

Banyan High School and L.I.F.E. Academy Student Handbook 2020 - 2021

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This document provides information about our most often used policies and procedures. Please read it carefully to ensure that you are knowledgeable about its contents.

The Handbook is designed to help you understand the need for rules and regulations as we strive to fulfill our commitment to ensure a structured, safe and productive environment at our school.

In the event that you would like to question or appeal any of the policies or procedures found herein, please contact me.

Marguerite G. Freeman
Principal

WELCOME TO BANYAN HIGH SCHOOL

Banyan High School is a private, co-educational school for students whose academic performance has been compromised by a range of specific learning disabilities. Banyan offers a well-rounded program of academic, college preparatory and vocational courses, which prepare students for higher education or employment. Counseling services, individual education plans, and small classes with dedicated teachers and staff help students reach their full potential.

Founded in 1993 with eight students, Banyan School has grown to become a well-recognized innovator and leader in educating children who learn differently.

Our focus at Banyan High School is to instill in our students the concept that education is a life-long process. To that end, we strive to empower students to believe in themselves and to develop the skills necessary to be successful in school and in life.

Our state-approved curriculum offers both college and career preparation courses providing each student with a well-rounded educational experience, maximizing their learning potential, nurturing social, emotional and aesthetic growth. Banyan High School offers the opportunity for students to become independent, problem-solving, productive members of society, with the confidence to pursue choices in their future education and/or in the job market.

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Banyan High School Mission Statement

To strengthen the academic proficiency of high school students with a range of learning disabilities by concentrating on reading, language and communication; fostering social and life skills, and providing the educational and vocational support necessary for students to gain independence inside & outside of the school environment.

Counseling and Guidance Philosophy and Services Guidance Staff and Transition Services

Mrs. Angela Randion – School Social Worker

Mr. James Dunderman - Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

Mission and Goals

A crucial part of our mission in educating students at Banyan High School is to ensure that our curriculum and services address the academic and emotional needs of students. This means that our staff is dedicated to working with students to maximize their development during their years here and to prepare them for their transition from high school to the next phase of their lives.

To achieve our primary goal of preparing students for success in school and in other phases of their lives our staff is committed to a partnership in which we meet regularly with Parent/Guardians and students as well as with members of the surrounding communities to address their unique concerns and needs.

Guidance Curriculum

Developmental guidance is at the heart of our guidance curriculum's mission. All children face developmental challenges as they mature. To help students meet those challenges, we offer group social skills classes and individual counseling sessions when necessary as part of our guidance program to ensure that we are meeting students' needs and addressing their unique challenges as their development progresses.

Career and Postgraduate Educational Planning

To prepare students for further education or careers after they graduate from Banyan High School, counselors will meet with each student and with Parent/ Guardians to explore students' interest and their options for achieving their goals. All sophomores are scheduled to participate in a career interest inventory program and seniors are taught to use college search programs, if they are college bound.

It is important for students to learn about themselves and their interests. Students are encouraged to work with the Guidance Department to develop resources that will help them to reach their career goals.

Working Papers

Working papers are required for all persons under eighteen years of age who are gainfully employed. They are issued for a specific job and not for an overall permission to work. Application information is available in the Guidance Office in your school district.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required on all of the days and hours that the High School is in session. If you are late and arrive on or before 8:30 a.m., go to homeroom. If you arrive after 8:30 a.m., report to the office and the nurse's office.

School notification is required when a student is absent from school. Parent/Guardians are responsible for notifying the office with the reason for the absence. The school reserves the right to verify any and all statements regarding absences and determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Excused absences are permitted for: (A) death in the family, (B) religious holidays, (C) court appearances, and (E) administratively approved absences.

Any absence of three (3) or more consecutive days due to illness must be accompanied by a note from the physician's office upon the student's return to school to be considered excused.

Upon the student's return to school, a physician's note must be provided within 48 hours for the absence to be excused. If a note is not provided within 48 hours, it will be considered an unexcused absence. All absent notes are submitted to the nurse.

Students are responsible for making up all work and/or exams when they are absent from school. Students with an excused absence will be allowed two days for every day absent to make up the work. Make-up work for an excused absence will be given full credit.

Unexcused absences are absences from school for any other reason than those stated above. Students are responsible for making up all work and/or exams when they are absent from school. Vacations and family travel while school is in session are not considered reasons for excused absences. Students with an unexcused absence will be allowed two days for every day absent to make up the work.

If a student becomes ill at school, the Nurse should determine whether early dismissal is necessary. Students are permitted to leave only when Parent/Guardians can be contacted. **STUDENTS LEAVING WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE NURSE OR OFFICE WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE CUTTING.** Students signing out of school for a dental or doctor's appointment will receive an unexcused absence. Upon the student's return to school a doctor's note must be provided to the office in order for it to be changed to an excused absence.

