



**2023 – 2024
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

900 East Cox Ferry Rd.
Conway, SC 29526
843-903-8440

https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Black_Water_Middle_School

**Welcome to
Black Water Middle School!**

Black Water Middle School was established in 2006 and was named to honor the majestic Waccamaw River. The river is described as a “black water” river because of the “tannins” released in the water from the Cyprus trees and roots that surround the river. The “tannins” are responsible for the river’s famous tea color. The Waccamaw was at one time the life-line for all the residents and animals that inhabited Horry County including the native black bear, which is now our school mascot. The river begins in North Carolina at Lake Waccamaw and is joined by the Great Pee Dee River. It then continues south and is joined by the Black River in Georgetown County before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean at Winyah Bay. Black Water Middle School has a historic heritage that reflects character and pride to everyone in the community.

School Colors

Red, Silver, & Black

School Mascot

Black Bear

School Fight Song

Go Black Water, Go Black Water, fight on for our fame
Show the rest that we're the best and make them fear our name
Go Black Water, Go Black Water
Plow right through that line
Rush the ball down the field, a score this time
Go Black Water, Go Black Water, stand up for our team
Lift your voices high with praise and hear us shout and scream
Go Black Water, Go Black Water
Strong and fearless be
Our red and black will bring us victory!

BLACK WATER EXPERIENCE



A Great Year at Black Water Starts with You . . .

The faculty and staff at Black Water Middle School extend a personal welcome to you and your parents as we begin a new school year. Middle school is filled with many learning opportunities that are very important and relevant to your growth and development. We hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities that are afforded to you academically, socially, emotionally, and extracurricularly.

This handbook and the Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide will provide answers to many of your questions regarding school situations. Please read the resources carefully. The information that is included in this handbook is provided to assist you in having a successful and enjoyable experience at Black Water Middle School.

You are surrounded by teachers, staff members, and administrators who want you to succeed. We care about you and look forward to watching you thrive socially, emotionally, and academically throughout the school year.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal or S.C. law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, or write Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Rd., Conway, SC 29528.

Declaración de la Política de No Discriminación

Escuelas del Condado de Horry no discriminan por razones de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad, edad, condición de inmigrante, de la habilidad de hablar Inglés, o cualquier otra característica protegida por la ley federal or del estado de Carolina del Sur en sus programas o actividades. Para preguntas con respecto a las políticas de no discriminación llaman 843-488-6700, o escriba las Escuelas del Condado de Horry, 335 Four Mile Rd., Conway, SC 29528.

General School Information

Attendance	6 and 11	Media Center	8
Assemblies	6	Medical Homebound	8
Awards Day	6	Medication	8
Behavior in the Classroom	6	Metal Detectors	8
Bookbags	6	Off-Limits Areas	9
Books	6	Open House	9
Breakfast and/or Lunch Money	6	Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)	10
Bus Information	6 and 12	Parent Conferences	9
Cafeteria	6	Personalized Digital Learning	9
Care of Premises	8	PowerSchool	9
Car Riders	7	Public Display of Affection	9
Cell Phone/Telephone Use	7	Safe Schools Act	9
Classes	7	Safety Drills	9
Classrooms	7	School Pictures	9
Communication	7	School Hours	8
Dances	7	School Supply Lists	9
Dress Code	7 and 14	Search Provisions	9
Field Trips	7	Student Agendas	9
Food and Drink Policy	7	Student Behavior	9
Guidance Services	7	Student Information Change	9
Hall Passes	7	Testing	10
Hallways	8	Vehicles	10
Health Room/School Nurse	8	Visiting the School	10
Immunizations	8	Walker expectations	10
Insurance	8	Withdrawals and Transfers	10
Lockers	8	Yearbooks	10
Lost and Found	8		

Acknowledgement Page page 20

Attendance, Arrival, and Dismissal Information page 11

Bell Schedule page 12

Bus Behavior Expectations page

Discipline Guidelines page 13

Dress Code

page 15

Emergency Procedures

page 16

Grading Information

page 17

Latitude Policy

page 18

Who to Contact

Athletics	Ina Thompson (CFHS) Spencer Gaither (BWMS)	843-488-0662 843-903-8440 ext 863422
Attendance	Cheryl Sibilila	843-903-8440 ext 863428
Bookkeeper	Connie Teasley	843-903-8440 ext
Buses (CFHS)	Gloria Ridgeway	843-236-0705
Discipline	Sara Smith (6 th grade and team 7-1) Spencer Gaither (8th Grade and team 7-2)	
Food Services		843-903-8440 ext 863308
Guidance	Julie Hardwick 6th grade and team 7-1 Kimberly Mitchell 8th grade and team 7-2	
Homebound	Sara Smith	843-903-8440
Media Center		843-903-8440 ext 863516
Nurse		843-903-8440 ext 863426
Principal	Brandice Gore	843-903-8440 ext 863403
Secretary	Kimberly Moody	843-903-8440 ext 863000
Technology	Stephanie Bellamy	843-903-8440 ext 863536
Textbooks	Spencer Gaither	843-903-8440 ext 863422
Volunteers	Julie Hardwick	843-903-8440 ext 863410

