

**Benjamin Russell High School
Home of the Wildcats**



**Student Handbook
2025-2026**

“It’s a Great Day to be a Wildcat!!”

Welcome to Benjamin Russell High School!

Goal:

Our goal is to have every student graduate to be College and Career Ready.

Mission Statement:

Our mission at Benjamin Russell is to create an environment for student success in whatever individual pathway they choose. We aim to be one of the most competitive educational institutions in the state in *Academics, Athletics, and the Arts*.

Motto:

It's a Great Day to be a Wildcat!

Rally Cry:

Wildcat Pride!

We R BR!

From the Principal . . .

Welcome to the home of the Wildcats where you, our students, are our most prized asset. We take pride in offering to you an education that with your constant effort will enable you to be a successful member of our society. We expect all students to be young Men & Women that show *Class* and display *Pride* at all times. We want all students to have a positive *Attitude*, excel in *Academics*, compete in *Athletics* and participate in all *Activities*.

This handbook, along with the Alexander City Parent/Student Handbook, has been prepared for you so that you will know what is expected of you if you choose success. Both publications are designed to help answer questions you may have, and to serve as your map to achieving a quality education.

The opportunities for achievement in academics, athletics, and school participation are here for you now at Benjamin Russell High School. To avoid broken dreams, participate now, and take pride in the place to which you will someday refer with affection and sentiment as your "Alma Mater." Study, learn, participate, and contribute, it will make a difference. Be relevant, not just another face in the crowd!

Have a great year!

Mr. Benefield
Principal

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

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The **MISSION** of the Alexander City Schools is to provide a safe and inviting learning environment with high expectations for ALL, while focusing on the development of the whole child-academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

The **VISION** of the Alexander City Schools is to produce graduates that are successful and empowered to compete globally based upon their own unique talents and interests

High Expectations & Success for ALL

Alma Mater

*Dear Ol' High School
We love her,
our ideal and pride
We hold up her standards
Whatever may be tied
We will follow her colors
Flung out to the sky
We'll give our heart's devotion
to Ol' Russell High*

Bell Schedule

Regular Day	
Time	Period
7:40	Call in Bell
7:50-9:10	Tardy Bell/1st Block
9:15-10:35	2nd Block
10:40- 12:25	3rd Block/Lunch
10:50- 11:10 11:15- 11:35 11:40- 12:00 12:05- 12:25	Lunch Waves 20 minutes in lunchroom
12:30-1:50	4th Block
1:55- 3:15	5th Block

Advisory/Flex Day	
Time	Period
7:40	Call in Bell
7:50-9:05	Tardy Bell/1st Block
9:10-10:25	2nd Block
10:30- 11:00	FLEX Period
11:05 - 12:40	3rd Block/Lunch
11:05- 11:25 11:30-11:50 11:55-12:15 12:20- 12:40	Lunch Waves 20 minutes in lunchroom
12:45-1:55	4th Block
2:00- 3:15	5th Block

Pep Rally Schedule	
Time	Period
7:40	Call in Bell
7:50-9:00	Tardy Bell/1st Block
9:05-10:15	2nd Block
10:20- 12:10	3rd Block/Lunch
10:42- 11:02 11:04-11:24 11:26-11:46 11:50- 12:10	Lunch Waves 20 minutes in lunchroom
12:15-1:25	4th Block
1:30-2:40	5th Block
2:40-3:15	Pep Rally

HOMEROOMS & ADVISORS

Homeroom	Teacher	Room	Student Listing	Homeroom	Teacher	Room	Student Listing
901	Adams	327	<i>Albarado-Caldwell</i>	1001	Cummings	314	<i>Allen-Byrd</i>
902	Tidwell	329	<i>Calhoun-Drake-Ellis</i>	1002	Anderson	124	<i>Calhoun-Culp</i>
903	Doiron	328	<i>Dubose-Hawkins</i>	1003	Hilyer	311	<i>Cummings-Flowers</i>
904	Taylor	326	<i>Hayes-Kelly, G</i>	1004	Dewberry	123	<i>Floyd-Hicks</i>
905	Pulliam	319	<i>Kelly, R-Menniefield</i>	1005	Adkins	125	<i>Hyde-McNeal</i>
906	Edwards	221	<i>Menniefield, Z.-Price, J.</i>	1006	Turner	237	<i>McNeely-Rape</i>
907	Silmon	223	<i>Prokop-Price</i>	1007	Tobin	235	<i>Reese-Speake</i>
908	Melton	220	<i>Sharpe-Torres</i>	1008	Simmons	320	<i>Spivey-Tuck</i>
909	McNeal	222	<i>Tuck-Zaragoza</i>	1009	Powell, E.	330	<i>Turner-Zarate</i>

