

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL



2023-2024 Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook

Blue Ridge School • 273 Mayo Drive • St. George, Virginia 22935 • 434-985-2811

This handbook sets out philosophical and procedural guidelines for enrollment at Blue Ridge School. Its contents are dynamic. Portions of this handbook are subject to change in the interest of improving our School. All community members are expected to understand and abide by the contents of this handbook and to comply with policy changes as they occur.

Blue Ridge School prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities (including employment), as required by Title IX. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to Blue Ridge School may be referred to our Title IX Coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary of Education.

This handbook is also available electronically at www.blueridgeschool.com
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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. PHILOSOPHY	1
2. MISSION	3
3. OBJECTIVES.....	3
4. HOME AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION	5
5. INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP	5
6. PARENT ASSOCIATION	6
7. ADMISSIONS.....	7
8. FINANCES	9
9. ACADEMICS	10
10. CHARACTER EDUCATION.....	16
11. CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE	17
12. STUDENT HEALTH	18
13. STUDENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL	20
14. STUDENT CONDUCT	23
15. PROCEDURES FOR LEAVING AND RETURNING TO CAMPUS.....	37
16. RESIDENCE LIFE	42

17. CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS	46
18. STUDENT SERVICES.....	50
19. NON DISCRIMINATION	51

Appendices

	<u>Page</u>
Appendix A. Campus Map	53
Appendix B. Faculty and Staff	54
Appendix C. Board of Trustees	59
Appendix D. Communications, Computers and Technology: Policy and Contract	60
Appendix E. Health, Safety and Environmental Policy	64
Appendix F. Room Check Out	65
Appendix G. Key Events Calendar.....	67
Appendix H. Leave Procedures	68

1. PHILOSOPHY

The Blue Ridge School faculty believe that

- A structured, systematic approach to learning which emphasizes study skills, time management skills, and organization skills will motivate young men to try to achieve and to prepare for the challenges of adulthood.
- An all-male boarding environment enables strong friendships to build through shared experiences and helps students to develop leadership skills and focus on learning with minimal distractions.
- A regular program for worship and/or reflection promotes spiritual and moral awareness and growth.
- The educational program is student-centered; that students are active participants in the learning and assessment process; that students are responsible for their learning.
- The most important role for our faculty and staff is to serve as advisors and mentors for the boys. The advisor-student relationship sets the tone for participation in, appreciation of, and buy-in to the total Blue Ridge experience.
- Our Code of Conduct is the linchpin and ethical compass upon which Blue Ridge stands. The purpose of our Character Education program is to encourage boys to internalize the values expressed in the Code of Conduct. While we set aside specific times to focus on these values as a community, Character Education works best when it is an integral part of every aspect of a student's experience. Everything we do in the classroom, playing fields, dormitories, chapel, and advising should emphasize the concepts of the Golden Rule, integrity, respect, responsibility, moral courage, work ethic, healthy lifestyles, and Brother's Keeper. Our policies and systems are designed with these ends in mind.

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Golden Rule

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Integrity

I will be honest in all my interactions with others. I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate these actions by others.

Respect

I will respect myself and others. I will respect others' property and privacy. I will play by both the letter and spirit of the rules. My words and actions will show respect for those in leadership positions, as well as my peers.

Responsibility

I will take responsibility for my actions, rather than make excuses or blame others.
When I fall short, I will learn from my mistakes and try again.

Moral Courage

I will stand up for my beliefs. I will do what I know to be right,
regardless of the consequences or what others do or think.

Work Ethic

I know that nothing worthwhile can be achieved without sacrifice.
I will not fear failure but will embrace challenges and
persevere through adversity to achieve my dreams.
I will never quit or give up.

Lifestyle

I will work to develop healthy habits of mind, body and spirit.
I will not use illegal drugs or other harmful substances.

Brother's Keeper

**At Blue Ridge School and beyond, I will help others even
when it requires personal sacrifice.**

- Residence Life is an important component of the Blue Ridge education. The human dimension and quality of life surrounding each boy's personal space determine how disposed he is to learning and strengthening his commitment to the school community. Communal life provides fertile ground for learning responsible decision making, organizing time, developing empathy and the acceptance of differences, and becoming a team player.
- A comprehensive co-curricular program is an essential part of the learning and growth experience. Sports, the arts, clubs, service learning, outdoor programs and social activities are all valuable venues for developing the unique array of gifts and interests that are part of every young man. Such programs build self-esteem and foster an appreciation for development of skills in leadership and teamwork.

To help our students achieve the learning and character objectives we have set for them, our faculty are committed to:

- Researching, sharing, and implementing teaching and assessment practices that have been shown to work well with boys. Documents we share with each other include:
 - A booklet developed by BRS faculty entitled "Teaching Boys: A Desktop Reference for the Faculty of Blue Ridge School"
 - The boy-focused lesson plan template
 - The BRS Educators Manual

- Frequently participating in the annual conferences of The International Boys' Schools Coalition; boys' education is always a major element of faculty summer reading and in-service work; and local experts on boys' education provide us feedback and guidance on our curriculum and instruction.
- Maintaining a structured, supportive, and responsive learning environment not only in our classrooms but in our evening study halls and co-curricular programs.
- Frequently checking for understanding, using one-question quizzes, brief discussions, think-pair-share, or exit cards to gauge which concepts and skills are mastered and which need further review.
- Taking time to model and discuss study skills, time management skills, and organizational skills in all of our classes to provide the boys a chance to develop a skill set that will lead them toward success in college and in their chosen careers.
- Recognizing that while our boys often learn best from non-traditional methods of instruction, much of the world they encounter is still dominated by text-based material (books/lectures/notes/blogs). In response, we create an intentional mix of non-traditional and traditional methods of instruction to ensure our boys become skilled, analytical, and critical consumers of information in all its forms.
- Taking advantage of meeting periods and evening study halls to provide extra help to the boys outside the classroom several times a week.
- Never giving up on the boy – encouraging (and when necessary, nagging, nudging, and pushing) him toward improved achievement so that he begins to make the connection between sustained hard work and eventual success.

2. MISSION

We specifically focus on helping boys reach their potential through personalized, structured, innovative learning practices in a college-preparatory, all-boys, all-boarding community.

3. OBJECTIVES

Blue Ridge offers an academic experience unmatched by any school. At the heart of our curriculum is our objective to prepare young men to thrive in college and in life. Students are challenged by a rigorous, but supportive and engaging college preparatory curriculum delivered by a passionate team of educators who know what their students need to be successful, and who embrace the philosophy of relational teaching and learning. To best facilitate these relationships, individualize our instructions, and give each boy opportunities to succeed, no class has more than 14 students, and our average class size is 8. Every Blue Ridge boy is *known* by each of his teachers, and also by advisors, hall parents, and coaches, who help him develop his strengths and overcome his weaknesses.

While college readiness is a top priority, it is not the only thing we want for our graduates. Above all else we want them to grow into men of character who have developed the skills necessary for success in the 21st century. We want our curriculum and programs to produce young men who are confident in their scholastic abilities and use them to lead lives of purpose. We do not want graduates who spent high school simply memorizing and repeating information. Our curriculum undergoes regular revision and evaluation so that it can be effective in achieving six important aims beyond college readiness. Our goal is to produce Blue Ridge School graduates who are: (1) critical thinkers, (2) effective communicators, (3) artistically literate and appreciative of the visual and performing arts, (4) stewards of the natural environment, (5) aware of the diverse cultures, societies, and religions around the globe; and (6) empowered to live independent and healthy lives.

A key question for any school to answer about its curriculum is, “What makes your curriculum rigorous?” For far too many schools, rigor is defined simply by the volume of work that students are expected to complete. Blue Ridge School strives to measure the rigor and efficacy of all our curricular programs by asking whether they challenge the young men in our care to meet high, but achievable expectations. In doing this we build self-esteem through successes in the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the arts, and our students begin to realize their potential and discover their passions.

As an all-boys school, the Blue Ridge campus is a space in which some of the negative but pervasive versions of masculinity that have resulted in a behavioral health crisis among boys in America today can be forcefully challenged. In their place positive and healthy versions of manhood that are centered on our School’s Code of Conduct can be modeled and established.

CHARACTER EDUCATION FOR THE BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL GRADUATE

Our objective is for the Blue Ridge graduate to move into the world as a man of character. It is much easier to state this goal than to define it through quantitative measures. In many ways “character” is how the boy conducts himself when no one is there to judge him - how he holds himself accountable for his own decisions. While we will plant the seeds of character in the Blue Ridge boy during his experience here, the actual fruits of this experience may not be visible until later in his life. We have incorporated into the school program many activities that we believe will promote growth toward our goal:

- We want our boys to discover and embrace a set of personal values that demonstrates respect for themselves, their loved ones, and the greater community. To that end, we intentionally weave the core values of the BRS Code of Conduct through every element of the School experience. We also expect teachers to seize teachable moments wherever they may occur: in the Chapel, the classroom, the dormitory, the stage, the outdoors, the playing field, or the community surrounding Blue Ridge.
- We have established throughout the several facets of the School a program that promotes the desired traits of integrity, perseverance, respect for all members of the community, taking responsibility for one’s actions, and being a brother’s keeper for others.

- Knowing that competition in one form or another is frequently present in our boys' lives, we offer a wide range of activities in both the academic and co-curricular programs that teach our boys good sportsmanship, the benefits of teamwork, the value of learning from failure, and the difference between healthy and unhealthy competition.
- We recognize the value of providing models of desired behavior for the boys to observe and emulate, so each faculty and staff member adheres to the same standard expected of the boys and is willing to talk openly about the constant effort that goes into being a person of good character.
- Our advising program and Saturday morning programs frequently include lessons and activities to promote growth in character.
- The capstone event of our Character Education Program is the Rites of Passage Expeditions (ROPES), which occur each spring. Organized by grade-level and designed sequentially to facilitate personal growth over time, the expeditions are a three-day school-wide set of field trips with a major service component, each to be followed by a debriefing session to process lessons learned from the experience.

4. HOME AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Enrollment at Blue Ridge School represents a significant investment by every family in time, love, money and energy. Families and the School approach the decision to enroll here carefully and consciously. The staff at BRS accepts our part of this charge with professional pride and enthusiasm. We see every young man as an investment in our future, every graduate as a legacy of our commitment to holistic growth and values-laden traditions. Each student's education is a partnership between himself, families and the faculty and staff of Blue Ridge School.

5. INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Accreditation

Blue Ridge is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The School holds professional memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Council for the Advancement in Support of Education (CASE), the Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), the Small Boarding Schools Association (SBSA), the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE), and the International Boys Schools Coalition (IBSC). Blue Ridge School successfully completed its 10-year VAIS reaccreditation in 2019.

Board of Trustees

Blue Ridge School is governed by a Board of Trustees and managed by a Head of School who is selected by the Board. The Board is an elected, self-perpetuating body with a maximum of 23 voting members.

Business Operations Team

The Business Operations Team is a group of management leaders who meet regularly to coordinate the overall operations of the School. Overseen by the Head of School, members of this team include the Associate Headmaster for External Affairs, Director of Finance, Director of Communications & Marketing, Director of Facilities, Human Resources Director, Director of Natural Resources and the Director of IT.

Curricular Operations Team

Overseen by the Dean of Academics, the Curricular Operations Team includes the Head of School, the Dean of Residential Life, the Dean of Faculty, the Assistant Dean of Faculty and Academics, and one teacher, who serves annually as an elected representative of the faculty. The team is responsible for approving and overseeing implementation of any major changes to the School's curriculum and its graduation requirements.

Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee

This Committee conducts hearings for student discipline cases involving allegations of misconducts other than cheating, stealing or lying. Three faculty members, appointed by the Head of School, serve a three-year term. The member with the longest tenure on the committee serves as chair. Three or four seniors, elected by faculty and peers, also serve. The Committee then provides a written recommendation of consequences to the Head of School. The Head of School exercises his sole and absolute discretion to decide what sanctions, if any, shall be imposed.

Honor Council

The Honor Council is comprised of up to eleven elected seniors and one faculty member, appointed by the Head of School, who serves as a non-voting moderator. This Council conducts hearings involving allegations of student cheating, lying or stealing. The accused student's advisor serves as his advocate. The Honor Council then provides a written recommendation of consequences to the Head of School. The Head of School exercises his sole and absolute discretion to decide what sanctions, if any, shall be imposed.

Prefects/Proctors

Students are elected to the position of Prefect (9-10 seniors) and Proctor (9-10 juniors) by vote of the students and faculty with a final appointment decision made by the Head of School. They are the big brothers for each hall family. They assist the hall parent in almost every task and act as advisors. They are expected to represent and maintain the standards of the school in attitude, conduct, dress, effort, spirit, sportsmanship and teamwork. They are the first line of mediators for student conflict. As such, they work with peers to find acceptable and positive solutions to programs. Prefects are allowed to have a single dorm room and enjoy other privileges as determined annually by the Head of School.

6. PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Parent Association seeks to nurture parent-to-parent and school-to-parent communication and foster participation in school activities. All Blue Ridge parents are members of the Association by having an enrolled student. Through a network of volunteers, the Association

fosters faculty recognition and appreciation, assists the School with fundraising initiatives in order to support school programs, makes recommendations to the Head of School and enhances the boys' experience while away from home. The Association is served by a president and grade level leaders. Their role is to coordinate the various initiatives, activities and events sponsored by the Association. The President of the Parent Association also serves as a voting member of the Board of Trustees.

Website and Parent Blackbaud Portal

Our public website (www.blueridgeschool.com) is a tool where parents and guardians are able to find news updates and athletic scores, access reference information, register for events, as well as donate online.

Parents and guardians have access to a password-secured account to access Blackbaud for student schedules, grades, and comments. The log-in credentials are provided at enrollment. If you are missing log-in credentials, please contact the Registrar at 434-992-0559.

Parents may also keep in touch with the School's daily activities through our official social media sites:

- Like us on Facebook at BlueRidgeSchool
- Instagram @brsbarons
- Follow us on Twitter @blueridgeschool
- View and purchase photos on SmugMug at www.blueridgeschool.smugmug.com.
- View videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNR65EtifaCn61slc138FZw>

7. ADMISSIONS

a. Equal Opportunity School

Blue Ridge School is an all-male, all-boarding school. It admits qualified young men of any race, color, creed, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. Blue Ridge School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial assistance and loan programs, athletic and other programs, or otherwise discriminate in violation of federal, state or local law.

b. Admission Requirements

- i. Application for Admission Form and application fee
- ii. Student Questionnaire and essay
- iii. Parent/Guardian Statement
- iv. Transcripts of the candidate's academic record to date for the past three years, including grades for courses in progress and any standardized testing that may be part of the candidate's record
- v. Reviews from the candidate's English and math teachers, as well as from the Principal, Head of School or Guidance Counselor and personal reference

- vi. On-campus interview or telephone interview, at the discretion of the Director of Admissions
 - vii. Recent educational/psychological or other diagnostic testing that may be available or required
 - viii. For international students, a test of English language ability, such as TOEFL, may be required
 - ix. Parents are expected during the admissions process to share with the School any major disciplinary, health, or psychological issues their son has experienced, including suspensions/expulsions/early withdrawals from school, repeated use of illicit substances, and treatment for any mental health, psychological or mood disorder, particularly anxiety or depression. If a parent fails to disclose this information during the admissions process and the information later comes to light, the School may reconsider the student's enrollment status.
- c. Admission Criteria
- i. *Predicted Success*: Blue Ridge seeks to enroll young men who will be successful at the School. While past performance is considered in making admission decisions, we are more concerned with the student's potential and the likelihood that the School's programs will enable the student to realize his potential.
 - ii. *Character and Integrity*: Blue Ridge is a residential community in which the daily lives of all of its members are guided by a Code of Conduct. Therefore, students must possess the character and integrity required of all who live in such a community.
 - iii. *Willingness*: Candidates must be willing to reside at the School and to "buy in" to the programs and overall life of the School. Families should not enroll students who do not want to be at the School.
- d. Enrollment Requirements
- i. A signed and completed enrollment contract must be returned, along with the required enrollment deposit.
 - ii. A signed copy of the financial aid award letter must be returned, if applicable.
 - iii. Completed registration forms prior to the start of school.
- e. Withdrawal from School
- In the event that a student must withdraw during the School year, his parents should notify the School in writing. This notification should include the reason for withdrawal, as well as the planned date of departure. In the event a student is dismissed or asked to withdraw, parents must also file a Release Form with the Academic Coordinator in order for their son's records to be forwarded to another school. Finally, parents must also meet financial obligations to the School as stated in the enrollment contract.