General School Information

Attendance

Excused (lawful) absences are absences resulting from such circumstances as illness, death in the family, major religious holidays or principal approved

absences. When a student returns from an absence, the appropriate documentation (doctor excuse, obituary, principal approval form) needs to be provided within three school days to the Data Quality Clerk. Absences that are prearranged for other reasons and/or extreme hardships are at the discretion of the principal and are to be submitted to the attendance office in advance on a completed Principal Approval Form. Principal Approval forms can be obtained from the school attendance office. Excessive absences may result in grade level retention. A student may miss no more than ten unexcused days per school year per class. A student absent for more than ten days may appeal for subject credit or promotion by furnishing a doctor's statement of absence due to medical reasons to the principal. Intervention for unlawful absences will include parent conferences and, if necessary, referral to the District Attendance Supervisor. If you have questions about attendance, contact Austin Wyatt at (843)903-8440. For more information on Attendance see page 11 of this handbook.

Assemblies*

Assembly programs are an important part of a student's education experience. Students must always treat performers and participants with respect. The following procedures will be followed:

- Applaud at the appropriate time.
- Whistling, loud noises, boos, or stomping on bleachers are not allowed.
- Remain seated with your class until given permission to move.
- Talking is not permitted during a presentation.
- Treat performers with respect.
- Sit upright so feet are not on chair backs or seats.

Awards Day*

At the end of each semester, an Awards Assembly will be held to recognize student achievement. Students earning all A's and B's in academic classes will be honored. Junior Scholars are selected based on performance scores on the PSAT (grade 8) taken in the Fall semester.

Behavior in the Classroom

In order to be successful at school, students must come to class prepared with paper, pencil, earbuds, and other materials required by the teacher, do all

assignments given to them by teachers, and not disrupt the classroom or disturb other students. Disruptive students will be disciplined by the teacher, or for extreme or severe disruptions, may be issued a disciplinary referral and sent to the administrative team.

Blankets/Stuffed Animals

For the safety and wellness of students and our school, blankets and stuffed animals are NOT permitted. These items should be left at home. If brought to school, blankets and stuffed animals will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Students are subject to disciplinary action/office referral for habitual offenses.

Bookbags

All students may bring regular book bags to school, however, clear bags are recommended.

Lockers will not be issued to students. Bookbags will be placed in a secure place in every classroom.

Books

Students are responsible for the books they are issued, and students are required to pay for lost or damaged books. If a book is lost, the student should get the price from his/her teacher and pay the bookkeeper in the office. If the book is found later, the money will be refunded.

- Never write in your books, throw them, sit on them, or leave them outside.
- Keep up with your books; do not let anyone borrow them; don't put them in someone else's locker, and never leave them unattended.
- Putting book covers on textbooks will save expense and trouble.

Breakfast and/or Lunch Money

All students in HCS will eat breakfast and lunch at NO Cost during the 2023-2024 school year. Money should be added to students accounts should they desire to purchase snacks from the a la carte line. Breakfast is served from 7:30 A.M- 8:15 A.M. Applications for free/reduced lunch are online at [School Lunch App](#).

Bus Information

Bus routes are coordinated through the Transportation Office at CFHS for the Carolina Forest area. A student may be suspended from riding the bus for misconduct. Profanity, fighting, disobedience, or disrespect to the

driver will not be tolerated. Contact the school or the bus supervisor at (843)236-0705 to report any concerns about bus routes, pick up time, or other safety issues. If your child needs to ride a different bus or be a car rider for a day, you must send a note with the details and a number where you can be reached during the day for confirmation. The note should be turned in at the front office first thing in the morning. More bus information is available on page 11 of this handbook.

Cafeteria

For lunch, students will be escorted to the cafeteria by a teacher. Each student cleans up his/her area after eating. Students will be escorted back to class by teachers.

Care of Premises

Student help is needed and appreciated in the care of the school and grounds. Encouraging others to dispose of litter and to refrain from damaging property is helpful in keeping BWMS in top condition.

Car Riders

Car riders must be picked up from the car lane. Students may not walk through the parking lot to cars or cross streets to meet cars in remote locations. This causes a safety issue. Please do not ask your child to disobey school rules and meet you off campus. Parents are asked to pick up car riders from the designated car lane at the front of the school. Please drive down as far as the traffic pattern allows, not stopping along the way for your child to enter your car. By bringing the line down we are able to dismiss in a much more efficient manner. This location will have adults on duty at all times to direct traffic and monitor students as they wait for rides.

