We will be on task.	Listen and follow directions.	Walk on the right side of the hallway.	Take care of needs in a timely manner. Wash hands.	Eat first, talk second. Make only one trip through the line.	Stay in assigned area.	Remain seated and facing forward. Listen for your name in the car rider line.
A We will have an attitude to achieve.	Show my best effort and make good choices.	Walk quietly to allow others to learn.	Use self-control to make good choices.	Use good manners while eating. Wait patiently in line without talking.	Demonstrate good sportsmanship. Share with others.	Whisper to your “shoulder buddy” and use good manners on the bus. Remain silent while waiting in the car rider line.
R We will be respectful and responsible.	Be an active listener. Use kind words. Be prepared.	Take care of your school. Greet others appropriately.	Give others privacy.	Clean up eating area. Stay in seat and talk quietly.	Play fairly. Be a good friend.	Listen to the adult in charge. Talk only when given permission.

Telephone/ Homework Requests

In an effort to minimize interruptions during the school day, if you call to speak with a staff member, unless it is an emergency, you will be asked to leave a voicemail message. **Messages related to children going to other places in the afternoon should NOT be left on voicemail.** Instead, parents should speak directly to the office staff, who will then forward the information to the teacher. Please call early in the day to ensure your child gets the message before dismissal. Homework requests should be made by 11:00 a.m. each day when a student is absent in order to assure that the necessary materials are obtained for his/her assignments.

Student Services Notification

School counseling services and school health services are provided at each school in Alexander County for the convenience and benefit of physical and mental health services at the school level for all students. These services are available to any student as needed; however, students are under no obligation to utilize these services. If at any point a parent has a question or concern regarding counseling or nurse services being provided to their child, the parent should contact the school counselor or school nurse to discuss the situation and determine if continued or additional services are desired.

Healthful Living Notification

All students must take Healthful Living Education in grades K-9 according to North Carolina law (G.S. 115C-81). The nature of Health Education often includes the discussion of sensitive topics. In these situations, health teachers, school nurses, and school counselors are trained for appropriate and accurate content as well as proper teaching methods. While we encourage all students to participate, a parent may request that their child be excluded from certain health topics due to religious/personal beliefs by contacting the principal in writing. These students will be given an alternative health assessment. Any parent wishing to view educational materials to be used in teaching Healthful Living lessons may do so upon written request to the principal.

Field Trips

When a field trip is taken, your child will bring home a permission form giving the destination and date of the trip. This form must be signed and returned to the teacher before your child is allowed to go on the trip. Students may lose their right to go on field trips because of disciplinary reasons. Parents are only allowed to sign out their child on a field trip, not other students.

Statement of Assurance

In keeping with the guidelines of Title VI, Section 601, Civil Rights Act of 1984, Title IX, Section 901, Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Alexander County Schools assures that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. The Title IX and Section 504 coordinators can be reached at 700 Liledoun Rd, Taylorsville, NC 28681, phone 828-632-7001.

Board Policy

Bethlehem Elementary School follows the official policies of the Board of Education and related administrative regulations of the Superintendent. Board policies state positions adopted by the Board of Education to provide direction, control, and management of its legal functions. Regulations establish procedures and rules developed by the superintendent to guide and direct the implementation of board policy.

<https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=alexander>

Technology Devices

All K-5 students will receive a device. Students in grades 3-12 will be issued a Chromebook, and students in grades K-2 will be issued an iPad. All devices will have a case. Parents will be expected to complete the email/G-suite parent permissions, technology acceptable use policy, and pay a technology fee prior to receiving the device. Please contact your school if you have specific questions about the distribution of devices or payment options.

Appendix B

Internet Acceptable Use - Students

Gmail Parent Letter - Elementary Students

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Alexander County Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in admission to, treatment in, access to, or employment in its educational programs and activities.

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Mrs. Jessica Anderson, Title IX, Exceptional Children's Director, & 504 Coordinator

Alexander County Schools

PO Box 128

Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-632-7001

Pesticide Schedule 2026-27

According to Alexander County School's policy number 9205 and the NC General Statutes 115C-12(34(d) and (e), and -47(45), (46), and 47, we are required to post our schedule of anticipated pesticide use at school.

Additionally, we will give 72-hour notice whenever possible of any non-scheduled use of pesticides. The following is our schedule for this year.

Educational Materials

As provided in Part 3 of Article 8 of 21 Chapter 115C, parents have the right to inspect instructional materials used as part of the education curriculum for the student. The parent who wants to exercise this right must request the material. ACS Board Policy 3210

Updated 7.24.25