8. FINANCES

a. Tuition

Tuition for Academic Year 2023-2024 is \$62,500 as set by the School's Board of Trustees. Additional details are available from the School's Admissions Office and Business Office.

b. Security Deposit

Families are required to maintain a deposit of no less than \$400.00 at the School to cover emergency financial needs and room or other damages that might occur.

c. Debit Cards

Students are strongly discouraged from keeping large amounts of cash in their dorm rooms (amounts in excess of \$100). Instead of using cash to pay for various items on and off campus, all students are **required** to have their own credit or debit card. All student funds, except for tuition and fees, should be transferred directly into the student's bank account by the parent via electronic transfer or check. If students must bring cash, we advise them to deposit it into their bank account or store it in our Business Office safe where it will be readily accessible during business hours. A debit card from any US bank is acceptable. International bankcards may be acceptable as well, but you will need to confirm with your bank that it will be accepted in the US.

d. Tuition Refund Insurance

Blue Ridge School makes no allowance or deduction of tuition and fees in the event of a student's absence, early withdrawal or dismissal. For this reason, a charge is added to the student's tuition contract for Tuition Refund Insurance. This insurance is mandatory for all students. The tuition insurance allows parents to be reimbursed for a portion of their tuition payment, pursuant to the terms of the plan and policy, in the event of a student's dismissal or withdrawal during the academic year. The rules governing such reimbursements are outlined in the brochure that is mailed to parents prior to the beginning of the year. The plan does not allow for refunds for withdrawals or dismissals until 14 consecutive calendar days have passed from the start of the school year. Other terms and conditions apply. The tuition refund insurance plan is administered by a third-party, the coverage decisions of which are made independent of the School.

e. Student Health and Accident Insurance

To assure the health and safety of our students, Blue Ridge School requires every student to be covered by a comprehensive injury and sickness plan, one that meets the high cost of medical services and is accepted by local providers and practitioners. The School offers international students a health plan meeting those requirements. International families, or families living abroad, should contact the Admissions Office for more information or to enroll their student in this insurance plan.

9. ACADEMICS

a. Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed for young men who aspire to learn and continue their educations at the college level. BRS offers a college-preparatory course of study featuring classes in all academic areas, including lab science, literature, social studies, mathematics, Spanish, the arts, the outdoors and technology.

The curriculum emphasizes acquisition of sound study skills and habits. Small classes, focused, caring teachers who are readily available and willing to give extra help, and closely supervised study periods provide a structured environment in which a young man can gain academic confidence and competence.

Minimum requirements for a Blue Ridge School diploma:

English	4 credits, including American Literature and Composition, taken at Blue Ridge School
History	3-4 credits
Mathematics	3-4 credits, Algebra I and II, Geometry are required
Foreign Language	3 credits in the same language
Science	3-4 credits, including Biology and Chemistry with a full lab component
Electives	3 or more credits; must include experiences in the Arts, Outdoors and Technology

A *minimum* of 18 credits must be earned within the core areas (English, ELL, History, Math, World Languages, Science). Exceptions to the above requirements may be granted by the Dean of Faculty and Academics only after consultation with the Department Chairs. A minimum of 21 total credits are required to earn a diploma from Blue Ridge School.

Additional graduation requirements include:

- Acceptance letter from a 4-year college.
- Credits in Outdoors and in Fine Arts may be met by:
 - Taking and passing a trimester elective in these areas.
 - Satisfactory completion of a seasonal co-curricular program in these areas: Fall/Winter/Spring Outdoors, Fall/Winter Drama, Spring Band.

b. Academic Course Load

Every student is required to take English, math, science and history each year he attends Blue Ridge. **Furthermore, students are expected to carry a course load of six classes each trimester.** The Dean of Academics may give special permission for a senior who has completed all graduation requirements to take five classes and a free period. A student seeking to take only five classes must first consult with his advisor.

The Dean of Academics coordinates all matters pertaining to course selections and scheduling.

c. Homework

The successful Blue Ridge student realizes that it is his responsibility to take the time necessary to ensure that he has completed his assignments to the best of his ability. BRS teachers are tasked with assigning homework to complete. Students who finish assignments before the end of a study hall **are not done with their academic work: they should quiz themselves on course material, correct old work, organize notes and book bags or read a book.** There are few homework assignments that cannot be improved upon and any time is always a good time to review important terms and concepts for the next assessment.

d. Diagnosed Learning Differences

Students who have formally diagnosed learning differences are required to provide Blue Ridge School with documentation. The staff of the Fishburne Learning Center will evaluate the findings and recommendations from this documentation and produce an individual summary of the student's strengths and needs, including specific recommendations for the student's classroom teachers.

e. Homework Planners

Class and study hall use of planners is encouraged.

- i. Planners are given to all students during the first week of school.
- ii. Advisors are responsible for discussing the use of the planner with each advisee during student orientation, and to follow up with advisees on the topic as necessary.
- iii. Students who need replacement planners should see Ms. Benshoff.

f. Tablets/Laptops and Academics

Use of a laptop or tablet in class is permitted **only at the teacher's specific direction.** Any misuse of the device during class, including playing games, listening to music without permission, or maintaining open Internet pages beyond those necessary for the class activity, will result in the device being confiscated for the rest of the period. At the teacher's discretion, a walkabout may be assigned for any offense. On the third such offense in any class, the student may lose the privilege of bringing the device to all classes.

i. Academic Building Electronics Policy

1. Cell phones usually play no role in classroom learning and should not be a part of the classroom environment unless being used for a specific activity and the teacher has allowed their use. The following procedures will be in effect in every classroom:
 - a. When students enter the classroom they will place their cell phone in the cell phone basket found on the teacher's desk or in a nearby bookcase.
 - b. If a student does not place his cell phone, or similar device in the basket at the beginning of class and then if for any reason that item is discovered in his possession, the item will be confiscated until after athletics and the student must receive a walkabout.
 - c. Headphones, earbuds and similar items may not be worn during the academic day without the explicit permission of the teacher.

ii. Study Hall and Electronics

1. Cell phones are not to be used at any time during the evening study hall in the cafeteria or any other “break out” room. In the dorms, if a student is on his phone excessively, it may be confiscated.
2. If a student has an emergency and must contact a parent during evening study hall, he should first secure the permission of a duty team member before using a phone.

Parents should refrain from attempting to call or text their sons between the hours of 7:30pm and 9:30pm eastern time.

iii. Confiscation

Any student who refuses to turn over laptops or electronic devices, including cell phones, to a faculty member is subject to an immediate work crew and/or a student/faculty disciplinary committee hearing and having the laptop, electronic device and/or a cell phone, sent home for the remainder of the year.

g. Assessment

The purpose of any form of student assessment at Blue Ridge School is twofold – to improve learning and to measure learning. We view testing as part of the learning process rather than as a product of that process.

It is reasonable to expect that a student can prepare himself for two period-long assessments on a given day. If a student’s schedule of assessments for a given day is such that this amount is exceeded, he may seek a postponement of one assessment through the Dean of Faculty and Academics.

The following grading scale is used at Blue Ridge School:

90 - 100	A	Superior
80 - 89	B	Very good
70 - 79	C	Good
60 - 69	D	Poor but sufficient to earn credit
Below 60	F	Insufficient to earn credit

Students can be graded on their daily participation in class activities, their written work, their quizzes and tests, and other projects or activities. Individual teachers decide the particular combination of these assessments to determine trimester grades. Such weighting decisions are shown in each course syllabus.

Students must resolve incomplete grades within 5 days of the end of a marking period unless the Dean of Academics has granted a further extension. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the assessment(s) missed.

h. End of Trimester Exams and Alternative Assessments

Final examinations/projects are administered at the end of each trimester in all required courses. In addition to the general purpose of assessments stated above, our end of trimester exams and projects also serve to provide a synthesizing and comprehensive learning

experience for our students. Furthermore, these end of trimester challenges help to firm up the foundation for future study in the respective disciplines. Each trimester, four of the major subject areas will offer final exams and the other subject area will offer an alternative assessment in the form of a report, laboratory experience, presentation, etc.

A senior may be exempt from his third trimester final examination if:

- He has maintained a grade of A for the entire academic year in the course, up to and including the last class day at the discretion of the teacher.
- The teacher of the course approves the exemption(s).

Note: Seniors who are exempt from one or more final exams may not leave the campus. If not studying for other exams, they should make themselves available for peer tutoring and/or school service.

i. Academic Honors

For each trimester, students who exhibit outstanding academic achievement are recognized by being named to either the **Head of School's List** or the **Dean's List**.

- i. To be named to the Head of School's List, students must have no grade lower than 90% and a GPA of 3.6 or above.
- ii. To be named to the Dean's List, students must have no grade lower than 83% and a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- iii. The school year concludes with our commencement exercises, at which we award seniors for outstanding scholarship. BRS also recognizes the academic achievements of its underclassmen at a year-end assembly.
- iv. The St. George Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes students for scholarship, service, leadership and character. Inductions occur each fall. The selection criteria are:
 1. Members of The Order of St. George are outstanding students academically; the grade point requirement for membership is 3.75 or 90%.
 2. Members are outstanding citizens; disciplinary records will be reviewed as part of the nomination process.
 3. Members have an established history of service and leadership by the time they are admitted to The Order.
 4. In accordance with the residency requirement of the Constitution of the National Honor Society, students must have attended Blue Ridge School for one year before qualifying for nomination to membership in The Order.

j. Policy for Transfer of Credit to Blue Ridge School

Blue Ridge School admits transfer students during the academic year. Students come to Blue Ridge as early as one month into the school year and as late as the end of the second trimester. Our applicants arrive from all over the world with completed or partially completed courses that can be almost perfect matches, partial matches or almost no match to their Blue Ridge counterparts. Furthermore, the transcripts received are most commonly semester-based, a reality that does not fit with our trimester system. The combination of

these variables makes the process of credit transfer complex. The Dean of Academics and the College Counselor will work together to establish which credits transfer and in which amounts.

k. Learning Center

The Fishburne Learning Center (FLC) staff works with faculty and students to ensure that every student is provided the appropriate level of support necessary to realize his academic potential. Common services offered include student file reviews, faculty consultations, and small group instruction in study strategies, reading comprehension, written expression, and mathematics. Students are enrolled in the FLC for an additional fee. The Director of the Learning Center determines eligibility for services and can arrange for individual psycho-educational assessment through local providers. There is an additional fee charged to the parents for such an assessment.

Students may also use the FLC for informal help with a specific problem in their core courses. In addition, the Homework Assistance Program, conducted in the FLC during evening study hall, provides willing students with a focused, structured, and supportive environment to develop more effective study habits. Students wishing to participate in the Homework Assistance Program should see the Director of the Fishburne Learning Center.

l. Evening Study Hall

The hours of evening study hall are among the most important in determining a student's success at BRS. The scheduling, structure and appropriate use of these hours should be taken seriously. Evening study hall occurs Sunday through Thursday from 7:30 pm to 9:15 pm.

Evening study hall is required. Students must have gathered their materials prior to 7:30 pm to ensure that they arrive on time at their study space. All students must be in either their rooms or an assigned venue by 7:30 pm. **Students should complete their homework to the best of their ability during this time.** If students have completed and reviewed all their homework, they should read silently.

While involvement in group projects is an important part of the BRS learning experience, the emphasis during evening study hall needs to be on disciplined individual study. Group work that must occur during evening study hall cannot take place in dorm rooms. Group study is allowed only in study lounges or the library group study rooms.

Students may spend evening study hall in one of the following venues: In-room study, supervised study hall or the Fishburne Learning Center.

i. In-room Study:

1. In-room study for students in good academic standing is held in the dorm under the supervision of a duty team member.
2. Students are expected to study quietly in their own rooms with the door open.
3. Students must respect their peers by keeping noise and other potential disturbances to an absolute minimum.
4. Computers are to be used only for homework-related tasks.

5. Students should take full advantage of evening study hall by working for the full two hours. ***Remember that homework is never really done!***
 6. Students may ask any duty team member for help with an assignment.
 7. Any student who violates any of the above rules will be subject to disciplinary action.
- ii. **Supervised Study Hall (SSH):**
 Supervised study hall is a highly structured environment designed for students who are having particular problems completing assignments. Students assigned to supervised study hall are expected to be seated at their desks with all necessary study materials, including their daily planners, when the starting bell rings at 7:30 pm. Students who are late to or unprepared for SSH will be required to remain for extended study hall to make up for study time missed. Any action that the SSH proctor considers not conducive to learning will not be allowed and could result in disciplinary consequences.
- m. **Additional Opportunities for Academic and Personal Growth**
 In addition to evening study hall, students are provided with several other opportunities for study and self-improvement. These occur on a daily and regularly scheduled basis.
- i. Meeting Time for extra help with a subject area teacher is available after lunch every day of the week, Monday through Friday. The student may request this appointment with the teacher, or the teacher may require this appointment because a student is struggling with the material or not meeting particular course expectations. If the teacher requires a Meeting Time appointment and the student does not keep that appointment, the student will be assigned a consequence.
 - ii. The **late lights** period exists for a student who desires to study after 11:00 pm. Permission for late lights is given by the faculty supervisor of extended study hall or the faculty member supervising the student's hall. Any student requesting late lights is required to remain engaged in productive study between the end of evening study hall and 11:00 pm.
 - iii. Opportunities for **Enriched Study**: Students who have advanced beyond the offerings of the regular curriculum may confer with the College Counselor about extension courses and/or independent study in disciplines of interest.
 1. For a student requiring classes beyond our offerings, students are able to take such classes online through accredited institutions, including Virtual Virginia and OneSchoolHouse. Such offerings could potentially even allow a student to earn college credit while pursuing their academic interests.
 2. Blue Ridge School affords students who desire to take Advanced Placement exams the opportunity to do so. Inquiries into this possibility should be directed to the College Counselor.
- n. **Standardized Testing**
 Blue Ridge School serves as a test administration site for the PSAT, SAT and ACT. The Director of College Counseling assists students with the process of registering for these tests.

Copies of college admissions test scores are mailed to parents directly by the testing service. Records of all testing are maintained by BRS for each student.

All BRS teachers seek opportunities within their courses to teach the skills necessary to perform well on standardized tests. Students desiring to take an SAT Prep course are directed to the Director of College Counseling.

10. CHARACTER EDUCATION

Blue Ridge School considers it imperative that ideals such as integrity, moral courage, responsibility, respect for others, work ethic, and a healthy lifestyle are integral elements of a student's living and learning experience. Our character education program is designed to foster this integration. By promoting the tenets of good character, the program seeks to ensure that students will become responsible and positive citizens of both BRS and the global community.

The Code of Conduct serves as the framework for our character education program. The Code is central to what we do. Its elements need to be modeled by every member of our adult community and taught in every phase of school life.

The elements of the Code are introduced during student orientation and re-emphasized throughout the year in the classroom, dorm, athletic fields and social venues. The Code is reinforced through the multitude of spontaneous teaching moments that inevitably occur during the course of any school year.

Because our character education program is predicated upon our Code of Conduct, it is about much more than just the previously mentioned ideals. Students need to learn to manage themselves so as to develop productive habits in life. Time management, room organization, study skills, personal hygiene and compliance with fair, recognizable and documented rules are important components of self-discipline. Students need to know that looking their best is important to feeling their best. They will learn that dress and grooming are important and that their appearance makes an impression on people. The importance of a clean mind is emphasized, especially regarding Internet browsing and choosing video content and music that would meet the "mom" test.

It warrants special mention that the prohibition against the drugs, alcohol and tobacco products are fundamental to our character education program. We must educate our boys on both the why and the how of saying "no."

11. CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

a. Yearly Calendar

The Blue Ridge School operates on a trimester calendar. Each trimester concludes with an exam period followed by an extended break. The calendar can be accessed by clicking the calendar icon on the homepage of Blue Ridge School website. The key events calendar may be found in the appendix of this handbook.

b. The School Day

- i. A typical school day at a 24/7 boarding school like Blue Ridge follows uniquely different patterns. It starts with a rising bell most days. After rising, each boy is expected to shower, shave (if appropriate), dress, make his bed, clean his room and proceed to the dining hall.
- ii. Attendance is required at all classes that are held Monday through Friday on a rotating basis.
- iii. Attendance is required at a short devotional service in Gibson Memorial Chapel which is held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the first appointment of the class day is assembly in the auditorium.
- iv. Afternoon activities/sports are required of every boy. These activities are normally conducted 4:00-5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 3:00-4:30 pm Tuesday and Friday.
- v. All boys must be in their rooms 15 minutes before lights out. Lights out is 10:45 pm during weekdays.

c. Saturdays/Weekends

On Saturday mornings, Blue Ridge students participate in various activities including academics, character education, fine arts and/or service learning -- all are valuable supplements to classroom instruction. These activities normally run from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Additionally, many standardized tests (e.g., SAT, ACT) are scheduled on Saturdays.

Students are required to attend all Saturday functions and are not free to depart for leaves until the completion of the Saturday school day. All students must return and sign in on Sunday evenings by 7:00 pm.

Weekends preceding trimester exams are “closed” weekends. Quiet time will be observed on dorm on Friday and Saturday nights; off-campus activities will be available after the last scheduled activity on Saturdays.

d. Inclement Weather

Blue Ridge School operates under virtually all weather conditions. We have contingency plans in the event of loss of power. Classes will be held, if possible.

12. STUDENT HEALTH

24-Hour Emergency Phone Number: 434-992-0506

a. Illness/Medications

If a student becomes ill during the day, he must obtain permission to leave class and report to the Health Center. If a boy becomes ill during afternoon activities or at other times, the adult in charge will take appropriate action to include informing the parents. Parents will be notified of any illness requiring a doctor's visit, ER visit or overnight stay in the Health Center. If a student has a short stay in the infirmary, parents will not be notified.

As part of the enrollment procedure, parents must notify Admissions, the advisor and the Student Health Center of any medical circumstances or conditions which may require special medical care for their son, e.g., allergies, seizures, medicines to which he has allergic reactions. This information must be updated for returning students on their re-enrollment forms. The Director of Student Health will work with parents individually to ensure a reliable means of medication accessibility is established.

b. Student Health Center

- i. The purpose of the Student Health Center is to evaluate health concerns, to provide and assess health care, to administer medication and prescribed treatments, and to offer resources for health education. Visitors are welcome during times of illness and wellness alike.
- ii. A nurse is on duty to provide health care and to assess emergencies. The nurse will schedule doctor appointments for which a transportation fee is charged. There is also a fee for supplies obtained through the Health Center. Over-the-counter medications are given at no charge.
- iii. When students are sick and do not require a physician's evaluation, the school nurse may dispense medication per standing orders from the School physician. Standing orders include certain prescription and over-the-counter medications.
- iv. Prescription medications must be stored in the Student Health Center and administered by the nurse, or a faculty member who has been properly certified to administer medications. The only exceptions to this rule are acne medications, asthma inhalers, and daily allergy medications which can be kept and self-administered by the student, pursuant to prescribed directions for use.
- v. Prescription medications may be carried and administered by the coach/adult when students are away from the School on sanctioned trips. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the nurse on duty that he will be unable to obtain his meds at the normal med pass time. The student will also need to inform the nurse with whom he

will be traveling with and the day/time of their departure so that the nurse can ensure the appropriate adult has the necessary medication and directions for its use.

- vi. Students are permitted to keep the following over-the-counter medications in their rooms: Advil, Allegra, Claritin, Saline Nasal Spray, Tums, Tylenol, Vitamins and Zyrtec. Sharing or abuse of over-the-counter medications is an expellable offense. Students are not permitted to keep prescriptions for controlled substances, including for ADD medications, in their rooms.
- vii. While our nurses do their best to remind parents to send medication refills, it is ultimately the parents' responsibility to make sure medication refills are sent to the School in time.
- viii. Students are permitted to keep the following over-the-counter medications in their room ONLY when approved and dispensed by the Student Health Center: Dextromethorphan/cough suppressant, Diphenhydramine/Benadryl, laxatives or Pseudophedrine/Sudafed or any kind of cold medicine. Any supplement or herb of any kind in a student's possession is subject to inspection and possible confiscation if it is deemed inappropriate, potentially harmful or subject to abuse.
- ix. There are over-the-counter medications that are NOT available to students in the Health Center and are NOT allowed on dorm. Providing your child with these medications to keep in their room can result in disciplinary action of the student. The following over-the-counter medications are NOT permitted in dorms and are NOT dispensed by Student Health Services: Aspirin, Caffeine Pills, Diet Aids, Diuretics or Sleep Aids.
- x. Although the infirmary staff provides ample opportunities for students to pick up their medications and encourages them to report at designated times, it is the student's responsibility to take his medication according to the prescribed schedule. Failure to take prescribed medication can result in the student being dismissed.
- xi. The Health Center is open for routine visits Monday-Fridays 7:00am-8:00pm and Saturday-Sundays 9:00am-8:00pm. From 8:00pm-7:00am a nurse is on-call in the Health Center for emergencies only. An answering machine, a paging system and walkie-talkies are used to facilitate communication during the hours of 8:00pm-7:00am. If a student becomes ill or is injured when the Student Health Center is closed, he should report to his duty personnel, hall parent or the night-time security team, each of whom will contact the nurse if needed. Parents may reach the Student Health Center directly at (434) 992-0506 or through the School switchboard at (434) 985-2811.
- xii. Infirmary services are rendered in confidence. Both students and faculty may visit to discuss health concerns or to take advantage of the Center's educational resources.
- xiii. The Health, Safety and Environmental Policy may be found in the appendix of this handbook.

c. Injury

Any injury sustained on or contiguous to School property should be treated by the athletic trainer, if available, or by the nurse on duty. In the event medical evacuation is necessary, a BRS adult will accompany the boy to the hospital (unless it is not possible). Parents and School authorities will be notified immediately by the trainer, nurse or other School adult who is aware of the injury.

13. STUDENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL

a. The Advisor

- i. Each student is assigned to an advisor. The advisor is charged to keep abreast of the student's progress and needs in all areas of his experience at the School. Most teaching faculty and selected staff members serve as advisors.
- ii. Advisory assignments are made for one year at a time. Both advisors and advisees revisit the relationship at the end of the year. On rare occasions, changes can be made mid-year when it appears in the best interest of the boy to do so. All advisor changes must be approved by the Dean of Faculty.
- iii. Each advisor has three to eight advisees. Advisors' major responsibilities include advocating for their advisees, serving as a mentor, and acting as a stabilizing presence throughout their advisees' tenure at Blue Ridge School.
- iv. The advisor is also the parents' primary source of information concerning their son's progress at school. Whenever parents have a concern or question about their son, they should contact their son's advisor. **Advisors are required to contact each advisee's parents/guardians approximately once every two weeks.** Advisors will write formal but brief evaluations of the student's progress a few times per trimester. These reports usually consist of an email that will be sent a few days after the academic updates that are emailed home. These reports represent a baseline for communications but should not be the only time parents and advisors communicate. We encourage both parties to contact the other via email or phone, whichever is most convenient, whenever necessary.
- v. Each student's advisor meets with him regularly to review his progress. If a student experiences difficulty in a particular class, he should consult his advisor to determine the best method to improve his performance. Serious issues will be referred to the Dean of Students, Dean of Character Education, School Counselor and/or Chaplain, as appropriate. Additionally, every student meets with his advisor at the beginning of each trimester to establish personal goals for the term, and at the end of each trimester, the student evaluates his progress with his advisor.
- vi. The advisor recognizes the importance of personal growth in all areas of student life. A student should feel free to confer with his advisor on any problem that he encounters. Advisors may be able to help in a direct and active way. At the least,

they serve as interested and sympathetic listeners and refer the student to other adults as needed.

- vii. The student shares responsibility for the success of the relationship by seeking out his advisor to share observations, questions and needs. He should always notify his advisor as soon as possible in the event of an academic, disciplinary or other issue of concern.
 - viii. Advisory meetings are scheduled daily. Those periods serve several purposes. First, they allow advisors to reinforce announcements for advisees. Second, advisors can discuss campus issues or current events with advisees. Third, components of our Code of Conduct or character education can be addressed. Fourth, advisors can talk over issues with particular advisees who may be struggling for one reason or another.
 - ix. Approximately once a week, advising groups eat a meal together, then spend most of meeting period working through our advising curriculum, which includes goal setting, academic strategies, and character education themes.
 - x. The advisor also plays a key role by recommending courses for each returning advisee at the end of the year.
- b. International Student Coordinator
Blue Ridge School takes pride in our diverse student body. Ms. Angela Jackson Mapetla is our International Student Coordinator. She works to specifically support and advocate for international students within the greater school community. The coordinator also promotes cultural awareness within the community. Contact Angela Jackson Mapetla at ajacksonmapetla@blueridgeschool.com
- c. Counselor
Blue Ridge School recognizes the importance of providing a full-time counselor on campus. A full-time counselor is a member of our Blue Ridge School staff and he resides on campus to provide counseling services and referrals. He is available by appointment during the week. Contact Cameron MacDonald at: cmacdonald@blueridgeschool.com.
- d. Chapel Coordinator
Blue Ridge School is committed to developing the whole student — spiritually, intellectually, physically and emotionally. In keeping with that commitment, students are required to attend chapel services every Tuesday and Thursday as well as special chapel events several times each year.

The special chapel events are:

Convocation: Sunday, September 3 at 10:30am

Candlelight Service: Sunday, December 15th at 5:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 15 at time to be determined

Honors Service: Sunday, May 19 at 10:30 am

Baccalaureate: Friday, May 24 at 5:00 pm (seniors only)

These are times when the entire Blue Ridge School community gathers for reflection and prayer. All students, faculty and administrators are expected to attend chapel services. While we require students to participate in our on-campus chapel program, we will also make reasonable efforts to facilitate transportation for students who wish to attend additional religious services off campus.

The chaplain is responsible for implementing the Spiritual Life Program which is summarized below.

Spiritual Life Program

The Episcopal Church founded the original Blue Ridge School, establishing the School's first mission. Though we are no longer officially linked to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, and embrace students of all religious denominations and faith backgrounds, we honor our historically close relationship to the Episcopal Church by affirming this Christian denomination as a common starting point for each student's spiritual development.

The Blue Ridge School curriculum strives to encompass academic, emotional, spiritual, physical, and character growth within each individual student. Adolescence is a time when young people explore and begin to internalize their spiritual beliefs. It is our stance that thinking deeply about and defining one's spiritual beliefs is essential to a balanced, fulfilling, happy and meaningful life.

Our Anglican heritage allows us to honor the Christian tradition while respecting the many faiths represented within our community. Likewise, we seek to create an environment in which students can explore, examine, and define their own beliefs while respecting those of others. To that end and within the context of our Episcopal traditions, the purpose of the spiritual life program is based on the following tenets:

- Encourage the spiritual growth of all students; sustain faith.
- Explain the practices and tenets of the Episcopalian faith; this understanding will then be used as a common reference point for students' development of individual spiritual beliefs and practices.
- Facilitate dialogue and understanding among all members of our community.
- Support the development of character of all students.
- We believe, and expect the community to adhere to, the belief that we all should aspire to a purpose in life that goes beyond self.

Our Spiritual Life Program provides a foundation for, and is closely linked to, our Character Education Program, emphasizing ideals common to many faiths: The Golden Rule, integrity, respect, responsibility, moral courage, work ethic, a healthy lifestyle, wise stewardship of resources, and the concept of being one's Brother's Keeper.

Outcomes:

- Self-Awareness – all members of the community will have at least begun the process of exploring and defining their spiritual beliefs and the practices which express these beliefs.

- Respect – all members of the community will have opportunities to share their own ideas and respectfully listen to the ideas of others on spiritual matters.
- Commitment to Action – all members of the community are committed to the daily practice of their spiritual beliefs and will point to one concrete action each year that they believe furthers their spiritual development and pursuit of purpose.
- Brother’s Keeper – our Code of Conduct reads, “At Blue Ridge School and beyond, I will help others even when it requires personal sacrifice.” All members of the community strive to serve as Brother’s Keeper to others and will participate in the School’s community service program.

e. College Counselor

- i. The Director of College Counseling administers every aspect of the college search process. While the primary focus of this effort is upon the junior and senior classes, Blue Ridge School views this as an exciting four-year journey.
- ii. The Director of College Counseling works with each freshman and sophomore mainly to underline the importance of optimizing his learning performance and of participating in myriad co-curricular activities. Work with juniors is more intensive, and each student is expected to meet frequently with the Director to begin identifying the colleges to which he will apply during his senior year. Along with those interviews, the College Counseling Program offers a library of supportive resources: standard college guidebooks, computer search programs, individual college course catalogs, etc.
- iii. During the senior year, students primarily focus on the application process. The Director of College Counseling works with each senior as he prepares his applications and his essay; additionally, the Director coordinates the final mailing of all official application materials. Contact Amber Wilkins at awilkins@blueridgeschool.com or by calling 434-985-2811, ext. 222.

14. STUDENT CONDUCT

Life at Blue Ridge is founded on honesty, mutual trust and respect for others, as outlined in our Code of Conduct. The School expects all students to support the rules and regulations that have been established to balance individual rights with community well-being.

a. General Guidelines

- i. The discipline system is dedicated to furthering the School's mission. As such, we strive to be instructive rather than punitive. We seek appropriate remedies that are fair and consistent with the infraction and the offending student’s attitude and behavior in response to the infraction. Our goal is to change behavior, not reduce the population of the School.
- ii. Our staff and faculty are dedicated and caring professionals who interact with students in a positive and supportive manner. Students are expected to be respectful and cooperative toward faculty and staff members at all times, and vice versa. Students are

also expected to follow faculty and staff members' instructions without exception. Students who question the ethics and/or behavior of a staff or faculty member are welcome to share their views with the Dean of Faculty — after complying with the earlier instructions.

- iii. Generally, infractions of school regulations are handled by individual faculty members. However, in the case of persistent or serious disciplinary problems, faculty members will document their observations or experiences and will submit them to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will respond by scheduling a meeting with the student and/or teacher; by discussing the situation with the student's advisor; by assigning demerits or imposing other disciplinary measures; and/or by other means suited to the individual situation. He will attempt to resolve such infractions through community service to the School and/or withdrawal of privileges. Continued violation of School rules and all cases of serious violations of School rules will lead to hearings before the Honor Council or Disciplinary Committee. Likely outcomes from such hearings are work crew, in-school or out-of-school suspension, probation and possibly expulsion.
- iv. Students who habitually fail to abide by our Code of Conduct and/or who commit major offenses will be dismissed from the School. The School reserves the right to exclude or dismiss any student whose conduct or influence, in the Head of School's sole and absolute discretion, adversely affects the safety or well-being of the rest of the community.
- v. Whenever School authorities believe there is probable cause, a student and his belongings may be examined for any substances or objects which could affect his health and safety or the health, safety and social order of the School community. Any student who refuses to have his person and/or belongings examined, to include all electronic equipment, is subject to expulsion.
- vi. Offenses occurring on or off campus which will subject a student to expulsion include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Honor violations: lying, cheating, stealing.
 - 2. Cruel, abusive or disrespectful language/behavior. Emotional, verbal or physical harassment or any behavior that might resemble hazing. Bullying or tormenting is expressly prohibited. This guideline applies to all interactions between students or between students and adults.
 - 3. Illicit substance/alcohol possession, distribution and/or use.
 - 4. Violent behavior, to include vandalism.
 - 5. Any open flame inside a BRS facility.
 - 6. Any use of technology that the School deems inappropriate or denigrates the name of BRS.
 - 7. Any act which contributes to the endangerment of self or others.
 - 8. Tampering with security cameras.
- vii. If a student posts on a social media site a video or photo that shows him or other students in violation of a state or federal law or School policy, or admits to such

violations, he is subject to the School's disciplinary procedures up to and including expulsion.

viii. The following procedures will be used to administer the program of disciplinary responses:

1. All major School infractions are reported to the Dean of Students.
2. Behavioral issues regarding dorm life are documented in a nightly email report.
3. Infractions consisting of morning absences, tardiness and dress code should be reported to the Dean of Students. Any student who has a consistent infraction should be turned into the Dean of Students.
4. The Sanction Report, which lists all of the infractions turned in on that day, and the responses assigned for those infractions, is distributed to faculty members each afternoon. Advisors then discuss, with appropriate advisees, all infractions listed for them on the daily report as soon as possible.
5. If a student contests a violation that has been noted on his record, he should get an email from the teacher who reported the infraction. If a student needs help in resolving a disciplinary matter, he should seek the assistance of his advisor or the Dean of Students.
6. If a student has an excused absence (academic/athletic commitment) from work crew, he can be reassigned to a later date. Unexcused absences from work crew can result in a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
7. A student who is campused is not allowed to attend any events off-campus, with the exception of required athletic or academic trips. A student who is campused is not allowed to have visitors. If a student leaves campus when he is campused, he can be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

ix. Under certain circumstances, the School reserves the right to place a student on probation. If the conditions of the probation are broken during the probation period, the Head of School reserves the right to expel the student immediately without an SFDC meeting or Honor Council meeting.

b. Class Absences

Students are expected to attend classes and other scheduled school activities regularly and punctually. Colleges and employers carefully scrutinize attendance records in evaluating prospective students or employees.