Cell Phone Use or Texting [BWMS Cell Phone Policy](#)

The BWMS Administration recommends that NO item of value be brought to school. The school or district and its individual employees assume no responsibility for any damaged, lost or stolen devices or lost or damaged data. Cell phones brought to school are to be powered down, turned off, and out of sight from 7:45 – 3:30 with the exception of lunch. Teachers may ask students to store their devices in a visible cell phone container upon entrance to class. Students who are

using a cell phone at an inappropriate time may be asked to place the phone in a visible location, such as the ledge of the board. Should a student choose not to comply, the teacher will submit a disciplinary referral. Students with chronic cell phone infractions may be referred to school administration, opening the school disciplinary processes for inappropriate behavior, failure to comply, disrespect, or other such disciplinary applications. Phones may be confiscated by an administrator to be picked up by a parent at the end of the day.

Telephone Use

Office phones are for emergency use only. Students must have permission from a teacher or administrator to use the office phone. Classroom phones are not to be used for personal calls home by students. Please do not ask us to deliver messages unless it is an emergency. Telephone messages disrupt instruction. In emergency situations, you may leave messages with the front desk, and we will deliver the message. Refer to the [District Student Policy Guide](#) for more information.

Classes

Our school operates on a seven period day which includes the following 65 minutes classes: Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Each semester, each student has two discovery periods for 45 minutes each during which up to four classes may be taken during the year. Students also attend lunch with their grade level peers for 40 minutes each day.

Classrooms

Everyone should be seated at the start of class. The school tardy plan is followed in each class. Students are expected to complete all class assignments. Students are to be prepared with homework, needed materials, and books for each class.

Communication

Communication between home and school is critical during the middle school years. BWMS maintains several modes of communication to parents and students which includes: a BWMS website, Facebook Page updates and Parent Link System messages.

Dances*

BWMS hosts three dances each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. There is a final dance, The Eighth Grade Send Off, for 8th grade students only. Students should wear clothing that is comfortable and that meets school dress code guidelines.

Dress Code

Please refer to the [Horry County Schools Student Policy Guide](#) for a detailed description of acceptable dress. Parents may be called to bring a change of clothing, or the child will be issued alternative clothing if it is available. For more information see page 15 of this handbook.

Field Trips*

BWMS provides a variety of field trips for every grade level each year as enrichment activities. Students who participate must have written parental permission prior to leaving the school campus. Students who have office referrals or academic deficiencies may, upon recommendation of the principal, become ineligible to participate.

Food and Drink Policy

All food or drinks must be consumed in the **cafeteria**. Food or drinks cannot be consumed in the classrooms, hallways, media center, or any other area of instruction. With the exception of a closed top bottle of water.

Water/Open Containers

Students are permitted to bring an empty or sealed water bottle to be filled in the water fountain/water station. Students are not permitted to bring water bottles with sports tops or glass bottles. All drinking bottles must be sealed or empty to be filled in our water stations.

Guidance Services

The guidance office assists students and parents with educational and vocational planning, maintains student records, provides group and individual counseling, coordinates fall and spring testing (state and nationally mandated tests), and registration of students. The staff also serves as a liaison with other service agencies.

Hall Passes

Students are not allowed out of class without a pass signed by a teacher/staff member.

Hallways

Students should enter the building in an orderly manner. Movement in the halls should be orderly, efficient, and quiet. Keeping to the right in the hallways alleviates congestion. Pushing, shoving, shouting, running, and playing are not appropriate. Since each grade level is on a different schedule, some classes are in session during class changes.

Health Room/School Nurse

Black Water Middle School has a full-time nurse, Pamela Lawrence-Griffin, who provides emergency care for illnesses and injuries. She will monitor immunization records and dispense medication. All medications, either prescription or over-the-counter, must have a form on file. When the nurse is not present, medicine will be dispensed by the adult in the office who has been trained by Nurse Griffin. If a student becomes ill at school and cannot continue to stay in class, he/she should obtain a pass from the teacher to go to the nurse. After assessment and treatment as needed, the student should return to class or a parent will be called by the nurse. If an accident does occur, the school nurse may administer first aid and will notify the parents and/or call EMS. Any treatment beyond first aid is the responsibility of the parent and/or family physician. Seventh graders receive hearing and vision screenings and dental checks.

Immunizations

See the [Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide](#) for detailed information on immunizations. All students are required to have a completed South Carolina Certificate of Immunization. Students entering the seventh grade must receive (or have received) a Tdap vaccine in order to attend school along with an updated South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to prove your child had the vaccination.

