Big River Public High School

2026-2027

School Handbook

Welcome

Welcome to Big River Public High School. We, at Big River Public High School, believe in the values of caring, respect, integrity and hard work as essential cornerstones to a long and fulfilling life. We also believe that the path to success lies in accepting challenges as opportunities for growth and self-empowerment. Big River Public High School is committed to student achievement. Our vision is the pursuit of excellence, respect for diversity and achievement for all. Our shared belief is that all students can achieve high standards, all teachers can teach to high standards, high expectations and early interventions are essential, and teachers need to be able to articulate what they do and why they teach the way they do. Our priorities are learning and innovation, Indigenous Education, mental health and well-being and student transitions.

At Big River Public High School, we are guided by *The Education Act, 1995* and the *Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division No. 119 Administrative Procedures.* The school handbook outlines the Big River Public High School procedures that are specific to our school but are superseded by both provincial legislature and division procedures.

Why is it important to follow Guiding Principles?

- COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL IF WE WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL
- GUIDING PRINCIPLES PROMOTE A SAFER SCHOOL.
- THEY REDUCE DISTRACTIONS KEEPING THE FOCUS ON LEARNING.
- THEY PROVIDE STRUCTURE AND INSTILL A SENSE OF INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.
- THEY HELP TO ENSURE EVERYONE IS TREATED FAIRLY.

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AT BRPHS WE RESPECT THE RULES!

Big River Public High School Staff for 2026/27

Mrs. S. Surkan	Principal
Miss. C. Crashley	School Secretary
Ms. C. Dziurzynski	Teacher - Classroom Support Coach
Mrs. E. Callaghan-Gunderson	Teacher - Grade 12 Homeroom
Miss J. Lueken	Teacher - Grade 11 Homeroom
Mrs. K. Sullivan	Teacher - Grade 10 Homeroom
Miss D. Gear	Teacher - Grade 9 Homeroom
Ms. M. Wall	Teacher - Grade 8 Homeroom
Mrs. J. Kennedy	Teacher - Grade 7 Homeroom & Student Support Services
Mrs. S. Price	Educational Assistant
Mrs. S. Meyers	Educational Assistant
Mrs. E. Wilson	School Mentor
Mrs. K. Lindskog	Library Clerk
Mr. D. Neufeld	Head Caretaker
Ms. N. Hansen	Caretaker

Big River Public High School Bell Schedule 2026/2027
Breakfast 8:30 - 8:45 Welcome Bell 8:40
Period 1 8:45 - 9:48
Class Change 5 minutes 9:48 - 9:53
Period 2 9:53 - 10:56
Class Change 5 minutes 10:56 - 11:01
Period 3 11:01 - 12:04
Lunch 12:04 - 12:50 Welcome Bell 12:45
Period 4 12:50 - 1:53
Class Change 5 minutes 1:53 - 1:58
Period 5 1:58 - 3:01

Assessment – Deadlines and Zero Days

The duties of a student include completing and handing in ALL assessments that the teacher feels are important to help the student learn the specific outcome or to assess the student properly on that outcome. Deadlines as to when the assessments are due are set by the teacher for a number of reasons. To enhance student learning the teacher requires the information gained to the next logical instruction so the students have the greatest academic success. The student also requires this assessment as part of their final mark. Handing in assessments that are complete, done at the best of the student's ability and on time are expected in all classes.

The teacher will set Zero Days for each subject area. All outstanding assignments must be completed and turned into the subject teacher on or before Zero Days. ***Assignments not turned in on or before the Zero Day will receive IE. The assignment will receive a "ZERO" grade at that time.***