Whenever injury or illness precludes class attendance, the appropriate teachers must be informed beforehand (whenever possible). Under normal circumstances, sick or injured students will be required to remain in the infirmary. The nurse, hall parent and advisor must be informed as soon as possible after a boy becomes ill or is injured. The duty nurse and athletic trainer are the only people on staff authorized to exempt a boy from going to class.

Students are responsible for obtaining all information and assignments when they are absent from class for any reason. They should be familiar with the competition schedule for their athletic teams in order to prepare assignments beforehand for classes which may

be missed. A student having difficulty in a class will not be permitted to miss the class for an athletic event unless all of his assignments have been presented to his teacher beforehand.

Individual teachers will reinforce school policies for absence/tardiness and consequences for unexcused accumulations of either. Teachers will report all unexcused absences to the Dean of Students.

Students are permitted three days of excused absence for college visits from third trimester of junior year through the second trimester of senior year. Such visits must be coordinated through the Dean of Character Education at least one week prior to the scheduled visit.

Students who miss class because of injury, illness and/or family business must confer with their teachers to make up missed work. Students are required to advise teachers before any known absences. The teacher will decide whether class work and/or assessments should be completed before or after the absence.

c. Excessive Absences from School

i. Extending a leave for any of the following reasons is not permitted:

1. SAT classes or other academic preparation outside the Blue Ridge School campus. Such preparation should be carefully scheduled to coincide with School leave dates. Help is available for SAT and ACT preparation on the School campus while we are in session.
2. Physical or other examinations for national service.
3. Family work or travel schedules.
4. Visits with relatives.
5. Leaving two or three days early or returning two or three days to save money on a flight is not permitted. It is best to book travel on the posted leave dates early in order to get the best price.
6. For international students, expired visas can be avoided with careful planning and will not be considered a legitimate excuse for missing school days.

ii. The School understands that both foreseeable and unforeseeable circumstances may arise that necessitate a student's absence from school beyond the published leave dates, but given the short academic year and intense nature of a boarding school curriculum, excessive absences from school are detrimental to the student and cause an undue burden on faculty. Rather than negotiate the validity of each individual circumstance, the School has adopted the policy below for any school days missed beyond those already marked in the academic calendar:

1. For any days of school missed, students must understand that the faculty are under ***no obligation whatsoever*** to make an extra effort to provide the students with material in advance of the days missed or to make time beyond that provided in the daily schedule to help them catch up after the absence.

2. Any quizzes or tests missed due to an absence will be expected to be taken the next day unless the faculty member in question determines otherwise.
3. Once a student has missed four days of school in a trimester ***for any reason, whether approved by the School or not***, each and every day missed thereafter may result in one (1) point taken off the final trimester average in all courses missed that day.
4. The School reserves the right to impose immediate academic and disciplinary penalties if, in the School's judgment, a student departs early or returns late from a leave for reasons that could and should have been avoided, such as those listed in the beginning of this section.

In the spring trimester, seniors who are deemed by the Dean of Faculty and Academics to have accumulated excessive absences or taken an early leave or late return that could have been avoided will be subject to revocation of the spring senior privileges, first and foremost, the exam exemption privilege.

- iii. In certain cases, disciplinary consequences in the form of weekend work crews may also be assigned, at the discretion of the Dean of Students.
- d. Visitors and Guests
- i. **If a student wishes to have a guest on campus**, he must receive permission from the Dean of Character Education at least two days in advance. Immediately upon arriving on campus, all visitors (including former students, family members, friends of current students and all others who are not currently members of the School community) must check-in with the Duty Team Captain. No visitors are allowed during the weekend before trimester exams.
 - ii. Occasionally, students are allowed to have overnight guests on campus, provided the following guidelines are met:
 1. The student must make arrangements in advance with a faculty member willing to act as host. The guest will spend the night in the faculty member's home, and the faculty host will take responsibility for supervising the guest while he or she is on campus.
 2. While on campus, guests are restricted to the main campus area.
 3. It is the responsibility of the student to see that his guest abides by all Blue Ridge School rules, including tobacco rules, while on our campus.
- e. Respect for Property
- Every student is expected to treat facilities/property at Blue Ridge and wherever they visit as if it were their own. We also expect each boy to respect the personal property of others at all times. The expense of repairing or replacing any facilities or property that is damaged or destroyed through irresponsible behavior will be borne by offending students. The respect with which we treat our property and that of others is a measure of the respect we have for ourselves, for each other and for our School.

f. Personal Property

All personal property and personal school materials must be marked for proper identification in event of loss. A lost and found is maintained in the Residence Life office. Any found, unclaimed personal articles should be taken to the Residence Life office. Each boy is responsible not only for his own property, but for preserving the School's Honor System and Code of Conduct regarding property that does not belong to him.

Book bags should remain in each boy's custody at all times except when he is in the dining hall. During meals, book bags should be stowed outside of the dining hall.

g. Dress Code

One of three categories of attire is appropriate for the various activities in which a student may participate while at Blue Ridge: (1) coat and tie dress, (2) acceptable dress and (3) casual dress.

i. Coat and Tie Dress:

1. Blue Ridge School maintains the boarding school tradition of coat and tie for daily wear. Coat and tie attire must be worn, beginning with breakfast through the end of classes on school days to include lunch, to chapel and on other occasions as announced.
2. Coat and tie attire means a sport coat and dress slacks (or a suit), a dress shirt, a necktie or bow tie, a belt or suspenders and dress shoes. All clothing must be clean and free of wrinkles.
3. Shoes must be dress shoes, tied if they have laces, cover the entire foot, and in good condition. Appropriate shoes for coat and tie include hard-soled loafers, topsiders, dress boots and oxfords. Unacceptable shoes include athletic shoes, work boots, hiking boots, Birkenstocks, Vans and similar dress sneakers, soft-soled moccasins, clogs and sandals.
4. Dress slacks include slacks made from traditional fabrics, such as wool, khaki, corduroy, poplin and twill. Slacks must be hemmed or cuffed and must be short enough that they do not touch the ground. Slacks may not be tucked into socks or boots and must have traditional pockets. Slacks with outside pockets at the knees, with Velcro or elastic ankle straps, or slacks made from denim fabrics are all inappropriate for coat and tie attire. Also inappropriate are slacks made in the style of jeans, with metal rivets at the pockets and patch pockets in the back. Slacks must be worn with belts or suspenders, unless they are specifically designed without belt loops. Slacks will be worn around the waist. Belts must have buckles and must be fastened.
5. Standard dress shirts are appropriate. The following are not considered dress shirts: flannel shirts, tie-died shirts, knit sports shirts and work shirts. Designs on t-shirts should not show through dress shirts. All buttons on the shirt must be buttoned, and the necktie must cover the top button. In cold weather, sweaters or sweater vests may be worn over dress shirts and neck ties. Sweatshirts, to include hooded sweatshirts, are inappropriate for coat and tie attire.
6. Only traditionally styled sport coats with standard shoulder seams and cut are appropriate. Coats must be clean and free of holes and tears. Nylon windbreakers

and athletic jackets may not be worn to class. Only raincoats or overcoats may be worn, as weather appropriate, over sport coats.

7. No hats, caps, visors, bandanas, hair nets or any other type of head gear may be worn or carried while the student is in coat and tie attire. These items may be confiscated for the remainder of the school day if worn.

ii. Acceptable Dress:

1. Acceptable dress is required for certain announced occasions.
2. Acceptable dress means slacks, jeans, shorts, footwear and collared shirts. All clothing must be clean, without tears or inappropriate writing or symbols.
3. Appropriate shirts include: dress shirts, knit polo or rugby shirts, knit turtlenecks, collared sports shirts, flannel and chamois shirts.

iii. Casual Dress:

During leisure time and weekday evening meals, students are permitted to dress as they wish. Casual dress at evening meals must be neat and clean. However, t-shirts or other clothing with objectionable slogans or references may not be worn at any time. Stud earrings are the only earrings allowed. Students may not at any time while on the Blue Ridge campus or under the jurisdiction of the School, pierce or wear jewelry on any other part of the body. Students are also strictly prohibited from giving or receiving tattoos of any kind while under the School's jurisdiction.

h. Hair Cuts and General Grooming

Students must follow these guidelines for haircuts and grooming:

- i. Neatness is the most important element of the haircut. A student might meet other requirements, but if his hair is uncombed or messy, it is unacceptable.
- ii. Students will be sent back to their dorm room if necessary whenever they are improperly dressed or groomed. The Dean of Students is to be notified if students are routinely dressed or groomed improperly.

i. Drugs and Alcohol

Blue Ridge School is dedicated to the health and well-being of every member of our community. We seek to have a wholesome, law-abiding living and learning environment. The School, therefore, expressly forbids the following:

- i. The use, possession, sale or distribution of any controlled substance, illegal drug or substance which includes spice and other artificial drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, and/or the misuse of over-the-counter drugs including over-the-counter supplements and herbs.
- ii. The misuse or abuse of any controlled substance, supplement or herb prescribed by a physician.
- iii. The use of any mood-altering substance, liquid or inhalant.

Blue Ridge School has implemented random drug testing for students, faculty and staff. If a student fails a random drug test, he will leave campus for a minimum of 48 hours to obtain a substance abuse evaluation. Also, any student placed on a contract due to a failed drug test will be drug tested several times at the discretion of the School for the duration of the disciplinary contract period. A student on such disciplinary contract who fails a drug test is subject to immediate dismissal, but his case may be heard by the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

If we suspect that a student is involved in substance abuse, the student and his parent/guardian shall immediately be alerted of our concern. Any time we receive information suggesting that a student may be using or abusing any substance, the School reserves the right to search that student and/or his dorm room and ***require that he be drug tested immediately, using an on-campus kit for which a positive result would then be verified at a local hospital.***

Blue Ridge School will support and assist any student who voluntarily seeks advice, counsel and/or treatment because he thinks he may be or may become chemically dependent. The School applauds the courage and honesty of any such individual and will endeavor, within the limits of our resources, to render appropriate assistance.

j. Nicotine Use (including e-juice, Juul, liquids, oils)

Blue Ridge School will not condone the use of any nicotine-containing substance by its students. Such substances include but are not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, dip or chew, gum, e-cigarettes or “vapes”, and hookahs or similar nicotine delivery devices. We recognize that some students may already have developed a dependency on nicotine, so one goal of our set of consequences for nicotine use is to help such students free themselves from dependency through intervention programs that may include school staff, parents and outside providers. A student desiring assistance in quitting his nicotine use may approach the infirmary staff or the Dean of Students at any time to ask for such assistance. Blue Ridge School reserves the right to drug test any student in possession of any vaping device. Based on the discretion of the Dean of Students, a student can be sent to the Student/Faculty Disciplinary Committee for using a vaping device inside a building.

The consequences for nicotine use on campus are as follows:

- i. The first violation is one day of In-School Suspension. The student calls his parents in his advisor’s presence to inform them of the violation.
- ii. The second violation is one day of In-School Suspension. A meeting with the school counselor should be scheduled to help address the issue.
- iii. The third violation is two days of Out-of-School Suspension. During this suspension time the student should see their primary doctor to help them address the issue.
- iv. Other nicotine violations will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Any student is subject to immediate expulsion for smoking inside a campus building.

k. Bicycles

The following rules apply to the presence and use of bicycles on campus:

- i. Any campus resident is required to wear and fasten a certified bicycle helmet at all times when riding a bike. Any student observed riding a bike without a helmet will have his bike confiscated until such time as he produces a helmet. Other consequences may also be assigned.
- ii. Bicycles may only be used on school property under adult supervision. Students may not ride on any public roads without an adult. This includes Route 627, which passes in front of the School, as well as the dirt roads that go to Flat Top Mountain without supervision. Students may cross Route 627 at the entrance gates to the School in order to take their bikes to the lower fields.
- iii. A student must have permission from the owner to borrow another student's bicycle.
- iv. Soiled bikes may not be taken into any school buildings. There is a bike storage room on Lower North in the dorms.
- v. The School is not responsible for any damage to or loss of bikes that are stored in buildings or on the outside racks, or for any personal bicycles used on the campus. A student who repeatedly abuses any of the rules pertaining to bicycle use will permanently lose the privilege of riding a bicycle on campus.

l. Rollerblades and Skateboards

The following rules must be observed when using rollerblades or skateboards on campus:

- i. Helmets must be worn and fastened at all times. Other protective gear, including knee pads and elbow pads, is strongly encouraged.
- ii. Skateboards and rollerblades may not be used inside any school buildings, on the ramp or walkway at the library, on any stairs, or on Bacon Hollow Road.

m. Swimming Pool

All students, staff and staff families use the swimming pool at their own risk. Blue Ridge School assumes no liability and does not provide a certified lifeguard for the swimming pool.

- i. STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE FENCED POOL AREA UNLESS THERE IS A BLUE RIDGE STAFF MEMBER PRESENT AND ON DUTY.
- ii. Running or horseplay in the pool area is forbidden.
- iii. Glass bottles are not allowed in the pool area.

- iv. Diving is allowed only in the deep end of the pool.
- v. Students must get out of the pool immediately at the first sign of an electrical storm.
- vi. Never swim alone. Always have a buddy present.

n. Lake

- i. SWIMMING IS NOT ALLOWED IN ANY LAKE OR POND ON CAMPUS.
- ii. A faculty member must supervise all boating.
- iii. Life jackets must be worn at all times while boating.
- iv. When boating, special caution must be used to avoid running into other boats or the dock.
- v. Playing, splashing or fighting with oars or paddles is forbidden.
- vi. Students must get off the lake immediately at the first sign of an electrical storm.

o. Out-of-Bounds

For reasons of safety and personnel accountability, it is important that students observe the rules concerning campus boundaries at all times. An out-of-bounds violation can result in a hearing before the Student Faculty Discipline Committee. Appendix A illustrates out-of-bounds areas for both daylight and hours of darkness.

During the week (excluding Saturday and Sunday) there are two out-of-bounds time frames: daytime hours including athletics and nighttime hours which start at nighttime study hall or nightfall (whichever comes first).