Homeroom	Teacher	Room	Student Listing	Homeroom	Teacher	Room	Student Listing
1101	Crews	301	<i>Abercrombie-Brown</i>	1201	Cason	210	<i>Abrams-Chadwick</i>
1102	Higgs	317	<i>Burley-Dubose</i>	1202	Clanton	211	<i>Chance-Fields</i>
1103	McVey, T	300	<i>Durden-Hessler</i>	1203	Durr	204	<i>Franklin-Hicks</i>
1104	Wellborn	302	<i>Hicks-Kelly, L.</i>	1204	Hibbler	207	<i>Holman-Marbury</i>
1105	K. Ray	310	<i>Kelly, T-McClellan</i>	1205	S. Ray	212	<i>Martinez-Murphree</i>
1106	Culiolis	312	<i>McCullough-Nash</i>	1206	Vickers	214	<i>Orduna-Rodriquez</i>
1107	Hunnicut	313	<i>Nolen-Robinson</i>	1207	Smith	213	<i>Rojas-Thomas, I.</i>
1108	M. Ford	316	<i>Ross-Smith</i>	1208	Turman	209	<i>Thomas, M-Zhang</i>
1109	C. Powell	306	<i>Solares-Ware, Mariah</i>				
1110	C. Ford	315	<i>Ware, Mat.-Young</i>				
Homeroom	Teacher	Room					
0101	Johnson	207					
0102	McVey	208					
0103	Clifton	PA					

Wildcat Big 5:

- **We will be on time and be where we are supposed to be.**
- **We will treat people the way we want to be treated.**
- **We will be responsible for our grades and behavior.**
- **We will follow directions quickly.**
- **We will take pride in our school and our community.**

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Alexander City Board of Education and Benjamin Russell High School not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, creed, national origin, or age. If you have reason to believe that you have been discriminated against, you may contact the Alexander City Board of Education.

Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Alexander City Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Alexander City Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Elmore County Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for football showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEA) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Arrival at School

Students should not arrive at school before 7:00 a.m. because supervision is not available until that time. Students are NOT allowed to visit lockers until the 7:40 AM bell.

Arrival-Late Check-In

Students arriving at school after the school day has begun must sign in on the sign-in sheet and obtain an admit slip or tardy slip before going to class. Students will not be admitted to class without a proper slip. The student should have a note from his/her guardian. The administration will code the slip excused or unexcused based on state attendance policies. **(Refer to ACBOE student handbook)**

Check-Out Procedure

Students who find it necessary to leave school during the school day for any reason must:

1. Parents or an adult on the contact form must physically check out students.
2. Receive permission from the administration to leave school and sign out on the sign-out sheet in the office.
3. Upon returning to school, sign in at the office and obtain an admittance slip. (Refer to the Alexander City Code of Conduct)

4. Students may not use the school phone unless it is an emergency such as illness or other type of school emergency.

Assemblies

Courtesy and good conduct are traditions at Benjamin Russell High School. Each of us is expected to behave in a responsible manner with utmost respect. Therefore, we expect everyone to give our guests the respect and consideration they deserve. You may show your appreciation by clapping your hands. Please refrain from any negative actions. Anyone that violates the conduct rules will be disciplined. Students are asked not to put feet on seats in the auditorium or to lean back on bleachers in the gym during assemblies. Students will sit by assigned classes when participating in assemblies.

Due Process

Students shall be treated with fairness in all discipline matters and shall be accorded procedural due process when the discipline measures of corporal punishment, short and long-term suspension, or expulsion are applied. Before being punished for violation of a Board policy or local school rule or regulation, the local school principal or designee shall ensure that students are afforded due process.

Attendance- (Refer to the ACS Handbook) Response to Intervention for Student Attendance:

Excused Absences

Each school in Alabama is being held accountable for each and every student who has **18 or more** absences at school, **regardless if it is excused or not**. BRHS has detailed steps in place to combat excessive absences. The first step is to notify parents of attendance thresholds. If a student has been absent from school for any reason except a school sponsored activity, the student must secure an absence slip from the office before attending any classes. Students have only **three school days** to turn in excused notes.

1. Written letters and communication will go out with letter and pre-conference documentation at **3 excused absences**.
2. Conferences with administrators and counselors will be held for those with **5 excused absences**.
3. A required **CH**ildren **I**n **N**eed of **S**upport (**CHINS**) will be held with the principal (Mr. Benefield) at **7 excused absences**.
4. A final hearing for alternative education if a student receives **14 or more absences** will be held with SARB. The SARB will make recommendations to the principal for final sanctions.

Unexcused Absences

1. **1st Unexcused absence**-Schoolcast to parent
2. **2nd Unexcused absences**- Letter with student sign off and copy mailed to parents.
3. **3rd/4th Unexcused absences**- Letter/Parent Conference/Pre-referral form is completed
4. **5th Unexcused absences**- Letter/Referral to CHINS to student services
5. **7th Unexcused absences**- Letter/Referral to **Juvenile Court**
6. **9th Unexcused absences**- Conference with principal for possible DRC & other alternatives

7. **10th Unexcused absences- Referral to Discipline Review Committee (DRC)**
8. **11th Unexcused absences- Hearing with Student Attendance Review Board for Denial of credit and placement in virtual learning to recover credits**
9. **15th Unexcused absences -Possible student withdrawn from BRHS**

IMPORTANT: Students who have an accumulation of 12 combined excused and unexcused absences will have hearing with the attendance administrator. Accumulation of 15 will result in possible placement at virtual settings with no participation of events at BRHS.

Students who are late to class for any reason are seen as tardy. Tardies to class start over after Winter Break except those who have 15 or more.