Attendance

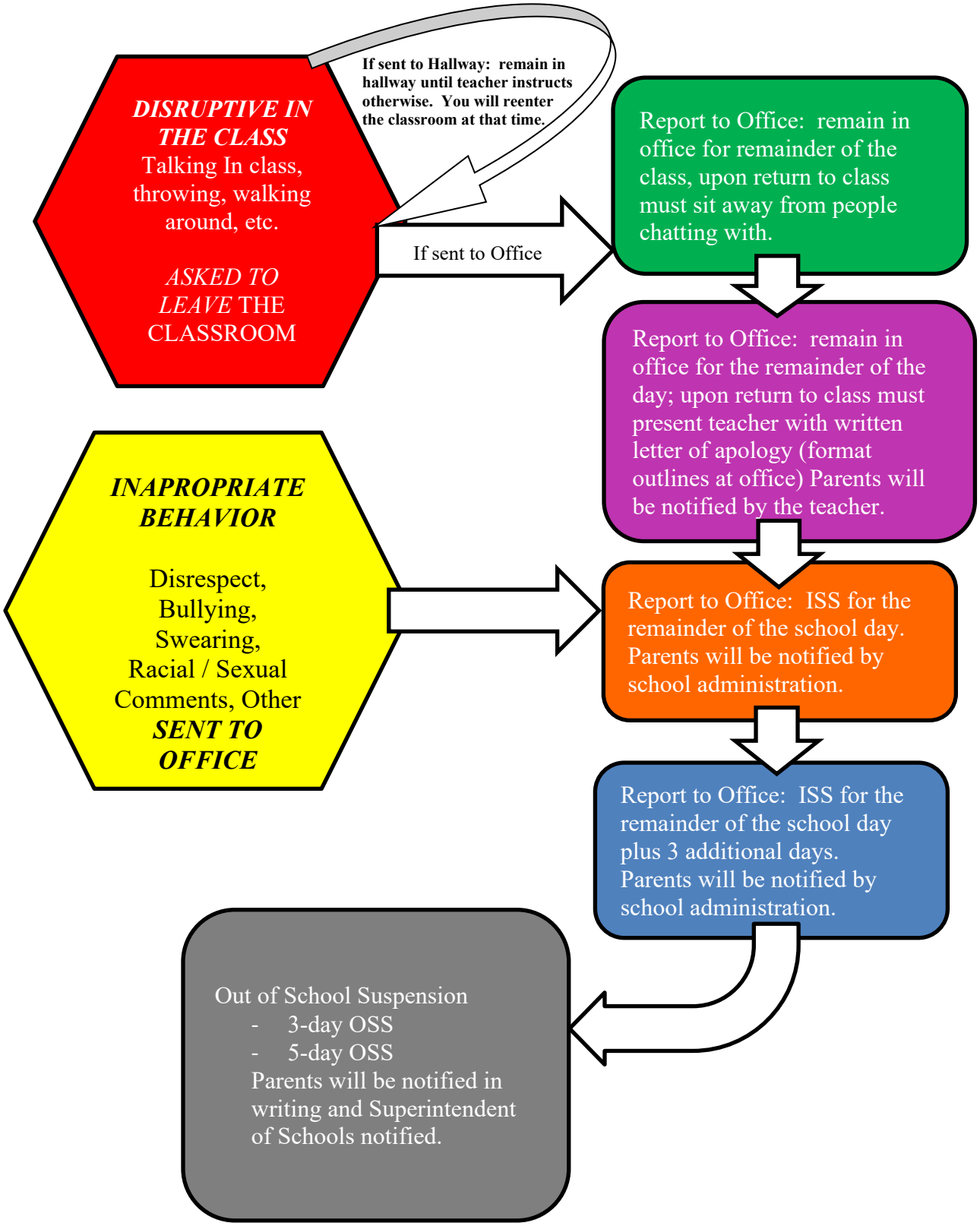
Big River Public High School believes that attendance is critical in academic success. Together with the rights that students have to access and benefit from educational services, they also have duties. Section 150(2) of The Education Acts list one of the duties of the student is to attend school punctually and regularly.

There is a strong correlation between student achievement and attendance. Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility for their own attendance behavior. Good attendance usually leads to higher academic grades and regular accumulation of class credit in order to graduate on schedule. Good attendance is also a positive habit that will allow for more success in college and in the workplace. Ensuring good attendance is the responsibility of students, parents, teachers, administrators and staff members. We need to work together to help each student demonstrate good attendance. It is important to be in each class on time each day. The beneficial class discussions and presentations that occur during the period cannot be repeated on an individual basis. The staff implemented a school wide policy that will affect the student's citizenship grades. In addition, homework is an integral part of each lesson and must be done on a daily basis if maximum learning is to take place. Therefore, regular attendance is vital to the student's success in school. Missing classes for any reason does not excuse the student from learning the material covered and discussed during the absence.

Behavior Expectation

All students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate to a high school student and within the expectations of the school and the school division. All students have the responsibility to keep the high school a place which they are proud to be part of. Behavior which distracts from the standard will result in disciplinary actions deemed appropriate to the offense and circumstance.

BRPHS Classroom Behavior Flow Chart



Cell Phone Usage

Big River High School - Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices Policy
As per provincial guidelines, starting in the school year of 2024-25 and forward, cell phones and personal electronic devices will NOT be permitted during class time across all schools in the province.

At Big River High School, the expectation is that students keep their cell phones and personal electronic devices (wireless earbuds) in their lockers during class time (including class change). The only time a student is permitted to use their phones is during the AM/PM recesses, noon-hour break or spares. If a student has forgotten to put their phone away and realize this while in class, they will ask their teacher to leave class to drop off their phone at the office, they will get their phone back at the next recess/break. This will not count as a cell phone offence described below, as it is more of an honest mistake. If it is discovered or comes to a staff member's attention that a student has their cell phone on their person during class, they will be required to turn it into the office where it will stay for the remainder of the day, and parents will be notified as soon as possible. If this becomes a reoccurring problem, it will count as a cell phone offence described below.