- i. Daytime boundaries of the School include:
 - 1. All academic buildings
 - 2. The Hatcher Williams Library
 - 3. Student Health Center
 - 4. Resident halls (Boogher and Walsh dorms)
 - 5. Gibson Memorial Chapel
 - 6. The Field House
 - 7. Fred Morris Drive (behind the School) from the Student Health Center to the Student Center
 - 8. The athletic practice and playing fields
 - 9. The lawn and Blue Ridge lake edge
- ii. Weekday nighttime boundaries include the daytime boundaries except (students are not to travel to these four areas after dark):
 - 1. Athletic practice and playing fields
 - 2. Anywhere behind the field house
 - 3. The far side of the Blue Ridge pond

4. The road that runs behind Walsh and Boogher dorms
 5. Battle House.
- iii. AFTER 6:00 PM ALL YEAR, THE MOUNTAIN IS OFF-LIMITS EXCEPT FOR ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION. The mountain off-limits area starts on the outer edge of Fred Morris Drive and anywhere on Fred Morris Drive beyond the infirmary or student center. This off-limits area includes the music barn unless accompanied by a faculty/staff member.
 - iv. Students must sign-out with a faculty member in the Walsh Dorm lobby in order to go on the mountain. Students can only go on the mountain in groups of three or more. Students who check out to go on the mountain must personally check in with the faculty member in Walsh Dorm lobby as soon as they return.
 - v. It is important to note that being on the mountain without signing-out or signing back in or being on the mountain when campused constitutes an out-of-bounds violation.
 - vi. The following areas are out-of-bounds to students at all times:
 1. Maintenance buildings
 2. Storage rooms
 3. Furnace rooms
 4. Roofs of all buildings
 5. Barns (except by permission)
 6. Construction areas
 7. Dumpsters
 8. Attics and basements of all buildings
 - vii. The following areas are out of bounds to students unless supervised by an adult:
 1. Log cabin
 2. Ropes course
 3. All lakes and ponds
 4. Swimming pool
 5. Weight room
 6. Training room
 7. Rehab room
 8. Climbing tower
 9. All classrooms, labs and offices
 10. Outdoor classroom (bouldering room is permitted)
 11. Any areas currently under construction
- p. Dining Hall Regulations
- i. The dining hall is open for meals only during scheduled times. Students should form a single-file line at the head of the steps at the entrance to the dining hall and wait in an orderly fashion for a signal from the duty person before entering the dining room. Seniors may form at the head of the line for weekday lunches only and will be admitted ahead of underclassmen.

- ii. Students are expected to exercise good manners and to conduct themselves appropriately in the cafeteria.
 - iii. Everyone is expected to clean up after himself before leaving the cafeteria. This includes transporting all tableware, silverware and napkins to the conveyor belt and placing paper items and utensils in designated receptacles.
 - iv. Students should take only as much food as they expect to eat.
 - v. Students may go back for second helpings for food or drink at any time during the meal.
 - vi. The dining hall is off-limits to students outside of meal times without special permission.
 - vii. Occasionally athletic contests may run late, leaving team members without enough time to change into acceptable dress. Coaches must accompany team members to the cafeteria to validate that they be admitted in their sports attire. These requests will only be considered during the last 15 minutes of the meal.
 - viii. Students who are working in the kitchen must dress in the appropriate manner, as designated by the Food Service Manager.
- q. Motor Vehicles
Other than e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, or similar electric mobility devices, students are not permitted to maintain any type of motorized vehicle on or within 5 miles of the Blue Ridge School campus. Students are not permitted to ride with drivers under 21 years of age, other than siblings, at any time. A student may drive when his parents are in the car. At no time may a student drive with another Blue Ridge student in the car even if a parent is present. Any violation of any part of this policy can subject the student to a Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee hearing.
- r. Harassment
Blue Ridge School is committed to providing a working and learning environment for all employees, vendors, alumni, volunteers, students, and guests, free from verbal or physical conduct which harasses, disrupts, or interferes with another or creates an intimidating, degrading, offensive or hostile environment.
- Harassment in any form is strictly prohibited. This includes verbal or physical conduct and/or written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexuality, or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates. Prohibited harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to any of the above descriptors.

s. Sexual Harassment

i. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct or written communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the educational experience or institutional relationship; OR
2. Submission to, or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic/educational decisions, or other business or institutional relationships affecting such an individual; OR
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work, academic performance, participation in School-sponsored activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

ii. Sexual harassment takes many forms and includes many kinds of behavior, which may be offensive to others. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexual flirtation, touching, advances or propositions;
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature;
- Graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's attire or body;
- Sexually degrading words to describe an individual; or
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures.

iii. Sexual harassment may involve behavior by a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender, when that behavior falls within the definition outlined above. Possible examples may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Seeking sexual favors or relationships in return for an educational opportunity;
- Repeated insulting or demeaning statements or gestures related to gender which adversely affect a person's ability to fulfill his academic and extracurricular activities;
- Intentional and undesired physical contact.

t. Complaint Process

i. It is the policy of Blue Ridge School that investigations of complaints of alleged sexual harassment will be conducted promptly and confidentially. Appropriate steps will be taken to resolve complaints without fear of reprisal against the individual bringing the complaint.

ii. Blue Ridge School views allegation of sexual harassment with the utmost seriousness. Making a knowingly false accusation of sexual harassment is prohibited. If the School's investigation concludes that a complaint is valid, sanctions for the harasser may include a number of measures up to and including dismissal.

iii. An individual wishing to file a complaint of sexual harassment should pursue the following steps:

1. Discuss the matter with the School's Head of School. If the matter is not resolved to the individual's satisfaction, the individual may submit a complaint as set forth in step 2 of this procedure.

2. Submit the complaint in writing to the Head of School. A written response will normally be given to the complainant within 15 workdays.
3. If the complaint is still not resolved, it shall be reviewed by the Chairman of the School's Board of Trustees. An appointment to discuss the complaint will be scheduled with the Chairman normally within 10 workdays of the date the Chairman receives the complaint. The Chairman will normally render a decision on the complaint within 15 workdays of the meeting. The decision by the Chairman of the School's Board of Trustees on a complaint shall constitute the final decision of the School.
4. Complaints directed against the Head of School may be taken directly to the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board Chair will constitute the final decision of the School on any complaints brought directly to the Board Chairman.

u. Sexual Abuse Policy

Blue Ridge School prohibits and does not tolerate sexual abuse in the workplace, or in any School-related activity. The School provides procedures for students, faculty, staff, volunteers, family members, Board members, victims of sexual abuse or others to report sexual abuse and disciplinary penalties for those who commit such acts. No faculty, student or staff member, volunteer or third party, no matter his/her title or position, has the authority to commit or allow sexual abuse.

Blue Ridge School has a zero-tolerance policy for any sexual abuse. Upon completion of the investigation, findings of sexual abuse will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and criminal prosecution.

Sexual abuse includes inappropriate sexual contact of a criminal nature or interaction for gratification of the adult who is a caregiver and responsible for the child's care. Sexual abuse includes sexual molestation, sexual assault, sexual exploitation or sexual injury, but does not include sexual harassment. (See the School's statement on harassment). Any incidents of sexual abuse reasonably believed to have occurred will be reportable to appropriate law enforcement agencies and regulatory agencies.

- i. Report Procedure: If you are aware of or suspect sexual abuse is taking place, you must immediately report it to the Head of School. Next, if the suspected abuse is to a child then it should be reported to the Virginia Child Abuse Agency.
- ii. Whistle Blower Policy: Blue Ridge School prohibits retaliation made against any student who reports, in good faith, a complaint of sexual abuse or who participates in any related investigation. Making false accusations of sexual abuse in bad faith can have serious consequences for those who are wrongly accused. The School prohibits making false and/or malicious sexual abuse allegations, as well as deliberately providing false information leading to or during an investigation. Anyone violating this policy is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
- iii. Investigation and Follow-Up:
 1. Blue Ridge School will take all allegations of sexual abuse seriously and will promptly and thoroughly investigate whether sexual abuse has taken place. The

School may, at its discretion, use an outside third party to conduct an investigation. The School will also cooperate fully with any investigation conducted by law enforcement or other regulatory agencies.

2. Blue Ridge School, hereby, gives notice that it has the option of placing the accused on suspension, while investigating charges of sexual abuse.
3. Blue Ridge School will make every reasonable effort to keep the matters involved in the allegation as confidential as possible, while still allowing for a prompt and thorough investigation.

15. PROCEDURES FOR LEAVING AND RETURNING TO CAMPUS

a. Types of Leave

The first is our Scheduled Vacations consisting of six specific vacations which are processed by the custodial parent/guardian and submitted into Orah 10 days prior to the date listed online at our website. Details follow in the next section.

The second is for other occasions, which may be requested by the student or parent/guardian and are due 3 days prior to the beginning of the requested leave dates. These leaves consist of Open weekends, Standard weekends, Day Leaves (where the student is to travel with someone not already approved by you) and Other Absences which are processed through Orah (the Blue Ridge School tracking system), in conjunction with the information in the Leave & Transportation Permission Form you submitted at the time of enrollment.

The Leave and Transportation Permissions Form provided by parent/guardian information you provide, as parent/guardian, authorizes BRS to release your son as you designate and for him to travel as you have arranged, including when unaccompanied. Understand that BRS is not responsible for supervising or caring for your son following his release and/or during his travel, until his return to the BRS campus.

It is imperative that all students return to campus by 7:00 PM on the last day of a vacation or any other leave. If a student is delayed en route to the School, he should call his parents so that, if necessary, alternative plans can be made. The parents should then call the School (434-992-0501) advising us of the delay and change in travel plans. The School cannot guarantee assistance in transportation needs in the event of delayed returns.

It is vital that the School be able to account for a student's whereabouts. The School takes its responsibility very seriously to ensure that students do not leave the campus without parental permission very seriously. For these reasons, leaving school without permission from the Residence Life office may result in a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee immediately upon the student's return to school. Students are not permitted to take overnight leave on Closed Weekends. It is paramount that the family and student understand that being signed out does not equate to having an "Approved" leave. Only leaves requests that are received by noon Friday for that weekend will be appropriately "Approved" assuming all relevant faculty have been informed and agreed to release the student from any weekend obligations. A student who is picked up by a family member

but does not have an approved leave form will be released, but with the understanding that he does not have “Approved” permission to leave. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he is following the School’s policies and procedures. Students who regularly miss school required events may be sent before the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee and are subject to academic penalties.

It is the student’s responsibility:

- to ensure his request has been approved in Orah.
- to confirm that he has not been assigned to Work-Crew or been campused.
- to sign out in the Walsh Lobby with a faculty member when he leaves and signs back in when he returns to School.

b. Scheduled Vacations

- i. Links on the website (<https://www.blueridgeschool.com/parents/parents-calendar/>) are provided within the forms which the parent/guardian complete and submit online by the deadline indicated. During three occasions - Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break - campus is closed and all students must leave campus before 9:00 am the morning after leave begins. On other vacations leave is optional, our campus will remain open, and we will assume your son will remain here unless you have submitted a leave form by the deadline.
- ii. Deadlines: Please pay particular attention to the deadlines so we can help monitor the safe departure and return of your son. Only with your timely attention can we help the boys with their travel plans and help monitor their safe return (for students traveling by plane, a purchased ticket will be required to validate travel plans). Your cooperation and support of this goal is invaluable and is most appreciated.
- iii. Early/late Consequences: Because early departures and late returns are very disruptive to our students, we ask parents’ cooperation in coordinating travel arrangements that coincide with the School’s schedule of holidays and leave times.
- iv. School is in session until 12:00 PM at the start of each vacation and until 12 PM at the End of Year Departure. Students are expected to return by 7:00 PM at the end of vacations. Please check the school calendar for return days.

International Travel: Due to the infrequency of international flights, students traveling internationally will be permitted to remain in the dorms until 9:00 AM the morning after the scheduled leave dates of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break. All underclassmen not staying for graduation must depart campus by 4:00 pm the day of Commencement (Graduation). Parents and guardians of international students are asked to contact the Dean of Character Education or Angela Jackson Mapetla at ajacksonmapetla@blueridgeschool.com.

- v. Consequences: In addition to the possible academic effects on grades and penalties resulting from missed study and class time, the school reserves the right to charge a \$100 teacher preparation, alternative assessment and/or proctoring fee for each class day, exam or school commitment missed or rescheduled before and after school

breaks. Only on rare occasions, such as family emergencies or illnesses, are exceptions made to stated departure and arrival times, and these must be approved in advance by Mr. Jim Douglas, Academic Dean. EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE MADE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE ROUTINE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

- vi. Transportation Information: When Leave Forms are submitted by the deadline, we can help coordinate transportation to and from Charlottesville Airport (CHO), Greyhound bus station or Amtrak train station, and Washington/Dulles Airport (IAD). Be sure to schedule enough time for your son to get through security and check-in: at least two (2) hours for departures from Charlottesville for domestic travel and three (3) hours for international travel from Dulles (please contact Greyhound/Amtrak for advice on this timeline). Please note that we do not provide transportation to Reagan National Airport (DCA), Richmond (RIC) or Baltimore International Airport (BWI).
- vii. School regulations are in effect while a student is in transit to and from the School.
- viii. BRS School bus: A Leave Report will be posted before a Scheduled Vacation. Your son needs to check his name and confirm the information. If he is listed as using a bus for departing and/or returning, it is his responsibility to board on time. Departing campus via BRS School bus:
 - 1. To Charlottesville (CHO); the bus will arrive at Charlottesville airport by 1:00 PM and Amtrak/Greyhound stations approximately 30 minutes after that drop off. If there is sufficient demand, an additional bus to CHO will leave campus at approximately 3:00 PM. Students who need transportation to the Charlottesville train or bus station after 3:00 PM can make prior arrangements with the Office of Residence Life when Leave Requests are submitted.
 - 2. To Washington Dulles (IAD); the bus will arrive at Dulles Airport by 3:00 PM and will drop-off students at Domestic Departures.
 - 3. The end of year schedule differs. Transportation will be provided for those who sign up and buses will leave at 1:00 PM to Charlottesville (arriving at CHO by 1:30 PM) and to Dulles Airport (arriving at IAD by 3:30 PM). The morning of graduation, students leaving in the morning will have a taxi arranged for them.
- ix. Returning to campus via BRS School bus: If your son's return is delayed or plans are changed, please contact the Office of Residence Life (434) 992-0427 before 4 PM or (434) 992-0501 after 4:00 PM if possible.
 - 1. From Charlottesville (CHO): buses will pick up from CHO/Amtrak/Greyhound starting at 1:00 PM and running until 7:30 PM. Students who need transportation from the Charlottesville train or bus station after 7:30 PM can make prior arrangements with the Office of Residence Life when Leave Request Forms are submitted.
 - 2. From Washington Dulles (IAD): A faculty member will meet your son at Domestic Arrivals, Arrival Door 6 (the exit doors nearest Baggage Claim #5), and

will leave IAD at 4:00pm. Please use this link for a map of Dulles Airport:

[https://www.flydulles.com/sites/default/files/terminal-entire airport web version 6 june 2019 no tap.pdf](https://www.flydulles.com/sites/default/files/terminal-entire%20airport%20web%20version%206%20june%202019%20no%20tap.pdf)

3. If your son is on the Dulles Bus Leave Report List but does not meet the bus, he may be charged. If his plans change, please call the Office of Residence Life.
- x. Taxi Cab Use: If your son's departure or return does not coincide with the BRS bus schedule above and he will need a taxi, he may contact the Office of Residence Life for assistance in securing a taxi. Please be aware that any scheduling of taxis will be seen as a commitment on your son's part and he will be charged by the taxi company. Should your son's plans change, he must cancel the reservation a minimum of 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up time. If this cancellation is not done, he will be charged for the service whether he uses the scheduled driver or not (this is barring extenuating circumstances such as flight delays and cancellations). We do not allow students to use UBER or similar companies due to their lack of background and other safety/security checks..
- xi. Motor Vehicles: with the exception of electric bikes, skateboards, scooters, and similar mobility devices, students are not permitted to maintain any type of motorized vehicle on or within 5 miles of the Blue Ridge School campus. Students are not permitted to ride with drivers under 21 years of age, other than siblings, at any time. A student may drive when his parents are in the car. At no time may a student drive with another Blue Ridge student in the car even if a parent is present.
- xii. School-sponsored Events: On occasion your son might join a school group for a school-sponsored travel or athletic event during a vacation period. Please write this on the leave form and include details of his travel plans which may occur before or after the school-sponsored outing, as appropriate. We will pass your information on to the teacher hosting the trip.
- xiii. Hosting/Visiting: The forms used by parents for Scheduled Vacations provide spaces for input of invitations and permissions. In all cases an adult host needs to extend an invitation, and a parent/guardian needs to accept. This parent/guardian acceptance authorizes BRS to release your son to your declared host. Understand that BRS is not responsible for supervising or caring for your son following that release until his return to BRS campus. Students are not allowed to take overnight leaves with anyone under 21 years of age.
- xiv. If your son's plans change, simply submit a new leave form. We will use the most recent form to gather our information. On travel days, please call the Residence Life office. After 4:30 PM, call our Duty Captain directly at 434-992-0501.
- xv. Your Son's Responsibility: It is the student's responsibility to check Orah to make sure that his permission is on file and his leave is complete and correct, and that it has been approved before leaving the campus. It is his responsibility to confirm that he has not been assigned to work crew or campused. It is also the student's responsibility

to sign out with a faculty member when he leaves and sign in when he returns to school with the faculty on duty.