1. **5 tardies between classes- Saturday School**
2. **10 tardies- Saturday School**
3. **15 tardies- 3-5 Days of ISS**
4. **20 tardies- 5 days of ISS**
5. **25+ tardies- 2 days of OSS (per term).**

Buses

Students who ride the buses to and from school and on school sponsored trips will be expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner. Any student who cannot abide by the regulations of the transportation department will be subject to disciplinary action which could result in loss of bus privileges (**ACBOE Code of Conduct**).

Cafeteria (Lunchroom)

Benjamin Russell High School is a closed campus. All students including teacher assistants must report to the lunchroom with their teacher. Students will have designated areas in which to sit. Students will not be allowed to have outside food or drinks brought on campus during the day (Doordash, parent drop offs, etc.) Each student is also responsible for trash and tray disposal when the entire class is dismissed. Students are not allowed to charge for lunch. **Only bottled water is allowed to leave the lunchroom each day.**

Class Dismissal

The bell that sounds to end the class period is a dismissal bell or signal to move immediately to the next class. The teacher will dismiss students from class when the bell rings. Students then have adequate time to move to their next class without being tardy. Students are not allowed to linger in the halls during class changes.

Clubs

Benjamin Russell High School encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities. Benjamin Russell High School has several clubs in which students may join if they meet the requirements. Tentative Clubs include:

BEST- Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology

Diamond Girls

ETS- Educational Talent Search

FBLA -Future Business Leaders of America
FCA-Fellowship of Christian Athletes
FCCLA-Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
FFA-Future Farmers of America
Foreign Language Club
HOSA- Health Occupations Students of America
Junior Ambassadors
Junior Civitan
Key Club
Leo Club
Mat Cats
Men and Women
National Honor Society
SADD-Students Against Destructive Decisions
SGA-Student Government Association
TSA-Technology Student Association

Closing of School

If for reasons such as weather-related problems it becomes necessary to close school, the local radio stations will be notified. A phone call from the system's *schoolcast* will also be used. If no report is heard on the air, then it can be assumed that school will be in session.

Complaints/Conference

Any parent, guardian, or student who has a complaint against the school should bring this complaint to the attention of the principal. The principal will arrange a conference with the complainant and the teacher or appropriate staff member. This conference will afford a full hearing and review of all the facts in the case, and each party will be given full opportunity to present information vital to the resolution of the problem. Should the complainant not be satisfied, he/she will be referred to the superintendent of schools. *Parents will have to contact the BRHS Front Office to schedule a meeting with the principal.*

Discipline Plan

(In Conjunction to ACS Handbook)

*According to Code of Alabama 16-1-14, no student shall have the right to interfere with the educational process of other students. Therefore, it's against the law to interfere with the educational process of others. Legal charges may be brought against such violators.

***All students will receive due process.**

*Conflict Resolution may also be used as a preventive discipline method.

*In conjunction with the stated Classes of Offenses in the ACS handbook, students who accumulate **three (3) Class II/III** will be referred to the school Problem Solving Team. The Rti Problem Solving Team (PST) will review student files and may establish a Rti behavioral contract. **Five (5) Class II/III** referrals will result in a REQUIRED **Children In Need of Supervision (CHINS)** meeting at the central office with a representative from

the Alexander City School System. **Seven (7) Class II/III** will result in a Discipline Referral Conference to Student Services Coordinator.

Alternative School (Phoenix Academy)

Students who demonstrate repeating behavioral problems at the local school or referred for Class III offenses may be assigned at the ACBOE's Alternative School. Such referrals will be referred to the central office for placement for such violations. Review ACS Handbook for DRC procedures. Transportation to and from the Alternative School will be the responsibility of the parents. Hardship of transportation will not be heard at any hearing. Any student assigned to Alternative School will not be allowed to any school function during the time assigned. Students must fulfill their assigned days which may be carried over until the next school year. Seniors who cannot complete their assigned days before the end of school will **NOT** be eligible for participation in the graduation ceremony.

Deliveries

Flowers, gifts, balloons, etc...are not allowed at school. Students are asked to remind parents that our office will not accept these items.

Distribution of Material

All aspects of the school-sponsored newspaper, yearbook, etc. are completely under the supervision of the teachers and the administration.

Written materials, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated, or distributed on the school's campus without the approval of the principal. All flyers, brochures, etc...must be approved by the principal.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are exactly what they say they are. These activities are **NOT** part of the required curriculum of the state and therefore do not have to be offered. Students may take part in these activities as long as they adhere to all school and state rules and regulations. **The principal of the school may remove a student from participation if the student violates school and athletic rules and regulations.**

Students who are absent for more than one-half of the school day due to illness or for an unexcused reason will not be allowed to participate in that activity or practice that day. This includes but is not limited to: prom, athletic practice or competitions, athletic banquets, band banquets, etc...

Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to the students. Students are expected to bring their own supplies of pens, pencils, dry erase markers, paper, erasers, calculators, notebooks, and folders. **(In addition, fully charged Chromebook on daily basis when issued.** Class fees vary, but school fees are below:

- **Locker \$10**
- **Parking Permit \$30**

Money Owed: Students who have not cleared debts will not be allowed to be exempt or check out during exams. No books or Chromebook will be issued until the fee for the lost or damaged book/Chromebook is cleared. In addition, students may not register for classes or purchase parking decals until all debts are cleared.

All students, parents, and guardians are notified that all fees may be used for other school purposes.