Extra-curricular activities: Students must be in attendance for a minimum of **FOUR** hours to be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities. Students who are absent from school, for any reason other than an administratively approved absence, are prohibited from participating in activities/clubs such as: dances, Prom, Social 4-Life, and sporting events etc., and are prohibited from school grounds on the day of the absence.

Absentee totals:

A letter will be sent to the Parents/Guardians and districts after 5, 9 and 14 accumulated days absent, whether the absences are excused or unexcused.

In order to receive credit for courses in grades 9-12, a student's total number of unexcused absences may not exceed 18 days for a full year course, or 9 days for a semester course and may not exceed five days in any marking period.

The following types of absences **are not** included in these totals: Home Instruction, In or Out-of-School Suspension, Religious Holidays, and School-Sponsored Activities.

Absence from school without Parent/Guardian knowledge and consent (truancy) is considered an illegal absence. While students are responsible for making up the work they missed, no credit will be given. Truancy will result in an in-school suspension.

In order to receive credit for Driver's Education a student's total number of EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED absences may not exceed 4 days.

Tardiness deprives a student of a thorough and efficient education. Promptness is a responsibility of both, the student and the Parent/ Guardian. Tardiness to school will be excused for those reasons approved for excused absences. Four incidents of unexcused tardiness shall equal one unexcused absence. Four incidents of excused tardiness shall equal one excused absence. Excessive tardiness shall result in administrative review.

Leaving school early: If a student is leaving school early, he/she must report to the office with a note from a Parent/Guardian prior to the start of the school day in order to receive a pass to leave. Students are to be properly signed out by a Parent/Guardians, in the office. If a Parent/Guardian is requiring a *designated person* to pick up their student then the following criteria must be met.

- a. The *designated person* must be 18 years old or older.
- b. The letter must include the name and address of the *designated person*.
- c. The *designated person* must present a valid form of photo identification, which includes name and address.
- d. The *designated person* must first register at the Main Office and a photocopy will be made of the ID.

If the student has driving privileges and/ or is 18 years old, the following is necessary:

- a. Written permission from the Parent/Guardians is necessary.
- b. Confirmation must designate the mode of transportation.
- c. The student must sign out in Main Office, before leaving.

Truancy: Students who are illegally absent from school without Parent/Guardian consent or knowledge will be considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action. Habitual truancy will result in the matter being referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Academics

Grading

Evaluation is based on evidence of the attainment of the instructional and performance objectives for the subject. The following symbols are used to report progress:

Grading Criteria

The grading criteria are as follows:

Excellent Masters all course Proficiencies	A- 90-92	A 93-96	A+ 97-100
Good Masters a major portion Of course proficiencies	B- 80-82	B 83-86	B+ 87-89
Fair Masters the minimum Course proficiencies	C- 70-72	C 73-76	C+ 75-79
Poor Completes the minimum Proficiencies	D- 60-62	D 63-66	D+ 67-69
Failing/FA Indicates work inferior to accepted standard for passing Failure for Attendance		FA	F Below 59
Incomplete Work Incomplete work at the end of the grading period, semester, or year is recorded as an I			I
Withdrawn			W
Not Applicable for this marking period			NA
Excused, Excused for Medical Reasons			E, EM

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (Grades 9-12 only)

The grade point average (GPA) will be the quotient of the total number of quality points divided by the total number of credits attempted. The GPA shall be calculated to two decimal places.

All courses taken in grades 9-12 for which a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F can be assigned shall be considered in determining grade point average. Quality points for a standard course will be calculated by multiplying the number of credits attempted for a course by the standard grade value for the grade earned.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Students who have received an Incomplete for a marking period, examination, or semester grade will be given ten (10) school days to complete the necessary work, unless determined otherwise with Banyan High School Administration. If the work is not completed within this time, the *Incomplete Grade* will automatically become an *F*. Teachers may submit grade change forms at a later date in cases where there were extenuating circumstances.

LATE WORK POLICY

If a student is present, then all homework (any assignment that may be completed overnight and turned in the following school day) assignments will not be accepted late. All long-term assignments (i.e., papers, lab reports, projects) submitted after the due date will be accepted and assessed at the discretion of the teacher.