c. Other Occasions

- i. Your son is to complete, get necessary permission, and submit a Leave Request on Orah no later than three days prior to his departure. HE WILL NEED PERMISSION FROM HIS TEACHERS SO HE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS WELL IN ADVANCE. By asking your son to take this responsibility, the procedure provides an opportunity for advisors, teachers and coaches to have input into your son's plans. Blue Ridge School reserves the right to deny overnight or weekend leaves if they are determined to be detrimental to either the student or the School. The parent/guardian must also approve the requested leave. Parents/guardians may request the leave but it is still up to the student to gain the necessary faculty permission.
- ii. Deadlines: Please encourage your son to pay particular attention to the deadline of the preceding Wednesday so we can help monitor the safe departure and return of your son. His form should be completed by Wednesday night. We rely on your timely cooperation which enables us to prior approve his leave.
- iii. To be approved for these leaves, and within the guidelines you submitted via the Leave & Transportation Permission section on his Enrollment Form, your son must:
 1. Ensure his request has been approved on Orah a minimum of 24 hours prior to departure to be sure he has permission to leave.
 2. Confirm that he is not on the work crew or campused list.
 3. Sign out in the Walsh Lobby with a faculty member, and sign back in when he returns.
 4. He can contact the Office of Residence Life if he has a question.
- iv. If he is unable to submit a request for prior approval your son must:
 1. Contact the faculty on duty who will make sure that the appropriate permissions are on file (the Leave & Transportation Permission Form you completed in the enrollment form,) and/or that the adult who has come for him is his custodial parent. The faculty on duty may ask your son to contact his custodial parent to get approval if there is a question. This faculty member will also sign the student out showing that he/she is permitting the student to leave, but this does not equate to an "Approved" leave as that faculty member may not be aware of that individual student's obligations.
 2. He needs to confirm that he is free of school commitments and is not campused.
 3. It is the student's responsibility to get approval from the faculty on duty and sign out in the Walsh lobby with a faculty member and sign in upon his return, in conjunction with this faculty member.
- v. Students are expected to return to campus by 7:00 pm Sunday (Sunday evening Study Hall is mandatory and begins at 7:30 pm). If your son is delayed en route he should call his parents so alternative plans can be made. The parents should then call the school (434-992-0501) advising us of the delay and change in plans.

- vi. We will not be offering our BRS School bus transportation for regular or Open Weekend leaves. School regulations are in effect while a student is in transit to and from the School.
- vii. Taxi Cab Use: When your son's leave request is submitted by the deadline and he contacts the Office of Residence Life, we can assist him with getting a taxi. Please be aware that any scheduling of taxis will be seen as a commitment on your son's part, and he will be charged by the taxi company.

16. RESIDENCE LIFE

The well-being of individual students and the quality of student life, in general, can best be assured by providing an environment of home-away-from-home where the boys can relax and enjoy the camaraderie of communal living. We work to ensure that the boys feel safe and secure in and around their living space. Furthermore, our dorm leadership aspires to maintain a sense of organization, order and cleanliness in the respective halls.

The Dean of Character Education and hall parents preside over a residential community in which the students learn to live with others in a cooperative manner, develop self-discipline, respect the rights and privacy of peers and develop a sense of pride in maintaining the residence halls appropriately. Weekday and weekend duty team members also play an integral role in maintaining appropriate dorm decorum as they interact with students.

We perceive each wing in the residence halls as an extended family. Each hall parent is responsible for the atmosphere and general appearance of that hall. He also acts as a counselor to the students who live there. The Dean of Character Education coordinates and supervises the efforts of the hall parents. Contact Hans Hermanson at 434-992-0521 with any questions.

a. Room Assignments/Changes

- i. Prior to leaving for summer vacation, returning students have an opportunity to request roommates and halls for the following year. Roommates and room assignments are then made by the Dean of Character Education. Specific requests (e.g., to room with a friend) should be made well in advance of the opening of school. The Dean of Character Education and the Director of Admissions coordinate to assign every new student a roommate based on information obtained from roommate questionnaires and information gathered during interviews.
- ii. At times, students have differences with their roommate. Having students work through these situations strengthens both their problem-solving skills and their social skills. One of the enduring lessons of boarding school life is that roommates should make every effort to resolve differences in a mature manner. The hall parent, the Dean of Character Education, advisors and counselor work together to resolve differences and create enjoyable room environments. In most cases, roommates are compatible and remain together for the entire school year. However, situations arise

when students wish to change roommates. The Dean of Character Education is the only person who makes rooming changes, and all questions regarding these changes should be directed to him. Students who move must check out of their existing room and check in to their new room. The check in/out hall notebooks are in the residence life office for use during this transition. Any damages to the room must be paid for, keys must be exchanged, all belongings moved and the check in/out form completed and signed.

International Student Rooming Policy: All new and returning international students will be placed with a student who does not speak their native language except if this language is English.

b. General Residence Hall Policies

- i. Each student is responsible for everything in his room and for everything that happens in his room.
- ii. Due to the possibility of fire, no kitchen appliances (hot plates, toasters, popcorn makers, etc.) or space heaters are allowed in dorm rooms. Microwaves are available for student use in dorm TV lounges. Coffee pots and hot pots with automatic shut off will be permitted.
- iii. No more than one desk chair and easy chair is allowed per student; or one loveseat no longer than five feet in length (not a sleep sofa) for two roommates.
- iv. Small rugs are permitted, as long as the edges are bound and they do not extend under the furniture. All rugs must be swept/vacuumed weekly by the owner.
- v. Personal items and furniture must be kept in presentable fashion throughout the year. Furniture/items that exhibit excessive wear or are not presentable must be removed from the dorm room.
- vi. With the exception of the desk chair, school furniture must remain in the room.
- vii. No pets (including fish, gerbils, birds, etc.) are permitted in the residence halls.
- viii. Blankets, or comparable materials, used to create a caving effect for individual beds creates a safety hazard and are therefore forbidden.
- ix. Kiddie pools are not permitted in the dorm rooms.
- x. Food must be kept in airtight containers.
- xi. The following guidelines apply regarding wall decorations:
 1. The only places where tacks may be used are on the cork boards provided in Walsh Dorm rooms and on the wooden wall moldings in Boogher Dorm. Only tacks should be used on those surfaces.

2. Only fasteners that do not leave residue may be used to secure decorations in dorm rooms. For this reason, duct tape is prohibited.
 3. Items may not be attached to ceilings, doors or light units.
 4. An excessive number of posters or pictures constitutes a fire hazard.
 5. Sexually suggestive materials of any sort are not permitted.
 6. Drug, tobacco or alcohol-related posters/advertisements are not permitted.
 7. Materials that might be offensive to any particular ethnic group, religion or nationality are not permitted.
 8. Windows may not be covered with the exception of acceptable blinds or curtains. Tension rods are required for hanging curtains. Blankets, sheets, towels and tapestries are not acceptable as window shades.
 9. Iridescent markers and stickers may not be used on walls or ceilings.
-
- xii. Electronic devices and computers must be played with the volume low. If noise can be heard outside of a room, either in the hallway or outside the residence hall, it is an infringement on the rights of others. If noise is a consistent problem, devices may be confiscated.
 - xiii. Desktop computers and monitors are allowed but must be equipped with wireless internet connection capability as students are not permitted to “hardwire” into the school’s internet.
 - xiv. Rooms can become cluttered with belongings, preventing effective cleaning of the space. Hall parents and other faculty may ask students to send items home if room cleanliness is inhibited by clutter.
 - xv. Gambling in any form is forbidden in the dorms.
 - xvi. Possession of firearms, chemical agents, BB guns, pellet guns, knives and other weapons are forbidden. Paint ball guns may be stored in the Residence Life Office.
 - xvii. Water guns may not be used inside residence halls.
 - xviii. Cell phones are allowed; however, they cannot be used during the academic day and after lights out, or in violation of School policy. Cell phones will be confiscated if used improperly.
 - xix. The possession or use of walkie-talkies, intercoms, police scanners, CB radios or any other similar electronic communication device is prohibited.
 - xx. Students may not have matches or cigarette lighters on campus, nor may they burn any items, including candles and incense. Burning items of any kind inside a dorm will result in a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
 - xxi. Only Prefects may have a television in their room. Proctors and Prefects may have a microwave in their room. Only Prefects, Proctors, Honor Council and Disciplinary Committee members may have refrigerators.

- xxii. Students may not have, view or stream any movies that exceed a rating of PG-13 or any video games that exceed an ESRB rating of (T) Teen.
- xxiii. All students are expected to remain in their rooms after lights out. Any activity after lights out, outside of dorm rooms, can result in a hearing before the DC.
- xxiv. To properly account for all students over weekends, all students remaining on campus must check in at varying points over the weekend.

c. Room Inspection

- i. Dorm rooms should be kept orderly and clean for several reasons. Emptying trash, changing sheets and removing dirt and dust are fundamental to maintaining a healthy living environment. Students' organizational skills and individual pride will improve as they learn to properly maintain their living space. The state of a room is also a direct reflection of the occupant. The better a room looks, the better a young man will feel about himself.
- ii. Hall parents inspect all dorm rooms under their charge each Monday – Wednesday and Friday. If a student fails inspection, their room will be re-inspected the same evening. Failure to clean will not immediately result in a disciplinary response but may if the student consistently fails or refuses to clean.
- iii. The following standards will be maintained and confirmed by daily inspection:
 - 1. Beds must be made with both a top and bottom sheet. (All bed linens must be tucked in at the bottom and on the sides. There should be no lumps. Sleeping bags may not be used in place of bed linens).
 - 2. Floors must be swept or vacuumed, as needed, including under beds and other furniture. There should be no papers or other debris on the floor.
 - 3. All lights and electrical appliances are turned off (fans, electronics, etc.), except for the AC/heating unit.
 - 4. Trash cans must be emptied.
 - 5. All items on desks, dressers and other areas must be organized and orderly.
 - 6. Clean clothing must be hung in the closet or neatly arranged in the cubicles or drawers. Dirty clothes are to be in laundry bags/containers.
 - 7. Sheets must be changed every week on the day before laundry day.
 - 8. Furnishings must be arranged in such a manner that entry into and exit from the room is not impeded and so that both desks can readily be seen from the door.

d. Halls

Each week, students on each hall are assigned to complete jobs in common areas. Hall parents are charged to ensure that these are acceptably completed. The following is a list of responsibilities for each hall.

- i. Hallway and TV rooms are swept and cleaned.
- ii. Bathroom is cleaned; bathroom trash is emptied. This entails sweeping and placing any clothing/shower items left in the shower area in the catch box.

e. Room Security

The School will do its best to ensure the security of students' belongings by providing rooms with working locks and access to secure storage for valuables in the Business Office. However, the School will not accept responsibility for lost, misplaced, missing or stolen property. All property should be marked with the owner's name or initials. Serial numbers of expensive electronic equipment should be recorded with the Dean of Character Education. Each student is responsible for ensuring his room is locked at all times when he is not there, and that any items of value are stored in the Business Office safe. Replacement dorm room keys are available through the Dean of Character Education for a fee of \$10.00.

f. Fire Alarm

Whenever a fire alarm sounds, every student must immediately report to the Chapel and sit in his assigned seat. No student may leave the Chapel until all are dismissed by the Residence Life Coordinator or Duty Captain. Students must report to the front lawn at the fence near the dock in the event the Chapel cannot be used.

g. Faculty Duty in Residence Halls

Living and working in a boarding school is more than a job; it is a way of life. In addition to their teaching and coaching responsibilities, faculty members at Blue Ridge also provide supervision in the residence halls and other areas of campus during waking hours when students are not in class or athletics. Each full-time faculty member is assigned to a weekday duty team once a week and to a weekend duty team approximately every 4 weeks. These duty teams supplement the work of the hall parents by covering the hours from wake up until bedtime 7 days a week.

17.CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

While the academic curriculum is at the core of our mission, co-curricular programs also directly contribute to our ability to fulfill that mission. The co-curriculum encompasses all that we do beyond the classroom and study hall, including Character Education, Residence Life, Student Leadership, Athletics, the Outdoor Program, both Visual and Performing Arts, Advising and the Chapel Program. While boys spend an average of 4 hours and 20 minutes per weekday in class and another 2 hours per weekday in study hall, the remaining seventeen hours and forty minutes per day are also vitally important to their development. Like our

academic curriculum, we strive to ensure that the co-curriculum is personalized, structured and innovative.

All of our afternoon programs meet the following criteria:

- The activity must be challenging, forcing the student out of his comfort zone so he learns and grows.
- The activity must offer opportunities for success and failure.
- It must encourage and contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

On average, a student spends twice as much time with his coach as he spends with most of his classroom teachers. For this reason, it is essential that our coaches model and teach our Code of Conduct.

Afternoon Activities for 2023-2024

Fall	Winter	Spring
Football	Varsity Basketball	Varsity Lacrosse
Varsity Soccer	JV Basketball	JV Lacrosse
JV Soccer	Squire (Freshmen) Basketball	Baseball
Cross-Country	Strength & Conditioning	Track
Mixed Martial Arts	Indoor Soccer	Golf
Outdoor Program	Outdoorsmen	Varsity Tennis
Outdoorsmen	Outdoor Program	JV Tennis
Mountain Biking	Drama (Musical)	Outdoor Program
Robotics	Art	Mountain Biking

Athletic Participation Policy

Students must participate in an afternoon activity each season. Each year, two of those three activities must be physically active in nature. In other words, students may choose one activity that is considered non-physically active, such as robotics, drama, art, or managing a sport.

In order to be a team manager, a student must have completed his co-curricular graduation requirements. Graduation requirements include one experience in the outdoors (which may be an afternoon activity, an elective class, or a summer trip), one experience in the arts (which may be an afternoon activity or an elective class), and two seasons of a competitive sport.

This requirement may be waived by the Athletic Director in exceptional situations, such as when a student is recovering from an injury.

a. Athletics

Blue Ridge School is a member of the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference (BRAC). Their standards include statements on sportsmanship, recruiting, eligibility, officials, scheduling, equipment safety measures and exceptions to National Federation Rules for all sports. It is extremely important that coaches adhere to these policies and procedures. For more information on the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) and VIC policies and procedures, please contact the Athletic Director.

Interscholastic athletic contests are usually scheduled on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays though sometimes our teams complete on other days. During the spring, there are many out-of-school events such as college visits, proms, and AAU games that conflict with BRS team schedules. We expect the BRS schedules to take priority in most situations. For example, we support participation in AAU tournaments as long as they do not conflict with scheduled school athletic events for teams on which the boys are members or other mandatory school activities, including the spring Character Education trips. Absences from sports must be approved in advance to avoid disciplinary and academic penalties.

One of the most important goals of the athletic program is to maintain an atmosphere of sportsmanship and proper perspective for participants and fans. We seek an atmosphere of mutual respect that is shared among the competitors, officials, and fans. We want to be known as a school that produces successful and well-coached teams, but also one where the players and fans conduct themselves properly.

Each coach is responsible for controlling the actions of his players on the field and off the field. This includes at other schools, on buses and vans, and in public areas. Our student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves as ambassadors for the school at all times.

A Blue Ridge student athlete/coach who is ejected from any athletic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled contest.

Academic Eligibility Policy for Athletic Competition

The following academic eligibility policy was established as of August 2022:

Students' grades will be checked at the mid-point of every trimester, and every Friday for the remainder of the term and GPA for core courses will be calculated. Students' eligibility to compete in interscholastic sports or go off-campus for any afternoon event will then be determined by the scale below.

- *If GPA is less than 2.3* – warning that loss of eligibility to compete in games is pending Students will be notified that they are approaching a loss of eligibility.
- *If GPA is less than 2.0* – mandatory removal from competitive play; student is ineligible to participate in athletic contests

Students who are deemed academically ineligible to compete (GPA less than 2.0) may not participate in any game, home or away. These students may not participate in any co-curricular event that takes place off-campus in the afternoon.