Fire, Intruder, and Tornado Drills

Students, teachers, and staff members shall participate in frequent drills and emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students must follow the direction of teachers quickly and quietly in an orderly manner. The school will use the intercom and alarm system to activate and notify students and personnel.

Instructions for these drills will be posted in each classroom and discussed by each individual teacher. Students are expected to cooperate and follow instructions.

Hall Conduct

You may walk rapidly in the halls, if necessary, but do not run. Always observe the following:

1. Walk
2. Keep to the right when walking down the hallways and stairs.
3. Do not gather around lockers to talk which results in blocking the hallway for others.
4. Hallways will be constantly monitored by administration and security.

Hall Passes

Students out of any class will be charged with the responsibility of having in his/her possession a hall pass signed by a member of the school staff. A student who does not have a pass or is not in the area designated by the pass will be disciplined. The school's hall pass will be used only for visits to the office, counselor or nurse. All others will result in an unexcused tardy. After five tardies, students are assigned Saturday School and teachers will not allow students to leave class during instruction time.

Homecoming

Homecoming will be **October 17, 2025**. Benjamin Russell High School is a family-oriented school. Therefore, all Homecoming candidates will be escorted by a family member during the ceremony. Applications for Homecoming Queen and Court may be picked up from the SGA sponsor. Students must be in good standing in attendance, grades and behavior.

Honor Roll

Students who earned all As or As & Bs for each of the three nine weeks will be recognized at the PTO Recognition Day ceremony in spring of each year. Students may be announced and rewarded for making the honor roll for one or more nine week but will not be invited to the PTO Recognition Day ceremony unless made honor roll in each and all of the three nine weeks.

Lockers

Lockers remain under the jurisdiction of the school, notwithstanding the fact that they are rented and assigned to individual students. Students must purchase a locker prior to being assigned a Chromebook. There is a fee for lockers. There will be NO sharing of instructional lockers. The school reserves the right to inspect all lockers. Students have full responsibility for the security of lockers. Searches of lockers may be conducted at any time if there is reasonable cause to do so, whether students are present or not, lockers may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.

Please do not bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. Lockers are NOT a safe place to keep items of high value. If you have something of value which you must take to PE class, ask the teacher to care for it. The school is NOT responsible for stolen items.

Cell Phone Policy for BRHS

Alexander City Schools prohibits the unauthorized use of digital devices throughout the school day, in accordance with the school's policy. Cell Phones will not be allowed during the instructional day, in accordance with Alabama State Law. Students may bring them to individual classes IF and ONLY IF the teacher has it in their lesson plans. Any student caught not complying with this regulation will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Parking on Campus

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. The school reserves the right to search any vehicle if reasonable cause exists to do so. Students have full responsibility for the security of their vehicle and will make sure they are locked and that the keys are not given to others. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited objects or substances found in their vehicles as outlined by the ACBOE Code of Conduct.

Parking and Driving Regulations:

1. *All students parking on campus are subject to random drug testing.*
2. All vehicles must display a parking permit. Permits will be \$30.00 per year. A student must present a valid driver's license and proof of liability insurance to obtain a parking permit.
3. Park the vehicle, get out, lock it, and move to the school building before tardy bell. There will be no loitering in parked vehicles. Students who are AWOL by way of using their vehicle will have their parking privilege suspended.
3. Students should operate their vehicle in a safe manner. The speed limit on campus is 10 MPH.
4. Any infraction of these rules will cause for suspension of the privileges of bringing a car to school. There will be no refunds for people who break the rules.
5. Any person parking a vehicle on campus without permission will be subject to disciplinary action.

6. Five (5) unexcused tardies may result in Saturday School and denial of parking for five days. After excessive tardies, parking is denied for the remainder of the year. No refunds and parents must check in students after **five unexcused check ins**.

Due to the number of parking spaces available, parking will be limited to seniors and juniors on a first come first serve basis.

All students, parents, and guardians are notified that all fees may be used for other school purposes.

Pep Rallies

Pep Rallies will be held in the gym. Students will sit by grades. All should be attentive when a speaker is speaking. Students are expected to follow the directions of cheerleaders. All students should participate in the pep rally during yells. This is an excellent way of showing your school pride! Pep rallies may be canceled due to student behavior or lack of participation.

Posters

Signs and posters that students wish to display must first be approved by the principal. Any student who puts up material without approval will be disciplined. Please obtain permission. (Signs will not be allowed on certain columns, doors and glass in the building. No duct tape will be used)

Property Damage/Vandalism

Willful vandalism on the part of students who damage or destroy school system property will not be tolerated. If students are found guilty of such vandalism, the students and their parents/guardians will be held financially accountable. Students will be subject to disciplinary action and possible prosecution under the law. The accountability includes damage to buses.

Purses, Book bags, Athletic Bags, Carry-ons, etc...

These items may be brought to school but must be placed in lockers, athletic lockers and may not be brought to any of the classrooms. Small pen or pencil bags, no bigger than a half sheet of paper, may be brought into the classrooms. However, cell phones, ipods, etc... may not be in those bags.