Insurance

Horry County Schools provides limited student accident insurance for all students at no cost to the family. It is secondary to any other insurance coverage and only covers accidents occurring on school property during school hours up to the policy's limits. See the

Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide for more information. Students are permitted to bring an empty or sealed water bottle to be filled in the water fountain/water station. Students are not permitted to bring water bottles with sports tops or glass

Lockers

Lockers will NOT be issued to students. Bookbags will be placed in a secure place in every classroom. See your grade level administrator with questions.

Lost and Found

Please make sure all items are labeled with the student's name. When a student loses an item, he/she should inform the Assistant Principal in his/her hallway. Students may claim lost articles before or after school. Administrators will not interrupt instructional time to search for items. Students should not leave textbooks, cell phones, pocketbooks, or personal belongings unattended! Students should remember that valuable equipment, personal items, and large amounts of money should be left at home. The school does not accept responsibility for items that are lost at school.

Media Center

Books circulate for 10 days. Ebooks are available and are checked out to students' devices for ten days. Computers may be used when the media center is open. Students may not attempt to access websites which would be considered inappropriate or have no academic value. Students are expected to use quiet voices and ask for assistance as needed.

Medical Homebound

Medical homebound instruction is provided for students with and without disabilities who cannot attend school for a medical reason – a mental or physical condition that exists due to an accident, an illness, or pregnancy – even when transportation is furnished. The goal of homebound instruction is to provide continuity of instruction and to facilitate the student's return to a regular setting as quickly as possible. State Board of Education Regulation 43-241 outlines the provision of medical homebound services.

Medication

Parents, please observe the following concerning medication for your child:

- If possible, give medicine to your child at home.
- All medicine must be provided and brought by the parent to the nurse for a child's use. Medication found on a student will result in disciplinary action (including the school bus and school grounds).
- A signed permission form must be on file at the school for each medication a child takes.
- If prescription medication must be kept by the student (inhalers), the student must also have in his/her possession a medication permit signed by the school nurse.
- Leftover, outdated medicines will be discarded after two months.

Metal Detectors

To ensure your child's safety, 100% of our students are searched and walk through the metal detector every day. The searches are conducted by teachers or administrators. A School Security Officer (SSO) is assigned to our school by the school district. The Security Officer is here to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

Off-limits Areas

The following areas are off-limits to students

- Hallways where students do not have classes
- Teachers' workrooms
- Any hallway during class time without a pass

Open House

Open house is held in August of each school year. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about our school programs and expectations.

Parent Conferences

Structured parent conference nights are held annually after the completion of the first quarter of the school year. Parents may meet with teachers as needed throughout the year, generally during the teacher's planning period. Parents are encouraged to call their child's teacher directly by phone or email to schedule a conference. Advance notice is requested but not required so that all participants needed may be prepared and in attendance.

Personalized Digital Learning (PDL)

Students are issued a district-owned electronic device for instructional use and may only download applications that are educational. Appropriate consequences including fees will be issued for any misuse of the device or damage to the device. Students who willfully destroy or deface the device will be required to pay for a replacement. Click here for more information about [HCS PDL](#).

PowerSchool

Horry County Schools PowerSchool Parent Portal is a great way for parents to keep track of their child's report card grades, attendance, class schedules, and more through the internet. Please contact Austin Wyatt, Data Quality Clerk, to set up your account.

Public Display of Affection (PDA)

Students may not hold hands, hug, kiss, or display any other forms of public affection.

Recess Equipment

Students may not bring recess equipment to school. BWMS will provide equipment to use during recess.

Safe Schools Act

It is illegal for any person to bring a weapon (gun, knife, or any object that could cause physical injury) on the school campus. This provision includes look-alike objects. When students possess weapons, the police will be called. The school will press charges and recommend that the student be expelled for the year. It is also illegal for any person to threaten (physically, verbally, or in writing) or to strike or hit any staff member. The police will be called for any serious violation that requires their assistance and appropriate charges will be filed.

Safety Drills

The safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority at Black Water Middle School. Throughout the school year, we conduct safety drills, such as fire, severe weather, intruder, earthquake, tornado, and bus drills. Prior to these drills, your child's teacher will thoroughly review procedures with the students.

School Pictures

School pictures are taken in the fall and spring. Prices vary from \$10.00 to \$40.00 per package.

School Hours

School hours are from 8:15 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. each day. Early arrival begins at 7:30 A.M. and students must be picked up by 3:45 P.M. unless they are participating in a supervised school activity. School doors will open at 7:15 A.M. if temperatures are below 40 degrees. Please be aware that there will be no supervision before 7:30 A.M. or after 3:50 P.M.

School Supply Lists

School supply lists will be posted on the school's website. School supplies will be provided for all students at BWMS.

Search Provision

Administrators have the authority to search book bags, or persons when they feel that there is a reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of weapons, illegal substances, or stolen property. School grounds and facilities will receive periodic searches by R.A.I.D. Corps, a team of highly trained handlers and canines employed to conduct unannounced school inspections.