Students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.3 are encouraged to consult with the FLC on a plan to improve grades. Students deemed academically ineligible with a GPA below the 2.0 level are required to develop a plan with the FLC to improve grades and performance.

b. Performing Arts

To communicate with others through the active arts is an essential component of what it means to be fully human. Therefore, every Blue Ridge boy should have some experience in things creative, whether in music, movement, words or visual images or some combination thereof. We are aiming for excellence and will be continually raising the bar on what the boys think they can and cannot do; but our emphasis remains on providing entry-level opportunities for all the boys to try their hand at some aspect of the active/performing arts. A variety of instrumental, vocal and theatre opportunities are available.

c. Outdoor Program

The Blue Ridge School Outdoor Program strives to take advantage of our unique mountain location by encouraging nontraditional activities, teamwork, personal challenges and a respect for the natural world. On-campus facilities include a climbing tower, a zip line, high ropes and low ropes courses, myriad walking/biking trails, the Rymer Shooting Range, kayaks and canoes as well as our beautiful lakes and forests. In addition to the regularly scheduled athletic/activities period each weekday, a variety of weekend outdoor activities are planned, including fishing, mountain climbing, backpacking, biking, whitewater rafting, caving and skiing. Students can also take outdoor elective classes as part of their daily academic schedule.

The Outdoor Program offers three distinct afternoon activities that leverage our location on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains as an opportunity to push students beyond their physical and psychological comfort zones. The activities to which the boys are exposed can become lifelong pursuits.

Afternoon Outdoors: The afternoon outdoor program provides excellent opportunities for students to learn new outdoor skills and develop an appreciation for nature and the environment. Activities each trimester include hiking, camping, rock climbing, skiing and snowboarding (winter trimester), mountain biking, canoeing and teambuilding activities.

Mountain Biking: The afternoon mountain biking program provides an alternative competitive and physical activity for our students, taking full advantage of our trail system on campus. Students participate in local races in the fall trimester and the Virginia High School race series in the spring.

Outdoorsmen Program: The purpose of the Blue Ridge School Outdoorsmen Program is to teach our students the skills necessary to ethically, safely and responsibly enjoy and explore wilderness areas, including hunting and fishing. We seek to create an experiential learning environment that encourages teamwork and provides opportunities for leadership. We specifically focus on the following core components: physical fitness, land navigation with map and compass, marksmanship and safe firearms handling, fly-fishing, archery, and outdoor ethics. The Outdoorsmen go on several fishing and hunting trips during the course of the year.

d. Community Service

Community Service is part of the Character Education Program. We partner with Greene County Alliance of church and community Efforts (GRACE) on Tuesday evenings to assist them in providing meals to those in need in our community. We also work with other service organizations in neighboring counties to provide students with opportunities to participate in hands-on community service projects.

18. STUDENT SERVICES

a. Business Office

Students who need to consult with the Business Office may do so during business hours, 8:00 am to 4:30 PM on weekdays. The office typically is not open weekends. Large amounts of money, passports, plane tickets and other personal items of significant value or importance may be stored in the Business Office safe. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this no-cost service.

b. Night Security

Blue Ridge employs a night security guard who works during the hours following lights out. He operates primarily in and around the dorms to enhance the safety and security of all residents of our community. He ensures the boys are in their rooms asleep during the period following lights out. Cameras are mounted in selected locations to augment campus security.

c. Laundry

Each week, the Housekeeping staff will wash and dry one bundle of clothing for each student. Each boy should have two laundry bags, and **all clothing should be clearly marked with the name of the owner**. Ironing is not provided, but clothing is folded after drying. All clothes from each student are washed together in one cold-water wash. Students should be careful not to include clothes with colors that will run. Laundry may take up to 2 days to be returned to the student. In addition to these services, there is also a laundry room with washers and dryers available for student use. This laundry room is next to the outside entrance to Lower East Hall in Walsh Dorm.

d. Repairs

Helping to keep the buildings and grounds of the School in the best possible state is the job of each member of the community. A student should send an email to Mrs. Dickerson at cdickerson@blueridgeschool.com to order dorm room repairs or contact his hall parent. The necessary service will be provided as soon as possible. Any damage over and above normal wear and tear will be charged to the responsible student.

e. Lost and Found

Found articles should be taken to the Residence Life Assistant in Walsh Dorm. A person looking for lost property should check with the Residence Life Coordinator or the Residence Life Assistant. **All personal property should bear the owner's name or initials.** Books and clothing should not be left in hallways or lobbies.

At registration, each student will receive a dorm room key. A student who otherwise loses the key to his room should obtain a replacement key immediately from the Residence Life Assistant. If the key has not been found after one week then the student will be charged \$10 to have a new key cut.

f. Mail Room

The mail room is located in Middle West room 228. Each student is assigned an individual mailbox and is responsible for the key to that mailbox. Lost keys may be replaced through the Residence Life Coordinator at a charge of \$5.00 per key.

All incoming mail is placed in student mailboxes daily. When a student receives a package, he receives a package slip in his box and must open the package in front of a designated member of the School's faculty. If a student chooses to not open a package in front of the faculty member, the package will be sent home. Operating hours are from 6:45 to 7:20 PM on weekdays and from 1:30 to 2:00 PM on Saturdays for package pickup.

Outgoing mail should be left with Mrs. Agan in the business office. Tampering with US mail violates Federal law and is subject to severe consequences.

19. NON-DISCRIMINATION

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

Blue Ridge School prohibits discrimination against and harassment of students and/or school employees on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, veteran and/or military status, pregnancy, genetic information, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics protected in a private, single-sex education setting.

Students and employees are entitled to an employment and educational environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. This policy is intended to provide notice of compliance with federal and state civil rights laws to all employees, students, parents/guardians, applicants for admission and employment, and other interested persons, as appropriate. Blue Ridge School will require all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors, and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school to adhere to this policy and to all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to school operations.

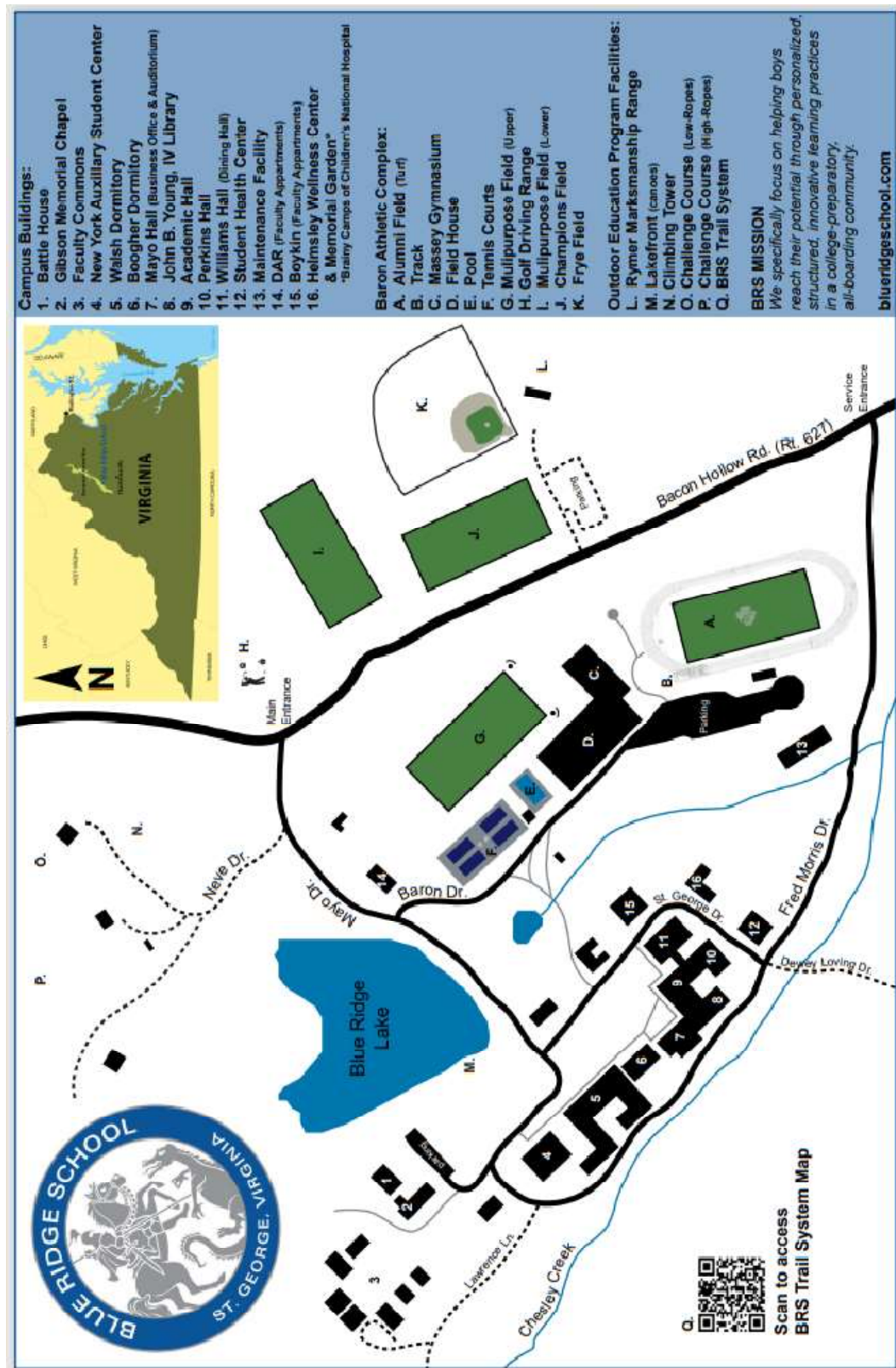
Blue Ridge School does not tolerate discrimination against, or harassment of, any employee or student on the basis of any legally protected characteristic. Protected class harassment constitutes a form of discrimination that is prohibited by Blue Ridge School policy. Harassment in this context is generally defined as severe or pervasive unwelcome conduct by any member or group of the school community (including, without limitation, any teacher, student, guest, or contractor), based on membership in a legally protected class.

Blue Ridge School will promptly investigate all allegations of harassment or discrimination when reported. Blue Ridge School strongly encourages all students and employees to report any potential harassment or discrimination **immediately**, so that Blue Ridge School can maximize the effectiveness of its investigation.

Blue Ridge School also prohibits retaliation, which is defined as any materially adverse action taken because of a person's participation in a protected activity. Protected activity includes reporting an incident that may be a violation under this policy, participating in the grievance process, supporting a person who is engaging in a process as described under this policy, or assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation under this policy.

If Blue Ridge School determines that unlawful harassment or discrimination has occurred, Blue Ridge School may also impose disciplinary action. Any harassment of students by school employees is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Any harassment of students by other students is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Head of School Trip Darrin will determine appropriate sanctions for harassment of students by persons other than school employees and students.

Campus Map



Appendix B

Faculty and Staff 2023-2024

Mr. Clint Alexander

Head Football Coach

History

B.A., Olivet College

Appt. year 2022

Mrs. Elaine Alexander

Director Parent Relations

B.S., Eastern Michigan University

Appt. year 2022

Mr. Matthew W. Bennett

Head Soccer Coach

History

B.S., M.A., The Citadel

Appt. year 2002

Mr. Brian Blaine

English

B.A., University of Virginia

Appt. year 2022

Mrs. Kathleen Blandford

Learning Center

B.S., M.S., Florida State University

Appt. year 2023

Mr. James W. Bourland

Director Facilities

B.A., M.Ed., University of Virginia

Appt. year 1994

Mr. Tony L. Brown

Dean of Students

Director of Outdoor Program

B.S., Appalachian State University

M.S., George Williams College

Aurora University

Appt. year 1998

Mr. Cassius Christie

Communications

B.A., Cabrini University

Appt. year 2023

Mrs. Katy Cole

Accounting Manager

B.A., Eckerd College

Appt. year 2022

Mr. Peter Cole

Director English Language Learners

B. A. University of Vermont

M.A. University of Surrey

Appt. year 2017

Ms. Alexandra Curcio

Science

B.S., Mary Baldwin University

M.Ed, University of Lynchburg

Appt. year 2023

Mr. Simon Curry

History intern

B.A., University of Richmond

Appt. year 2023

Mr. D. Franklin Daniels, Jr.

Associate Headmaster External Affairs

B.A., Washington & Lee University

M.Ed., Vanderbilt University

Appt. year 2011

Mr. William A. Darrin III

Head of School

B.A., George Washington University

MBA, Darden School of Business,

University of Virginia

Appt. year 2006

Mr. C. Brandon Deane, Jr.
Residence Life Coordinator
B.A., University of Virginia
M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary
Past service 1981-1986
Reappointed 2004

Mr. Alex Deitrich
History
B.A., Syracuse University
Appt. year 2022

Dr. Debra Demaree
Mathematics
B.S., University of Maryland
PhD, Ohio State University
M.S. Rutgers University
Appt. year 2022

Mr. James Douglas
Department Chair Mathematics
B.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Appt. year 2012

Mr. Daniel F. Dunsmore
English
B.S., University of Tennessee
M.A., Georgia State University
Appt. year 1998

Mr. Jerry Filler
Assistant Director College Counseling
B.S., Norwich University
Appt. year 2022

Mrs. Michele Flint
Director Human Resources
B.A., University of Virginia
Appt. year 2000

Ms. Danielle Gardiner
Learning Center
M.T. and B.S., University of Virginia
Appt. year 2023

Mr. Rory Gibbens
English
B.S., Pennsylvania State University
M.Ed., University of Oregon
Appt. year 2023

Dr. Chrisantha Hermanson
Department Chair English
B.A., Davis & Elkins
M.S., University of Edinburgh
PhD, University of Oxford
Appt. year 2018

Mr. Hans Hermanson
Dean of Character Education
Assistant Dean of Students
B.A., Davis & Elkins College
M.T., University of Edinburgh
Appt. year 2012

Mr. John Hetzel
Director of the Baron Fund
B.A., University of Virginia
Appt. year 2011

Ms. Georgia Holley
Learning Center
B.S. and M.Ed., University of Virginia
Appt. year 2023

Mr. Nuren Iftekhar
Science
M.S., Virginia Polytechnic University
B.S., University of Dhaka
Appt. year 2022

Mr. Chandler Love
History
B.A., Claflin University
M.S., Virginia Commonwealth University
Appt. year 2023

Mr. Brian MacDonald
Math, Drama
B.A., University of Evansville
M.FA, Catholic University of America
M.S., Hood College
Appt. year 2023