Technology Devices

(ChromeBooks, Ipads, Macbooks, Desktops)

The Alexander City Schools Board of Education has made an investment in giving each student a school owned Chromebooks for instruction purposes. These electronic devices along with Macbooks and desktop computers at school are for instructional purposes. Students who elect to bring their own device are required to bring ONLY a Chromebook as your own device and it must be registered. Each student is required to purchase a locker prior to being issued a Chromebook. Each student will be required to pay for the maintenance fee and sign the maintenance agreement. There will

be some classes and days that Chromebooks will not be used, on those days Chromebooks need to be kept in lockers for safety reasons. There will be school-wide and classroom rules and procedures that all students will be required to follow.

Telephones

School telephones are for school personnel only. Students are not to be released from class to use the phone unless they have permission from teacher. If a student needs to call someone before school, during break, or after school, they must come to the office and get permission. It must be for an illness or emergency. Items forgotten by the student are NOT an emergency. Students are **NOT** allowed to use cell phones to call parents or for any other use during or at school without administrators' permission.

Students will not be called out of class for phone calls. If there is an emergency, the principal will contact the student. In an event of major emergency such as school dismissal due to weather or other events, the principal may allow students to use cell phones to contact parents.

Visitors

Parents/Guardians are always welcome on our campus and will be admitted to classes upon request made to the principal's office. All parents/guardians must report to the principal's office. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the principal's approval, and such visits shall not be permitted if the duration and frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.

Benjamin Russell High School is a closed campus. Visitors and out of town guests will not be allowed to attend classes with students or meet with students on campus.

Wildcat Days (Virtual School Days)

To give students college-like experiences, students may be given a Wildcat Day where all assignments are web based and done at home. Students do not report to school. Additional time is given to those who do not have internet at home.

Daily Things to Remember as a Student at BRHS! (Online Test)

Things to know for this year

1. **All students are expected to attend and be on time and participate in class.**
2. **Only charged Chromebook, binders, pen/paper should be brought to classrooms.**
3. **Bookbags, Athletic Bags and larger bags must be placed in the locker. Not allowed in the classroom without approval by the principal.**
4. **Students are expected to be in class and participating from the beginning of class to the end of class.**
5. **Cell phones are only allowed to be used in the lunchroom, pep rallies, and during break time.**
6. **Make-up exams due to excused absences will be done on Wednesdays in the media center from 3:30 – 4:30 pm.**

7. **Attendance-5 parental notes** (for the year NOT per term). Turn in parental notes within **3 days!** Students are responsible for asking AND securing make up work **within 3 school days.**
8. **3-4 Unexcused absences (year)-Counselor conference, 5 Unexcused absences-early warning, 7 unexcused absences-court petition, 10 unexcused absences-hearing to deny credit, 15 unexcused absences-hearing for withdrawal of school.** Conferences and Interventions will be used to support students if all possible.
9. **3-4 Class II/II referrals-Conference, 5-CHINS, DRC Referral and possible 10 days at Phoenix Academy, 10-25 days at Phoenix Academy**
10. **Fighting-5 days OSS, 2nd offense-5 days OSS and recommendation to Alternative School, 3rd offense-possible expulsion**
11. **Seven tardies between classes- Saturday School, 10 tardies-Saturday School, 15 tardies-2 ISS, 20 tardies-3 days of ISS, 25+ tardies-2 days of OSS (per term).** Loss of Parking after 5 tardies. Tardies between classes start over at the end of term.
12. **Violation or use of cell phone/smart watch/other messaging devices without permission 1st offense- 2 days ISS, 2nd offense-3 days ISS, 3rd offense-5 days ISS**
13. **Outline of cell in pockets-confiscated and parent must come and pick up.**
14. **Dress Code Major: Slacking/Cleavage exposure/Midriff-1day ISS, 2nd Offense-3 days of ISS, 3rd 5 days of ISS**
15. **Dress Code Minor: minor dress code violations-1st warning, 2nd -4th- ISS, 5th or more-OSS (per term).**
16. **Tobacco possession/use-3 days OSS.**
17. **Bus referrals-1st Offense-Warning, 2nd Offense-10 days off, 3rd – 30 days off, 4th-Off for one calendar year**
18. **Graffiti, damage to school property or appearance- 2-5 days OSS and repayment of damage (\$25.00 minimum)**

Something to Think About...

This information is to help you understand that you aren't alone. All of your classmates are going through the same process toward adulthood. They have the same internal thoughts like you do about yourself. It's normal and it's a "way of passage" toward adulthood. If you experience things or thoughts that you think aren't normal characteristics that are listed above, please talk with your parents, peers, advisor, counselor or teacher. Doesn't matter how weird, how big or how small it is, we are all here to help you through this process that we call "teenage years." These four years can be worse years of your life or the best years of your life pending on what you know and what you can do about it. **Always remember, we are here to help you!!!**

Tips and Advice on How to Be Successful in and after High School!