Spray/Aerosol spray

Students are not permitted to bring sprays, cologne, or perfume. This is to ensure the safety of all students.

Student Behavior

Please refer to the Horry County Schools Student Policy Guide and Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide for detailed district and state guidelines for governing student behavior. These documents outline rights and responsibilities of students regarding conduct and safety issues. Parents should read these carefully and discuss them fully with students. We will work with students and parents to assure that all students are provided a safe, orderly learning environment. Black Water Middle School will adhere to all policies described. When minor infractions occur, we will conference with individual students, assign detentions, or contact parents if necessary. Serious infractions require parent conferences and may result in over-night suspensions, in-school

suspensions, or out-of-school suspensions, transfer to the SOAR Academy or expulsions. More information on student discipline can be found on page 13 of this handbook.

Student Information Change

It is imperative that the school office be notified immediately of any change of address, phone numbers, or emergency information during the academic year. Every student must have an emergency phone number on file.

Telephone Use

Telephone messages disrupt instruction. In emergency situations, you may leave messages with the front desk, and we will deliver the message. Office phones are for emergency use only. Students must have permission from a teacher or administrator to use the office phone. Classroom phones are not to be used for personal calls home by students. Please do not ask us to deliver messages unless it is an emergency.

Testing

SC Ready is the comprehensive testing program for the state of South Carolina. PASS is the assessment for Science and Social Studies. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computer based assessment in reading, language, and mathematics. It is given three times each year. Data from MAP testing is used to prepare instruction to meet student needs.

Vehicles

Student-operated motor vehicles are not allowed on campus. Bicycles are permitted on campus and must be secured with a student owned lock. Rollerblades and skateboards are prohibited on campus.

Visiting the School

Parents are welcome to visit the school. Parents may visit classrooms, each lunch with their students, or meet with teachers and administrators. To prepare for meetings, advance notice of 24 hours is required.

Please contact your child's teacher or grade level administrator for more information. All visitors must first report to the main office to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass. Visitor's will be asked to show picture identification, wanded as a security check and escorted to their destination. Students are not permitted to bring a person to visit during the normal school day.

Volunteers

Volunteers provide many valuable services to the children and faculty of the school. If you have some time available, even if it is just for one hour per week, please get involved and make our school an even better place. Activities such as reading with a child, doing clerical work for a teacher, or assisting with PTO projects are always appreciated. Apply now to [volunteer](#).

Walker Expectations

Walkers are released through the front door. A staff member will escort the walkers out of the building and ensure that it is safe for students to cross neighboring streets and walk safely to their homes. Students should not cross through the parking lot to exit the premises.

Withdrawals and Transfers

Students moving to another school (in or out of the district or state) should have their parent request transfer information from the main office staff.

Yearbooks

BWMS publishes a yearbook every year. Information on purchasing a yearbook will be communicated throughout the year.

Attendance, Arrival, and Dismissal Information

Attendance Expectations and Requirements

Regular attendance is critical for academic success. Attendance is verified each period of the day. Please monitor your son/daughter's attendance on interim reports and report cards. Student attendance in middle school is counted per class meeting rather than per day. A student can receive credit for a class with as many as ten unexcused absences. However, truancy intervention will begin after three consecutive or a total of five unexcused absences, and an attendance intervention plan may be implemented. Read carefully the section on student attendance in the Horry County Schools Parent/Student Handbook for more details on lawful and unlawful absences and other important information regarding attendance expectations.

Early Dismissal

Black Water Middle School operates under a closed campus policy. Students are to remain on campus from the time they arrive at school until they are properly dismissed. If a student must leave school early, please send a note requesting early dismissal and try to coordinate the time around class changes. A student may check out through the attendance office only if a parent, guardian, or approved adult comes to school prior to 3:00 P.M. to sign the student out. This procedure is in place to avoid continual class interruptions during the last instructional block.