Mr. Cameron MacDonald

Counselor

B.A., Northern Vermont University

M.Ed., University of Virginia

Appt. year 2023

Ms. Angela Jackson Mapetla

Director International Admissions

MBA, East Tennessee State University

B.A., Radford University

Appt. year 2022

Mr. Donny Moss

Head Coach, Lacrosse

B.A., Adelphi University

M.S., Elmira College

Appt. year 2023

Mr. A. Michael Jamrozek

Director of Security

A.A.S., Piedmont VA Comm. College

Appt. year 2009

Dr. Alexander Keevil

Assistant Dean Faculty and Academics

Director Fishburne Learning Center

B.A., M.T., Ed.S, University of Virginia

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

Appt. year 2019

Mr. Parker Kirwan

Athletic Director

M.Ed, B.S., Virginia Commonwealth

University

Appt. year 2016

Mrs. Marcia S. Kozloski

Department Chair Foreign Language

B.A., Universidade Sao Francisco

Appt. year 2001

Mr. Cade Lemcke

Director of Summer Programs

Head Basketball Coach

B.A., University of Virginia

Appt. year 2014

Mr. James H. Miller III '94

Senior Director Admissions

B.A., Presbyterian College

Appt. year 2006

Mr. James A. Niederberger

B.A., University of Virginia

Appt. year 1974

Mrs. Diane Payne

Director Nursing

RN, Piedmont VA Community College

Appt. year 2021

Mr. Josh Palubicki

Director Communications

B.A., University of Wisconsin Green Bay

M.S., Full Sail University

Appt. year 2021

Mr. Wayne Peterson

Director IT

B.A., B.S., M.A., Central Washington

University

Appt. year 2014

Mr. Jahlil Puryear

Residence Life Coordinator

B.S., Hampton University

Appt. year 2022

Dr. Matthew Richey

Spanish

B.A., B.S., M.A., VA Polytechnic Institute

Ph.D., University of Virginia

Appt. year 2023

Dr. Dana Schwarzkopf

Director MakerSpace

Technology Teacher

B.A., Valparaiso University

M.Ed., University of Wisconsin La Crosse

M.Ed., Michigan State University

Ed.D, Central Michigan University

Appt. year 2021

Mr. Mike Vinson

Instrumental Music

B.A., Adams State College

Appt. year 2013

Mr. Jack Warren

Department Chair Science

B.A., Colgate University

Appt. year 2017

Mr. David R. Welty

Director Visual Arts

B.F.A., Savannah College of Art and Design

Art Education Certificate, Kulztown

University

Appt. year 2006

Ms. Amber Wilkins

Dean of Faculty

B.A., M.E., Mary Baldwin College

Appt. year 2017

Mr. Cory M. Woods

Director of Environmental Resources

B.A., Western State College of Colorado

M.A., Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Appt. year 2009

Mr. John B. Young IV

Alumni Office

B.A., Hampden-Sydney College

Appt. year 1971

Board of Trustees

2023-2024

Mr. Robert H. Sasser III, '82, *Chairman*

Mrs. Janet Alejandro, Alumni Parent '19

Mr. Ted Cadmus '81

Mr. R. Burke Earley '86

Mrs. Andrea Fox P'25, Parent Association

Mr. Rick Jones Alumni Parent '18

Mrs. Virginia M. Marra, Alumni Parent '14

Mr. Peter Brooks Minford '09

Mr. L. Parker Perkins '84

Mrs. Sharon S. Rymer, Alumni Parent '17

Mr. Lee Shore '90

Dr. Paul Simko

Mr. Bradley Sinor, Alumni Parent '23

Mrs. Alexandra Smith

Mrs. Hope Tate

Mr. David D. Townsend, Jr. '75

Mr. Charles Vail '84

Dr. Penny Work

Mr. Tristan Wright '95

Honorary Board

Mr. Graham F. Bennett '71

Mr. William A. Parker III '71

Board of Trustees Emeritus

Dr. B. Noland Carter II

Mr. Richard D. Harrison

Mr. E. Turley Higgins, Jr., Alumni Parent

Mr. William M. Rue '81

Advisory Trustee

Ms. Dorothy Page Sullenberger

Appendix D

Communications Agreement

(for parents)

I/We acknowledge and understand that members of the faculty and staff of Blue Ridge School may communicate with my/our child using a variety of electronic methods including, but not limited to school provided methods (ie: email, Google Classroom applications, and Blackbaud), and personal text messages and chat functions of social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and others. Faculty, staff, and administrators of Blue Ridge School receive periodic training on appropriate use of electronic communications in a professional setting. Inappropriate use of this technology by employees of the School may result in disciplinary action, including termination. Students also receive periodic training on appropriate use of many forms of electronic communication. Blue Ridge School understands current expectations and preferences for communications between faculty/staff and students and is providing guidance and training to promote safe and professional use of modern communication tools.

_____ I give permission for my child to receive and send electronic communication between faculty/staff members' personal social media channels and mobile phones.

_____ I do not give permission for my child to receive and send electronic communication between faculty/staff members' personal social media channels and mobile phones. Electronic communication between my child and employees of Blue Ridge School must be limited to school-provided communications tools (ie: email, Google Classroom applications, and Blackbaud).



Computers and Technology: Acceptable Use Policy and Contract

PURPOSE: Blue Ridge School provides access to a computer network, email and the Internet as a means of enhancing educational and personal communications. The purposes and uses of these resources are no different than any other type of resource provided by the School; therefore, the School retains control over the manner in which these resources are used. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members of the community recognize the regulations the School imposes on the use of network hardware, software, the Internet, and all other resources connected to the network. In addition, this policy requires that all members of the community agree to abide by current local, state, federal and international laws regarding these resources.

THE CONTRACT: All members of the BRS community (students, faculty, administration, staff and dependents) agree:

Use of School Owned Computers and Connections

Computers located in classrooms, the library, computer labs, Fishburne Learning Center and other public areas of the school should be used only for general academic purposes.

Changing school computer settings

Users will not change or attempt to change the configuration of **software** or **hardware** on any School-owned computer device or alter software or hardware that controls access to the network or the Internet unless approved by members of the Technology Department. This also includes modification of any items attached to computing devices; i.e. mice, cords, keyboards, etc.

Use of Data Ports

Students are NOT to use data ports located throughout campus. Internet and Intranet access for student owned devices is provided exclusively through wireless connection. Staff and Faculty may NOT make exceptions for individual students.

Licensed software and copyrights

Users will not copy licensed software to or from school-owned equipment or otherwise violate licensing agreements in any manner, and will obey all copyright rules and agree not to copy, transfer or reprint any electronic material as part of academic work without giving proper citation and credit.

Use of Personal Computers and Devices

Software requirements

Blue Ridge School's standards for office software are Microsoft Office 365, Adobe Creative Cloud and Google Apps. Since we are an educational client of Microsoft, Adobe and Google, there are no additional charges for this software.

Anti-Virus/Anti-Malware

Said software *should* be installed and up-to-date on any personal computer brought to Blue Ridge. Any commercially available, or free for personal use anti-virus, is acceptable for this purpose.

Computer Maintenance

You are responsible for the upkeep of your personal computer devices and personal software. The school is not responsible for maintaining students' computers.

Your email address

Email addresses at Blue Ridge School are in the following format: (where possible) first initial (of first name) + lastname@blueridgeschool.com. If you use a nickname, the address will most likely be the first initial of your nickname. *It is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy to share your username and password with other members of the staff.*

Acceptable Technology Use and Social Networks

BRS maintains the right to monitor all BRS network and intranet and Internet resources including private folders. *Privacy is not guaranteed.* Electronic files and email messages that contain inappropriate material are subject to administrative review and action. This includes postings on public forums such as Facebook, SnapChat, Twitter and YouTube and any other social network that may become in vogue.

Illegal or Commercial Activity. Blue Ridge School network and Internet resources are NOT to be used for illegal or commercial activity. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software; unauthorized entry into computers; vandalism or destruction of computer files. Users agree to not participate in email bombs or bulk mailings. Users should be aware that such activity is a crime under state and federal law.

Hacking

Attempting to discover passwords or other measures the school uses to control access to any resource should be reported to the Director of Technology or another faculty member immediately. *Possession and/or use of someone else's password to gain access to the networks is a dismissible offense.*

Respect others privacy

BRS users agree to respect the privacy of others. Users agree to re-post personal communications only after obtaining the author's prior consent.

Profanity or Obscenity

BRS users agree to use appropriate language in all communications. Users agree to not use profanity or obscenity, and will avoid offensive or inflammatory speech, electronic or otherwise.

Electronic attacks on others – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

Users agree not to make personal attacks or slanderous references against anyone or post private information about another person. Users agree to report any personal attacks made against them by others to the Director of Technology or Dean of Students. This includes slanderous references with regard to Blue Ridge School or any Blue Ridge School personnel, in such public forums as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other public Internet sites that may be available or come to be available.

Subject to inspection

Users agree to make available for inspection by any faculty member any Blue Ridge School email messages sent or received at this location. Emails are considered an official means of school communication and are subject to appropriate review. The School also reserves the right to inspect any computer or device and the files contained therein that is connected to the network or located on School property.

This is a contract

Should you fail to honor all the terms of this contract, School authorities will be informed and will act in accordance with school policy.

Health, Safety and Environmental Policy

The administration of Blue Ridge School recognizes an obligation to protect the human, physical and financial resources of the School. It is the policy of Blue Ridge School to conduct the education of our students safely and without creating unacceptable risks to human health, safety or the environment. Accordingly, the School will:

- Furnish workplaces and education facilities free from recognized hazards which are likely to cause death, injury or illness.
- Comply with laws regulating student, employee and visitor safety and health.
- Train employees in safety procedures and require compliance with safety regulations and procedures.
- Hold each supervisor or department head accountable for assuring that students, employees, volunteers, equipment and facilities within their area of responsibility are managed in a safe manner.
- Hold all employees responsible, within the bounds of their authority, for maintaining safe, healthful working conditions and compliance with safety regulations.
- Recognize the priority of safety and health factors where there is competition with economic factors.

Every employee and volunteer support person is expected to adhere to the spirit as well as the letter of this policy. Supervisors have a special obligation to keep informed about health, safety and environmental risks and standards and to advise the administration promptly of any situation that comes to their attention.

Appendix F

Residence Hall's Room Check Out

ROOM:

Spring, 2024

Hall Parent / Adult on Duty: At Check-out - Please check the items listed below & indicate with a ☒ where an item is "all right" (no charge) or show the amount to be charged (\$) under the appropriate roommates' name (a charge can be divided between roommates.)

Item <i>Notice <u>replacement</u> cost: (Fees to be charged allocated by Adult on Duty)</i>	Initially (9/18)	Roommate 1	Roommate 2
Electrical outlets & covers, phone & computer jack <i>Outlet cover \$4.00</i>			
Light fixtures: <i>Fixture \$100.00, Cover \$50.00</i>			
Desk, dresser drawers, cubbies & closet: <i>Damage (carving etc.) \$250.00, Replacement \$1,000.00</i>			
Mirror: <i>\$35.00</i>			
Screen & Window <i>Screen \$50.00, window \$100.00</i>			
Window blinds: <i>\$70.00</i>			
Walls: <i>Patch \$25.00, painting \$75.00 - \$150.00 Extra charge to remove tape & tape residue \$10.00 - \$50.00</i>			
Bulletin Board: (Boogher - NA) <i>Repair \$40.00, replace \$80.00</i>			
Ceiling: <i>Patch \$25.00, painting \$75.00 - \$150.00 Extra charge to remove tape & tape residue \$10.00 - \$50.00</i>			
Door, towel hook or bar: <i>Door damage \$50.00, replace \$150.00, towel bar \$10.00 Extra charge to remove tape & tape residue \$10.00 - \$50.00</i>			
Smoke Detector & battery: <i>(When battery expires, turn it in for a replacement at no charge.)</i> <i>Detector \$20.00, Missing 9-Volt Battery \$5.00</i>			
Floors: <i>Extra cleaning \$25.00 Extra charge to remove tape & tape residue \$10.00 - \$50.00</i>			
HVAC unit: Wireless communication card (for T-stat) \$75 <i>Grill \$50.00, Thermostat \$170.00, Window Sensor \$55</i>			
Mattress (Check bottom side of mattress & <u>under-side of bunk bed</u> as well.) <i>Mattress \$125.00</i>			
Trash can <i>Can \$5.00</i>			

Blue Ridge School Key Events Calendar 2023-2024

August	13	Football and ELL Camp Registration 1-3pm
	21	Soccer Camp and Senior Leaders Registration 1-3pm
	30	All students registration 11am-3pm
	31	Opening Day
September	3	Convocation 10:30am
	29	Fall long weekend begins 12:00pm
October	2	Fall long weekend ends 7:00pm
	5-6	Board of Trustees Meeting
	6-7	Fall Alumni/Homecoming Weekend
	20-21	Fall Parent Weekend
November	14-17	Exams
	17	Thanksgiving Holiday begins 12:00 noon
	27	Thanksgiving Holiday ends 7:00pm
December	10	Candlelight Service 5:00pm
	15	Christmas Holiday begins 12:00 noon
January	2	Christmas Holiday ends 7:00pm
	20-21	Open Weekend
	26	Mid-Winter Break begins 12:00 noon
	29	Mid-Winter Break ends 7:00pm
February	20-23	Exams
	23	Spring Break begins 12:00 noon
March	10	Spring Break ends 7:00pm
	21-22	Board of Trustees Meeting
	24-27	ROPES Character Ed Class Trips
	28	Easter Break begins 12:00 noon
April	1	Easter Break ends 7:00pm
	26-27	Spring Parent Weekend
May	11-12	Open Weekend
	19	Honors Service 10:30am
	21-24	Exams
	24	Underclassmen depart 12:00 noon
	24	Baccalaureate 5:00pm
	24	Senior Class/Parent Dinner 6:00 pm
	25	Commencement 9:30am-11:00am
June	13-14	Board of Trustees Meeting

1/16/2023

Leave Procedures Scheduled Vacations

Leave requests are to be submitted via Orah.com

September	2-3	Closed Weekend – no overnight leave
	9-10	Closed Weekend – no overnight leave
	16-17	Closed Weekend – no overnight leave
	26	Fall Long Weekend leave requests due
	29	Fall Long Weekend begins 12:00 noon
October	2	Fall Long Weekend ends 7:00pm
November	8	Leave request DEADLINE for Thanksgiving Break
	11-12	Closed Weekend – no overnight leave
	17	Thanksgiving Break begins 12:00 noon – School Closes
	27	Thanksgiving Break ends 7:00pm
December	6	Leave request DEADLINE for Christmas Break
	15	Christmas Break begins 12:00 noon – School Closes
January	2	Christmas Break ends 7:00pm
	20-21	Open Weekend from “after sports” to Sunday 7:00pm
	24	Leave request DEADLINE for Mid-Winter Break
	26	Mid-Winter Break begins 12:00 noon
	29	Mid-Winter Break ends 7:00pm
February	13	Leave Request DEADLINE for Spring Break
	17-18	Closed Weekend - no overnight leave
	23	Spring Break begins 12:00 noon – School Closes
March	10	Spring Break ends 7:00pm
	24-27	No leave – Character Ed Class ROPES Trips
	26	Leave request DEADLINE for Easter Break
	28	Easter Break begins 12:00 noon
April	1	Easter Break ends 7:00pm
	27	Parent Weekend Saturday night leave only – sign up at registration
May	11-12	Open Weekend from “after sports” to Sunday 7:00pm
May	18-19	Closed Weekend – no overnight leave
	24	Underclassmen depart 12:00 noon. No earlier leave requests will be approved.
	25	Commencement ends 12 noon. Campus closed to traffic 9:30 am - 12:00 noon

Standard weekend leaves: Unless otherwise noted on the Leave Calendar, and upon approval of a leave request, your son may leave after the Saturday morning program at 12:00 pm or after any additional school commitment or athletics he may have. He must return Sunday before 7:00 pm. Please note that your son's Saturday morning program and other school commitments or athletics are part of his required curriculum and his responsibility.

Other absences: On rare occasions a student must (e.g., family emergencies, illness, etc.) miss a school commitment (i.e., class, study hall, Saturday morning program, athletic event). In this case, please email Mr. Hermanson at hhermanson@blueridgeschool.com or phone him at 434-992-0521 or, after hours, phone the Duty Captain at 434-992-0501. You may also be asked to complete a Leave Request in Orah (orah.com). A faculty member may deny a request to miss a class if a student is not in good academic standing or has missed more than the permissible number of unexcused absences. A coach may also deny a request to miss a practice or game. Of course, in an emergency we will do all we can to accommodate.

Day Leave: Students are allowed to take day leaves with an adult on a Saturday or Sunday. Students wishing to take a day leave must make sure that the appropriate permissions are on file (the Leave & Transportation Permission Form you completed in the enrollment form,) or that his parent has contacted the Residence Life office (during office hours) or the Duty Captain/Faculty on Duty. He may leave the School after his last commitment on Saturday. He must be back at school prior to 11:00 pm on Saturday and 7:00 pm on Sunday. It is his responsibility to assure that he has no competing school commitments. If he is missing a school commitment, please follow the same guidelines listed above under Other Absences.

End-of-Year Departure: No Leave Request Forms are required for end-of-year departure unless school organized transportation is needed (buses or taxis).

May 26 - Undergraduates may depart following completion of their final exam at 12 noon. Parents are encouraged to communicate travel plans to avoid problems, and undergraduates who are using our buses will be asked to sign-up, specifying details, by mid-May. They will not be approved for earlier leave.

May 27 - Campus and dorms will be closed and quiet during Commencement exercise, 9:30am - 12:00 noon. Graduating seniors are free to leave campus after commencement ceremony. Minimal school transportation is provided. Students must leave by 4:00 PM on day of graduation.



**24-Hour
Medical Emergency Phone Number
434-992-0506**

**Nights/Weekends
Walsh Lobby
434-992-0501**

**Blue Ridge School | 273 Mayo Drive | St. George, VA 22935
434-985-2811 | 434-985-7215 fax | info@blueridgeschool.com**