- A. **Take a Good Look at Yourself and Dream about Who You Want to Be!**
 1. **Be someone with Character-**Treat everyone with kindness and respect. Never lie or steal. Always do the right thing even when someone is watching. Follow the Golden Rule: *Do unto others as you have them to do unto you*
 2. **Show Class-**How you dress and behave says a lot about you. Always show good sportsmanship. Sometimes things don't go your way. Practice self-control. It's how you handle yourself in difficult times that will prepare you for life after high school.
 3. **Take Pride in everything that you do-**Be proud of who you are but be humble on how you got there! Don't do anything that will embarrass your family, school or community.
 4. **Always remember that one day your child will ask you what you were like in high school!**

- B. **Have a Dream about who you want to be...BUT have a plan for that Dream!**
- 1. Dream!** A Dream without a Plan is just a Wish! Realize why you are in high school. You only get one chance to lay the foundation that will forever guide your life. Take advantage of the opportunity. Start Fast and Finish Strong! Your years in high school will go by faster than you think! Don't wait until your senior year to get serious about your academics, attendance or discipline records.
 - 2. Know your strengths and weaknesses-**Know how you study and learn the best. Know your bad habits that may hurt you. Practice on correcting them. Seek guidance or help if you struggle.
 - 3. Set Goals-**Pick one or two career fields that you are interested in after high school. Even if you aren't sure what you want to be after high school, set goals. Starting in the 9th grade, ask yourself what kind of scholarships, awards, honors, etc...you want at Senior Awards Day and Graduation. Then back up and ask what kind of ACT score and GPA will you need for those scholarships and awards. What types of leadership roles, extracurricular activities do you want to be involved in? Once you have an idea, write down yearly goals like making the honor roll every nine weeks, getting involved in SGA, taking more ownership in my learning, helping other students by being a peer tutoring, etc...
 - 4. Do your research-**Once you have an idea on what career field(s) you like, research on its requirements, education, salary, locations, what schools offer the major, costs of training or school, etc...
 - 5. Refine your Skills-**Mastery the content is important but having the 21st Century Skills to get your foot in the door in college or workplace is critical. Practice and excel in addressing the 8 C's that BRHS requires.
 - 6. Take pride and care of the little things-**Study when you don't have to study. Take 15-30 minutes a day just to read over notes, text, literature, math problems, etc...when it isn't required. Be extremely organized and know how you learn. Remember that classwork, homework, and participation in class points are just as important as the tests. Just like in sports, you need to work and refine your skills even if you aren't in season.
 - 7. Don't Procrastinate-**This is probably the #1 curse of all high school students.
 - 8. Be competitive but learn from your mistakes-**Take ownership in your own learning. Hold yourself accountable for poor grades. Learn from your mistakes. As in golf, be competitive with yourself. Only you know what you can and can't do. Push yourself. **Don't settle for anything but the best for yourself.**
 - 9. Take Advantage of All Opportunities-**BRHS offers many programs such as athletics, clubs, AP courses, ROTC, fine arts, career tech fields, dual enrollment, cooperative education, leadership roles, etc... that will help challenge you to find your strengths and interests. Leave BRHS without any regrets!!!
 - 10. Exercise your mind and body.** Find a happy balance between school, friends, family and other things. Stay healthy. Exercise your body because it's like a car, if you don't maintain it, it will break down on you. It's the only body you will ever have. Free your mind of clutter. *Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.* Don't make small things bigger than what they are. Don't fall in the trap of worrying about what people are saying about you, jealousy, envy, or anything else that keeps you from your goal of achieving your DREAM.
 - 11. Planning for your that LEAP-**Before you go into your senior year, you need to narrow down your career choices and select 2-3 colleges that offer your major OR narrow down what businesses may offer you a job after high school. Work on building your resume. Take the ACT as many times as you can. Visit or talk to someone you know who may attend the college or works at the business. Talk to your parents on what you are interested in doing. Start saving money for your senior year. It's expensive.

12. **Reaching for your Dream**-In your senior year, start out fast in achieving your goals and finish strong as grades aren't final until the last week of school. Make a list with deadlines on what you need to do before May 1st. Meet often with your advisor and counselor. Keep your parents informed on everything. Secure and fill out all applications and/or scholarships necessary. Go online and fill out the financial aid (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>) with your parents. Don't quit competing until the very last day of the school year.

Don't Quit, Don't EVER Quit-Students drop out of school for many reasons. Those who are at risk are males from poverty homes. Most downhill spiral starts in the ninth grade with students who feel they don't fit in with peers, they don't participate in class and don't see the importance of going to school. They begin with skipping class and school, hanging out with older peers, failing classes, never ask for help, begin drinking and smoking, begin to get in trouble in and out of school, etc... The lifetime income difference between high school graduates and dropouts is estimated to be \$260,000. Compared to high school graduates, dropouts are more likely to suffer from illness or disability and to die prematurely. About 41 percent of inmates in state and federal prisons have less than a high school education. As you can see, dropping out of school isn't the best decision and will influence the rest of your life. Ask for help if you ever seriously have those thoughts.

Athletic Procedures on Behavior and Attitude

All students who are participating in any sport offered by BRHS or ACMS are held to high standards as it relates to behavior and attitude. Each head coach has full responsibility of their respective sport as it falls under the umbrella of the overall athletic program at BRHS. Some sports will have tryout requirements and/or fees. Students are responsible for any fees or any fundraisers for the sport. All players are required to attend practice, games and any other functions assigned by the coach. All players are to have a good attitude and respect other teammates, coaches, opponents, officials and fans. If a player doesn't show a good attitude, hard work ethic or respect, then the parents will be called to discuss possible options. If the problem isn't corrected, the player is subject to be dismissed from the team. Once a player is dismissed from one sport, they may not play or practice with another sport until the original sport has completed its season. Once a player quits or is dismissed, all fees may not be returnable and any fees owed must be paid. Any player who has been assigned to an individualized self-pacing academic program such as but not limited to alternative school will not participate in any sport until assigned time is completed.