If student is found using their cell phone during class time (in the classrooms, in the halls, by their locker, in the washrooms…), this is considered insubordinate behavior. We will follow the three-step solution-based intervention plan outlined below. <u>Once at offence 3, the student will remain at 3 for the remainder of the year</u>.

1st offence - Student will be asked to turn in their device. It will be kept in the office until the end of the day. Parents will be notified by the staff member or teacher who confiscated the device.

2nd offence – Student will be asked to turn in their device, and it will be kept in the office until a parent/guardian can come to the school to pick it up. The principal will contact parents to notify them of the situation.

3rd offence – Phone will be turned into the office, parents will be required to pick it up, then for a 2–3-week length of time, the student will be required to either:

Option 1 -Leave their phone at home. If they choose to do this, it must be confirmed by parents/guardians.

Option 2 -Turn in their cell phone at the office every morning, where it will remain for the entire day. At the end of the day, the phone will be returned to them. The length of time that this will go on will be adjusted toward the lower end if the student shows full cooperation. ***If during this 2-3 week period the student is caught with their phone again, by sneaking it in the school and using it instead of turning it in, they will be suspended.***

If the problem persists, parents will be required to attend a meeting with the principal where we will discuss next steps and potential solutions.

Drugs / Alcohol / Nicotine / Illegal Substances

According to government legislation, Saskatchewan schools are tobacco-free zones. The Tobacco and Vapor Products Control Act supports healthy environments for students and families in the school community and applies to everyone on school property. Big River Public High School believes it has an educational and societal responsibility to prohibit the student use or possession of alcohol or drugs (including all nicotine products) on school premises, at other locations while involved as a participant or spectator in a school-sponsored activity, or while in transport to or from school or a school-sponsored activity. Big River Public High School is a SMOKE and TOBACCO/NICOTINE FREE SCHOOL. This includes all school grounds and while in the care of the school off the school property. This policy relates to all nicotine and nicotine related products. This prohibition does not apply to the use of tobacco for ceremonial events.

Food Restrictions / Energy Drinks

Due to food allergies, all SRPSD buildings are NUT AWARE. BRPHS also reserves the right to add other food restrictions to the list if it is deemed necessary to accommodate a student, staff member or a community member that volunteers within the school.

Research has shown that there is NO connection between the consumption of energy drinks and academic achievement. There is research that outlines the health concerns that we associated with consuming energy drinks as a youth. Big River Public High School DOES NOT ALLOW any form of energy drink to be brought into the school or consumed in school or on school property at any time. These same restrictions apply for all school related activities including sports events. Energy drinks will include but are not limited to any source of fluid, powder or edible that the purpose of the product is to increase the energy level of a student or athlete. This does not include regular sodas or regular coffee or Gatorade. It does include Monster, Red Bull, C4, Pre-Work out powders, high octane coffee, etc.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Participation

For the purposes of this policy, Extra-Curricular activities include but are not limited to sports trips, field trips, etc. that do not fall within the curricular objectives as set out by the Ministry of Education. Co-Curricular activities include but are not limited to school sponsored trips that meet the curricular objectives as set out by the Ministry of Education. These trips are supported by Big River Public High School and may fall within school hours, after school hours or a combination of both.
In order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities, students must be in attendance on the day of the practice or game and be in good academic standing.

Lockers

Lockers are available for student use. Any student can occupy up to two hallway lockers plus one gym locker at any given time. When a student occupies two hallway lockers only one locker will be a top locker. **All lockers are to be latched or locked at all times.** Students are allowed to bring locks from home as long as a key or the combination is shared with the school. Access to any locked locker will only be done with consultation with the student or parent/guardian of the student. Lockers that are not locked or latched can be accessed by the school at any time. There are also gym lockers and, in most cases, bottom lockers that are available for the students to use. The expectation will be that students keep these lockers latched properly and tidy or they will lose access to them.

Student Dress Code

Big River Public High School promotes positive lifestyles and choices; clothing worn should reflect that. Attire guidelines apply to all students during the school day and at all school activities. Students are expected to cooperate with staff should they be requested to modify their attire. We ask for parent/guardian support to ensure all students are appropriately dressed.

*For safety and hygienic reasons, we ask that all students wear appropriate footwear inside the school. Work boots and winter boots are unacceptable for inside wear. Students that wear running shoes, dress shoes, loafers, etc. outside the school are asked that they are clean and free of mud, dirt, etc. before wearing them in the school.

*All clothing will be free from messages contrary to healthy lifestyle choices (for example; messages or pictures endorsing or supporting the use of offensive language, tobacco/nicotine, alcohol, drugs, violence and/or sexual activity).