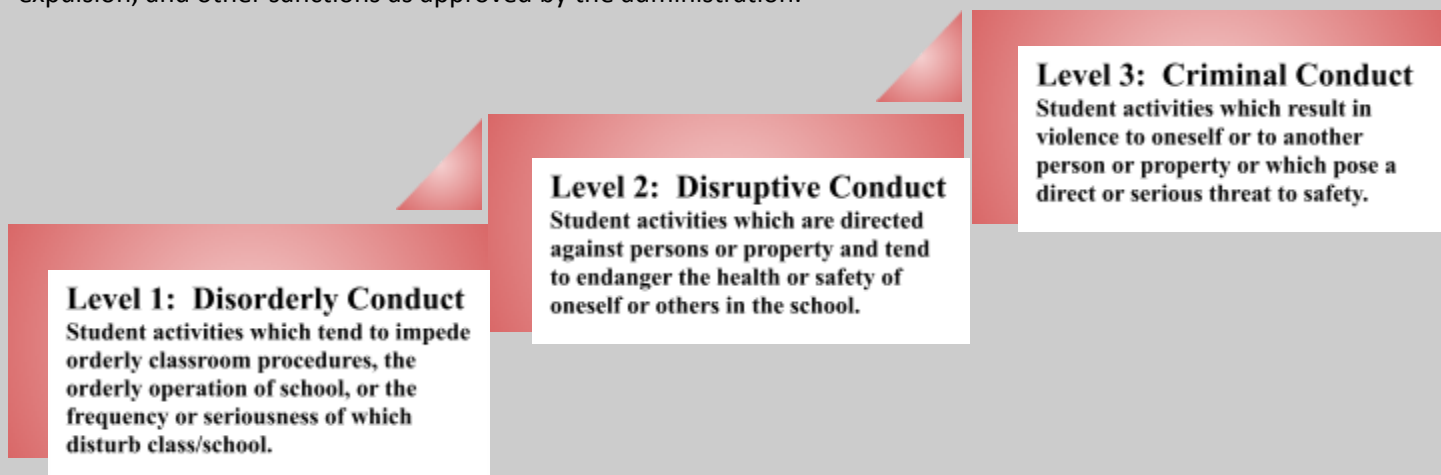
Late Arrivals

Students should report to the front office to receive a pass to class. A parent must sign a student in if tardy unless the student has a medical excuse. Upon fifth unexcused tardy, a referral will go to the administrator.

Discipline Guidelines

Student offenses are divided into three categories by the district:

A student’s prior record will be considered before sanctions are applied. Sanctions to be applied in cases of Level 1, 2, or 3 include but are not limited to, In-School Suspension, withdrawal of privilege/exclusion from participation in activities, restitution of property and damages where appropriate, confiscation of illegal equipment, Out-of-School Suspension, recommendation for alternative education program, recommendation for expulsion, and other sanctions as approved by the administration.



<p>Acts of Level 1 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom tardiness ● Improper disposal of gum ● Cheating on tests ● Cheating on classroom assignments ● Lying ● Cutting a class ● Acting in a manner so as to disrupt the instructional process ● Truancy ● Abusive Language between or among students ● Unsafe behavior in the hallway ● Unsafe behavior on the playground ● Refusing to complete assignments ● Refusing to carry out directions; minor insubordination 	<p>Acts of Level 2 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of an intoxicant ● Minor vandalism ● Use of forged notes or excuses ● Stealing ● Abusive/disrespectful language to staff or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperones) ● Refusal to obey school personnel or adults; gross insubordination ● Possession or use of unauthorized substances as defined by law or school board policy ● Unlawful assembly ● Behavior in the hallway which is dangerous to others ● Behavior on the playground that is dangerous to others 	<p>Acts of Level 3 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assault ● Battery ● Fighting ● Extortion ● Bomb threat ● Possession, use or transfer of a dangerous weapon ● Sexual offense ● Major vandalism ● Theft, possession of stolen property, or sale of stolen property ● Arson or attempted arson ● Furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by Board policy ● Furnishing, selling, purchasing, or possession and/or manufacture of
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disorderly conduct involving the use of computers or related equipment ● Other unacceptable or disorderly conduct as determined by the administration ● Trespassing on campus or being in an unauthorized area <p>* Use of cellular phones while on school property</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Failure to serve detention ● Removal from lunch detention ● Disrupting lawful assembly ● Disruptive conduct involving the use of computers or other related equipment ● Inappropriate written, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature ● Three acts of office-referred Level 1 offenses ● Possession or use of tobacco products (e.g. cigarettes, chewing tobacco, lighters, Juules/e-cigarettes), fireworks 	<p>a controlled substance, such as drugs (including prescription drugs), narcotics, or poisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possession of ammunition for a dangerous weapon when the administration determines that the student intended to use the ammunition or transfer it to another person for illegal purposes ● Threatening to take the life of or to inflict bodily harm upon an elected or appointed public official, teacher, or principal, or members of their immediate families ● Threats/Intimidation against other students ● Criminal conduct involving the use of computers or related equipment ● Three acts of Level 2 offenses
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Lunch Detention

Detentions may be given by any staff member for inappropriate behavior. Detentions are served during lunch/recess time.

When a lunch detention is issued:

- A teacher notifies the student of the lunch detention. The student serves the lunch detention on the assigned day.
- On the day of detention, students arrive at the assigned classroom. During the detention a written assignment or make-up work is required by administration to be completed.
- At the end of the detention period, the teacher will take the students to the cafeteria to have lunch. Students sit at the assigned detention table.

Multiple detentions will result in the following:

- The first and second detentions will be accompanied by student/teacher conferences.
- The third detention will be accompanied by written parent notice or an email home.
- The fourth and fifth detentions will be accompanied by parent phone calls.
- The fifth detention will be accompanied by a parent conference.
- On the sixth lunch detention, an office referral will be sent to administration.