NOTE: If an incident occurs involving a player that the principal deems as severe and puts the team, the sport or the school in a negative public image, the player will be dismissed immediately from the team and will not be allowed to play any other sport until the principal reinstates the player. Example: cursing a coach, fight during a game, trouble outside of school that involves police, etc...

Athletic Lines of Communication

As students become involved in athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand at times students may experience disappointment and frustrations. At these times, student-initiated discussions

with the coach are recommended and encouraged. Parent involvement should be secondary but if it is necessary, the following steps should be taken:

1. The first step is talking to the coach directly about the concern. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach immediately after a game unless the coach requests this. **Any person who approaches a member of the coaching staff in a threatening matter will be banned from all Alexander City School athletic events.**
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the appropriate coach.
3. If the meeting with the coach does not result in resolution of the problem, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Discussing issues with other parents, teachers, board members, or administration is inappropriate and will not result in positive resolution of the situation.

GRADING PERIODS

Report Period	# Of Days	Inclusive Dates		Report Cards Issued To Students
1 st – 9 Weeks	45	August 07, 2024	October 9, 2024	October 17, 2024
2 nd – 9 Weeks	43	October 15, 2024	December 20, 2024	January 9, 2025
3 rd – 9 Weeks	48	January 7, 2025	March 14, 2025	March 27, 2025
4 th – 9 Weeks	44	March 24, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 22, 2025

First Semester August 07, 2024 – December 20, 2024

Second Semester January 07, 2025 – May 22, 2025

PROGRESS REPORTS 1ST Nine Weeks:

- ❖ September 06, 2024

PROGRESS REPORTS 2ND Nine Weeks:

- ❖ November 15, 2024

PROGRESS REPORTS 3RD Nine Weeks:

- ❖ February 07, 2025

PROGRESS REPORTS 4TH Nine Weeks:

❖ April 18, 2025

Benjamin Russell High School Tentative Calendar and Activities

August	7	First Day of School for Virtual Students
August	15	
September	7	Labor Day Holiday (schools closed)
September	8	First Day of School for Traditional Students
September	22	ACT Make-up for Seniors (Class of 2021)
September	25	Homecoming (Smith Station HS)
October	2	TruScore Testing
October	8	PreACT (10th) & WorkKeys (12th) STATE TESTING
October	14	PSAT-Selected 11 th & 10 th graders and those wanting to take AP courses in their 11 th & 12 th grades
November	11	Veteran's Day Holiday (schools closed)
November	23-24	Virtual Learning for All Students
November	25-27	Thanksgiving Holidays (schools closed)
December	17-18	2 nd Nine Week Exams
December	21	Virtual Learning for All Students
December	22-Jan 1	Christmas Holidays (schools closed)
January	4	Teachers Return for Spring Term
January	5	Students Return for Spring Term
January	18	State Holiday (school closed)
March	9	ACT (11th) STATE TESTING
March	15-19	Spring Break
May	3-14	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
May	17-20	Taking Up of Chrome Books for the Year
May	24-27	Spring Exams
May	27	Senior Class of 2021 Graduation

ACADEMIC TESTING DATES

iReady Testing in Reading & Math (9-11 grade levels). *Fall* (TBA), *Winter* (TBA)-*Spring* (TBA)

Progress monitoring in Reading and Math

PSAT- Oct. 14th-10th & 11th Graders with 3.75 GPA or higher. Required for those who plan to take any AP courses at BRHS.

WorkKeys-October 16th-12th Graders for WorkKeys is state mandated for *seniors*. Students need to score a 4 or higher to be considered College & Career Ready. Testing on Applied Math, Reading for Information, Locating Information.

PreACT-October 16th-State testing for all *sophomores*. Used to determine academic status on state report card. Testing in English Language (18), Reading (22), Math (22), Science (23). Benchmarks are in parentheses. 0-36 scoring scale. Students need to meet benchmark in one or more subjects to be considered College & Career Ready.

ACT-March 12th-State testing for all *juniors*. The most important test for high school students. Determines qualifying score for all colleges and university. One of the main factors on receiving financial amounts for scholarships. Higher the score, more financial amount on scholarships. Testing in English Language (18), Reading (22), Math (22), Science (23). Benchmarks are in parentheses. 0-36 scoring scale. Students need to meet benchmark in one or more subjects to be considered College & Career Ready.

AP Exam Testing-May 3rd – May 20th – Students need a score of 3 or higher to be considered College & Career Ready and qualify for potential college credit.

Practice ACT (TruScore)-Aug. 16nd-9th, 10th, & 11th Graders will take a Fall PreTest for ACT

Practice ACT (TruScore)—JAN . 22-9th, 10th, 11th Graders will take a Winter PreTest for ACT

Practice ACT (TruScore)-April 29th-9th & 10th Graders will take a Spring PreTest for ACT for academic growth

ACT Bootcamp-March-Bootcamp presented by BRHS teachers for juniors on 10th and 11th.