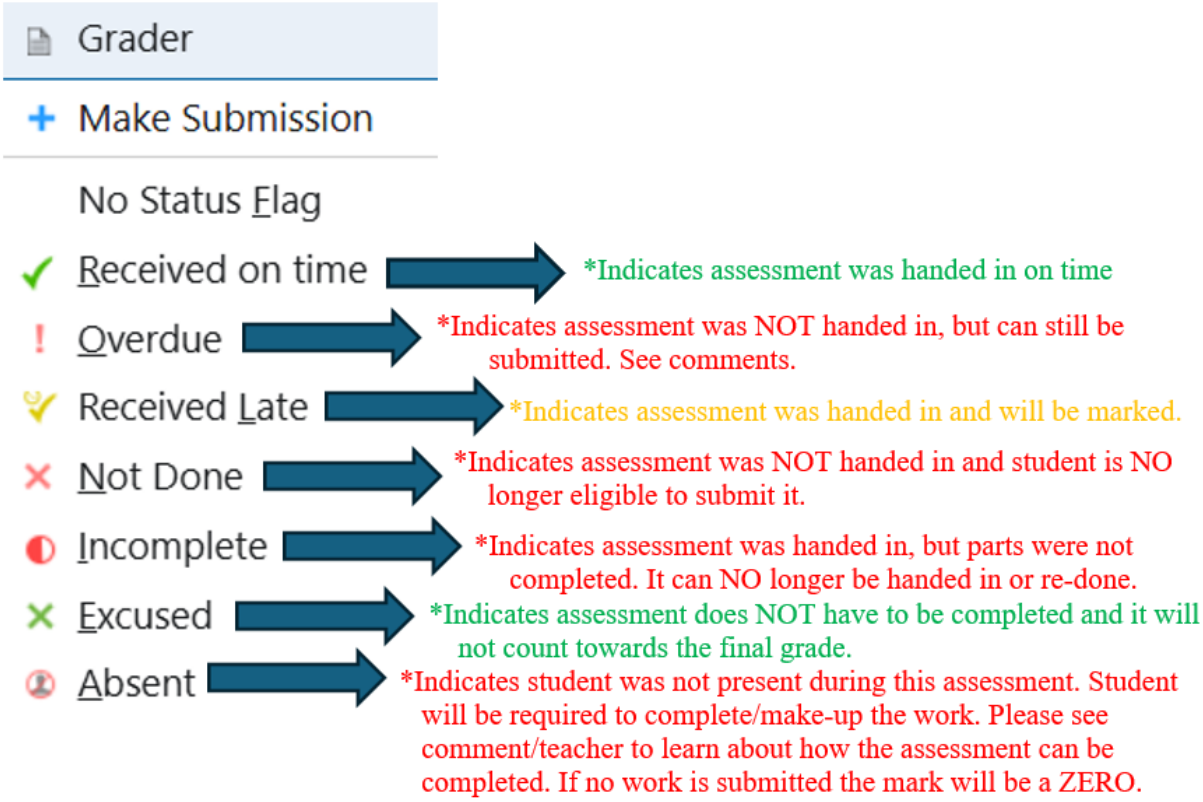
*Clothing that is revealing or immodest is not acceptable.

Student Travel

Student safety is of the utmost importance when transporting students to and from events. BRPHS has a 15-passenger van that all staff wanting to drive students must have successfully completed the specific training. Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division AP 735 outlines the requirements for all students to be transported in private vehicles. Any parents or students that wish to drive for school events must complete the Application for Automobile Driver Authorization. All students wishing to travel in private vehicles must complete the Student Transportation in Private Vehicles Parental Consent Form. Both forms are distributed to the students at the beginning of the school year and can also be picked up at the school office.

BRPHS -Assessment and Gradebook Policy

All evidence of learning will be recorded and shared in the Edsby gradebook program. Parents/guardians are encouraged to download the app and set up notifications to view assignments and report cards.



A mark of "IE" indicates that the assessment was graded at less than 1- or BE. See comments for more information.

Visitors to BRPHS

All visitors must enter through the front doors of the school and report to the office. Students from other schools are not allowed to visit classes unless arrangements have been made ahead of time with school administration. Visitors that do not report to the office will be reported to school administration. Each individual will be dealt with based on the situation.

Big River Public High School

"Home of the Rebels"

**Treaty 6 Territory "As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flows."*

B – Believe *in yourself.*

R – Respect *for everyone*

P – Persistence *in all challenges that you face.*

H – Honesty *with everyone including yourself, and this will lead to*

S – Success *for ALL.*

The staff at BRPHS would like to wish each and every student all the best in the school year and encourage everyone to get involved in the many activities that are offered in our great school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.