Lunch Detentions start over at the change of the semester.

When appropriate, the following guidelines have been established for discipline action taken by the administration:

6 Detentions	1 day ISS
12 Detentions	2 days ISS
18 Detentions	3 days ISS
24 Detentions	1 day OSS
Every 6 additional	1 day OSS

School Wide Discipline Plan

- **This is for level ones and twos. If a student engages in a fight or engages in level three behavior, a referral is written and the student is referred to administration.**
- **Interventions:**
 - 1st offense- warning
 - 2nd offense- parent contact and lunch detention
 - 3rd offense- parent contact and lunch detention
 - 4th offense- parent phone call and lunch detention
 - 5th offense- parent/teacher conference and lunch detention
 - 6th offense- referral

Dress Code

Students, with parent guidance, have the responsibility for dressing in an appropriate manner while on campus or when involved in school activities such as field trips, sports activities, and dances. Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a positive learning environment, and project a positive image of the school district to the community.

Student dress that is considered appropriate does not, and cannot, be offensive, interfere with the educational process, cause disruption, or damage school property.

Please note the following guidelines concerning dress:

Dress should not affect or distract the educational process. In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate in accordance with this policy, the administration will require the student to change. **When the student needs to be sent home to change and the parent cannot be reached, the student may remain in ISS for the remainder of the day or until a parent can be reached.**

- Attire must comply with requirements for health and safety. Items such as spiked jewelry, dog chains, and metal toe plates are not allowed.
- **No sagging.** Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent, or offensive. Pants and tops must be worn so that underwear, undershorts, or mid-skin is not showing.
- Examples of unacceptable external clothing includes, but is not limited to, boxer shorts, tube tops, fishnet apparel, exposed midriff apparel, bike shorts, swimming attire, pajamas/sleepwear/loungewear, halter tops, muscle shirts, and form-fitting exercise apparel, spaghetti strapped tops, or bralettes.

- Any hairstyles which cause a distraction to students will be prohibited. Unnatural hair coloring which distracts students is not allowed. The administrative team reserves the right to determine what is offensive and inappropriate in regards to hair styles, unnatural hair coloring, and inappropriate clothing.
- Shorts, skorts, skirts, and dresses must be worn **no shorter than fingertip length while the student is standing with his/her hands at sides. Holes in jeans must also comply with this rule.**
- Leggings, tights, yoga pants, or bottoms of similar fit are not allowed without apparel worn over them and must cover the bottom.
- Uniforms for extra-curricular activities that are worn during the school day must be modified to conform to the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a gang.
- Attire should not have pictures or references to weapons or violence.
- Attire must not display any information about, or advertise for, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other such products. Attire may not display any information, drawings, and/or other representation concerning illegal drugs, inappropriate use of controlled drugs or other substances, including use, possession, distribution, and/or paraphernalia associated with the foregoing.
- Attire such as hats, bandanas, and sunglasses are not to be worn inside the building.
- Attire must not contain images or wording that an administrator deems to be offensive to other students or disrupt the school environment.

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard

Tornado
Hazmat
Earthquake
Tsunami

Safety Strategy

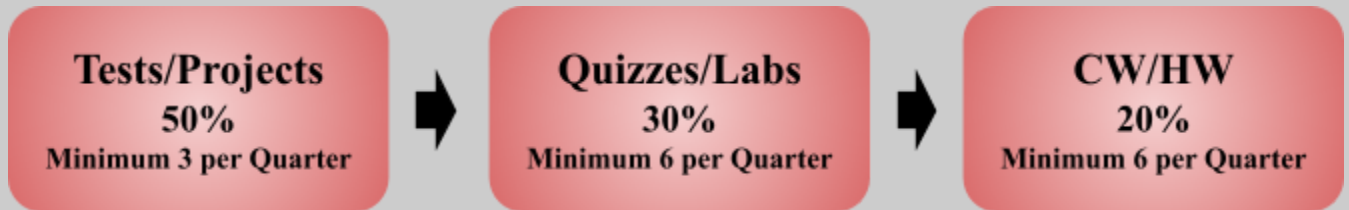
Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold
Get to high ground