2024 BENJAMIN RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/23/24	OPELIKA	HOME	7:00
8/30/24	CENTRAL CLAY	AWAY	7:00
9/6/24	CALERA	HOME	7:00
9/13/24	CHILTON CO	HOME	7:00
9/20/24	SPAIN PARK	AWAY	7:00
9/27/24	CHARLES HENDERSON	HOMECOMING	7:00
10/4/24	HELENA	AWAY	7:00
10/11/24	OPEN		
10/18/24	PELHAM	AWAY	7:00
10/25/24	CHELSEA	HOME	7:00
11/1/24	PERCY JULIAN	HOME	7:00
TBA	AHSAA STATE PLAYOFFS	TBA	TBA

2024 BRHS JV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
8/26	Chelsea JV & 9th	AWAY
9/2	Wetumpka JV & 9th	HOME
9/9	Stanhope JV & 9th	HOME
9/16	Chilton County JV only	AWAY
9/23	Wetumpka JV & 9th	AWAY
10/14	Pike Road JV only	HOME
10/21	Catholic JV & 9th	AWAY

2024 BRHS 9th GRADE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
9/17	Central Clay County 9 th only	AWAY
9/30	Central PC 9 th only	HOME
10/8	Pell City 9 th only	AWAY

BRHS Volleyball			
2024 Schedule			
Date	Time	Location	Opponent
8/22/2024	4:30	📍 Elmore County High School	ECHS JV/V
8/28/2024	4:30	BRHS	HBHS JV/V
8/29/2024	TBA	📍 Opelika High School	OHS JV/V
9/3/2024	4:30	BRHS	WHS JV/V
9/5/2024	4:30	Sylacauga High School	SHS JV/V Quad
9/10/2024	4:30	Fayetteville High School	V Tri with Dadeville
9/12/2024	4:30	📍 Wetumpka High School	WHS JV/V
9/17/2024	4:30	BRHS	ECHS JV/V
9/19/2024	4:30	BRHS	OHS JV/V
9/21/2024	TBA	📍 Elmore County High School	V Tournament
9/24/2024	4:30	BRHS	Calera JV/V
9/26/2024	4:30	BRHS	Ch.Co JV/V
10/1/2024	4:30	📍 Calera High School	CHS JV/V
10/3/2024	4:30	📍 Beauregard High School	BHS JV/V
10/8/2024	4:30	📍 Chilton County High School	CCHS JV/V
10/17/2024	TBA	TBA	Area Tournament
10/24-25	TBA	Super Regionals	TBA
10/29-31	TBA	State Tournament	TBA

Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball Schedule

Day/Date	Opponent	Team	Time	Location	Departure Time
Tues/Nov 12	Dadeville	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	3:30
Thurs/Nov 14	Opelika	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Tues/Nov 19	Dadeville	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Thurs/Nov 21	Childersburg	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	3:00
Sat/Nov 23	Marbury	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Tues/Dec 3	Auburn	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Thurs/Dec 5	Opelika	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	TBA
Fri/Dec 6	Central Coosa	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	3:30
Tues/Dec 10	Childersburg	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Thurs/Dec 12	Sylacauga	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	3:30
Thurs/Dec 19	Sylacauga	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Fri-Sat Dec 20-21	Auburn Tournament	VB	TBA	Away	TBA
Thurs- Sat Dec 26-28	Hoover Big Orange Tournament	JVB/VB	4:30	Away	TBA
Tues/Jan 7	Fairfield	JVB/ VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Thurs/Jan 9	Calera	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Tues/Jan 14	Auburn	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	3:00o
Thurs/Jan 16	Chilton County (Senior Night)	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Home	
Fri/Jan 17	Central Coosa	JVB/VG/VB	1:00	Home	
Mon/Jan 20	MLK Classic (Fairfield)	VB	TBA	Away	TBA
Tues/Jan 21	Calera	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	2:30
Thurs/Jan 23	Chilton County	JVB/VG/VB	4:30	Away	2:30

BRHS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS	
EVERYDAY DRESS CODE	SCHEDULES
<p>Not allowed: hats/headgear, sunglasses, midriff tops, holes in pants above mid-thigh, leggings with short shirts</p> <p>1st Offense—1 day ISS, No exceptions!</p> <p>*No changing clothes or calling home for clothes. Out of dress code = Out of luck!</p>	<p>Students need to check their schedules to make sure that they have four core classes.</p> <p>Students will only be able to request <u>one</u> schedule change request for the year.</p>
CELL PHONE POLICY	ATTENDANCE/ EXEMPTIONS
<p>Cell Phones are only allowed in the lunchroom, gym, and library during break.</p> <p>No headphones, earbuds, etc in the hallways.</p> <p>No Cell Phones in class during class time.</p> <p>1st offense- 2 Days of ISS 2nd offense- 3 Days of ISS 3rd offense -5 Days of ISS or possible suspension</p>	<p>Exam Exemptions:</p> <p>“A” average and no more than 4 absences “B” average and no more than 3 absences</p> <p>absences are based on class attendance, not daily attendance.</p> <p>Any student with 10 or more unexcused absences will be denied credit for the course.</p>

Wildcat Big 5:

- **We will be on time and be where we are supposed to be.**
- **We will treat people the way we want to be treated.**
- **We will be responsible for our grades and behavior.**
- **We will follow directions quickly.**
- **We will take pride in our school and our community.**