ADULTS

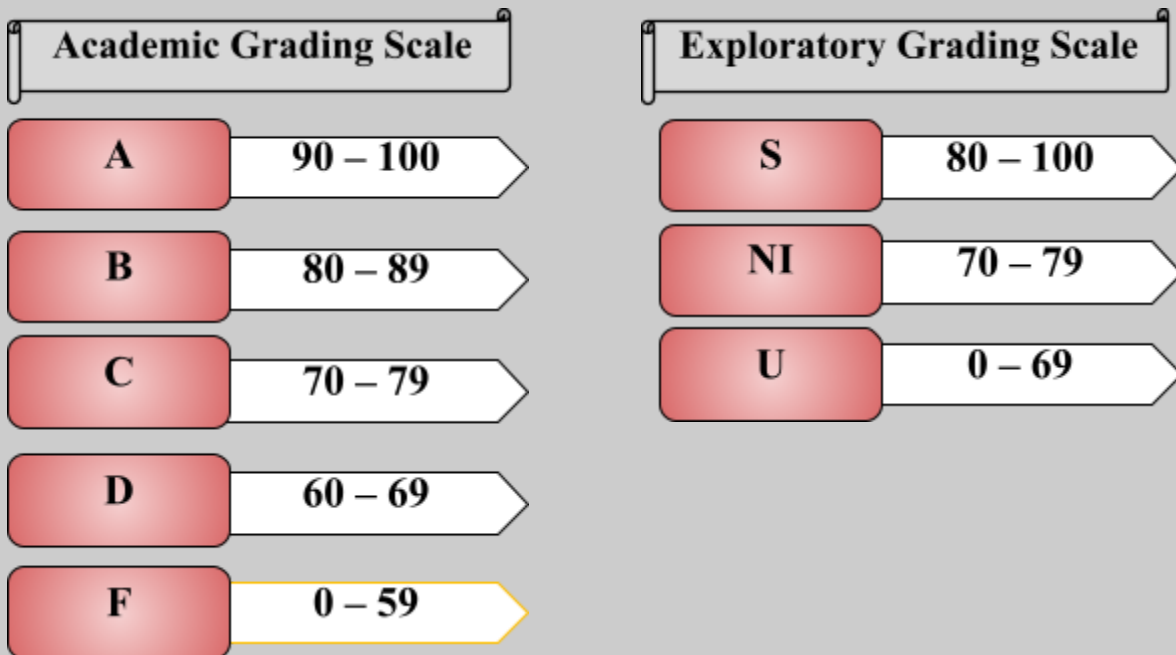
Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Grading Information
[Horry County Schools Student Calendar](#)
[Horry County Schools Student Calendar-Spanish](#)

Grade Category Weight Information



Grade Scale Information



Interim Reports

Interim Reports are issued four times a year in order for students and parents to monitor progress in each subject.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued to students at the end of each quarter. The final report card will be sent home and enabled in PowerSchool.

High School Credit Classes

BWMS offers several high school credit courses. All courses offered for high school credit include a cumulative final exam weighing as much as 20% of the final grade. Students may earn one Carnegie unit of high school credit by successfully completing the course requirements. Currently, BWMS offers: Algebra 1 Honors, English 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, Fundamentals of Computing 1 & 2.

Promotion and Retention

Students in 6th – 8th grades are expected to learn, at a minimum, curriculum standards in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, and meet attendance requirements. Students failing to meet promotion criteria will be retained. Students may attend summer school for one or two subjects to be considered for promotion. Failing three or four subjects will result in repeating the academic grade the following year.

Latitude Policy

Student's Role

- 1.) Students will not switch Latitudes with each other.
- 2.) The Latitude is used as an educational tool and should be handled with care.
- 3.) Student use of a Latitude is a privilege, not a requirement.
- 4.) Misuse of the Latitude will result in disciplinary action to include removal of the device from students, ISS, OSS, or ASD.
- 5.) The Latitude is property of HCS and should therefore only be used for educational purposes.

Respectful, Responsible and Ethical Use and Care of Latitudes

- 1.) School rules apply.
- 2.) Carry Latitude with two hands.
- 3.) No food or drink near the Latitude.
- 4.) Sit Latitude flat on the desk.
- 5.) No pencils or pens near the screen.
- 6.) Open and close the Latitude carefully and type gently on the keyboard.
- 7.) Do not insert anything into the openings of the Latitudes.

**Teachers will follow the school-wide discipline policy for individuals who make poor choices with their devices.

Choose greatness and work to do and be your best everyday!

Have a great year!

This serves as an addendum to the Horry County Schools Guide for Parents and Students/District Policies, both of which can be accessed here:

<https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Page/620>

STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE 2023-2024



BLACK WATER MIDDLE SCHOOL
900 East Cox Ferry Road, Conway, SC 29526
Phone (843) 903-8440 Fax (843) 903-8441

Brandice Gore, Principal
Spencer Gaither, Assistant Principal
Sara Smith, Assistant Principal

We the undersigned have read and understand the policies and procedures of BWMS and HCS as outlined in the Student Handbook. We understand and acknowledge that these policies and procedures must be adhered during the 2023-2024 school year.

Parent/Guardian

Student

Date Signed: _____

Date Signed: _____

****This page must be signed by both parent/guardian and student. This form must also be returned back to the student's Den Time teacher and will be kept on file.**