REPORT CARDS

Students receive academic reports four times a year. All grades should essentially represent a measure of the performance by the student in a given subject.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Core Curriculum Content	Minimum Course and Credit Requirement
Language Arts Literacy	A minimum of 20 credits (English 9, 10, 11, and 12)
Mathematics	15 credits including Algebra 1 and Geometry and a third year determined by the IEP team. Post-secondary education bound students require Algebra 2
Social Studies/History	Minimum of 15 credits: 5 credits World History; 10 credits US History
Science	Minimum of 15 credits of laboratory/inquiry-based science: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental
Economics	2.5 Credits
Health, Safety, and Physical Education	3.75 credits each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week Driver's Education for 1.25 credits
World Language	5 credits for graduation 10 credits recommended for those looking toward post-secondary education
Visual and Performing Arts	5 credits
Practical Arts	5 credits
21st Century Life and Careers or Career-Technical Education	5 credits
Computer Science	5 credits: Class of 2022 (incoming 2018-2019 Freshmen)
Technological Literacy	Consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum (Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021)
Total Credits (State Minimum)	120 Credits

*Your sending District may require additional credits in specified subject areas. We will adhere to these District requirements as well as the NJDOE requirements for high school graduation.

Discipline

PHILOSOPHY

The Banyan School community believes that learning requires an orderly environment and that firm rules are needed to ensure that all students are able to take advantage of an optimal learning experience and that their safety and health are not compromised. Maintaining a quality school is not the responsibility of school staff alone, but of our staff in partnership with students and Parent/Guardians. Thus, we will review student behavior in the context of a school-home partnership.

We also believe that our students must learn to take responsibility for their behavior. Our staff encourages students to use conflict resolution techniques in relation to our school wide behavior expectation core values to resolve their differences.

School-wide Behavior Expectation Core Values

1. Respect
2. Responsibility
3. Tolerance
4. Safety

Code of Conduct

1. Students and staff must treat each other with respect and courtesy
2. All students and staff should follow the guidelines and socially acceptable behavior
3. Use conflict resolution skills to resolve differences
4. All students have the right to a learning environment free from distractions
5. Students shall obey adult authority and respond to their requests.

REMEDIATION AND CONSEQUENCES

BEHAVIOR CONTRACTS

Behavior contracts will be used where appropriate and developed with the student, Parent/Guardian and appropriate Banyan High School staff. It will establish goals and objectives which the student and staff will use to help modify the student's behavior.

COURT ACTION

Children under 16 years are required to attend school (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25). Students under 16 years of age who are consistently truant will be referred for court action. Court action will be instituted for other violations such as trespassing, assault, inducing a person(s) to use narcotic drug(s), smoking, malicious destruction or damage to property, carrying concealed weapons, and any other violation of New Jersey Statutes.

SUSPENSION

Students may not participate in school activities, or be on school grounds, on the day(s) of their suspension. The infractions contained in this document which lead to suspension are within the law (N.J.S.A.18A:37-2). If a suspension continues from a Friday to the following Monday, the student may not participate in any school activities over that weekend.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Students assigned In-School Suspension must report to a specified area on the indicated day. Students are there for the entire day and are expected to complete assignments provided by teachers. A zero will be given for that day's class work if it is not completed within the assigned amount of time.

Parent/Guardians are telephoned and sent a letter, informing them that an In-School Suspension has been assigned. In some instances, a Parent/Guardian conference is requested.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Serious violations of the Discipline Rules and Regulations will result in Out-of-School Suspension. Depending upon the infraction, the suspension may be from one to nine days. Parent/ Guardians are telephoned and sent a letter informing them of this action. In all cases, a Parent/Guardian-Student conference with the Administration is required. Excessive suspensions will result in a loss of student privileges, including parking for seniors.

Infractions

BEVERAGES

There will be no coffee, soda, energy drinks or any beverages containing caffeine (i.e. Snapple iced tea) on school premises, not including the LIFE Academy building (TIMM Center).

BIAS INCIDENTS/HATE CRIMES

All matters related to Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents fall under definitions and referral procedures outlines between Banyan High School and the Little Falls Police Department.

BULLYING/THREATS/HARRASSMENT

Employees, volunteers, Parent/Guardians and students will deal with all persons in ways which convey respect and consideration for individuals regardless of race, color, marital status, national origin, creed, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Acts of harassment, hostility, or defamation, whether verbal, written, or physical, will not be tolerated and constitute grounds for disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school. Formal charges/reports will be filed with the authorities when appropriate.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Any students involved in cheating/plagiarism will receive a zero on that assignment and the matter will be referred to the building principal to determine if any further action is necessary.

CURSING AND OBSCENITIES

Any student using language or gestures which are obscene or improper will be referred to the building principal for appropriate action. Any profanities directed at a staff member will result in suspension.

CUTTING CLASS

Any unexcused, non-attendance of class for 20 minutes or more is considered a cut. Parent/Guardians will be notified. Students are required to attend all classes. Truancy will be considered a cut in all classes. A “zero” will be averaged in for any class work missed as a result of cutting a class.

First Offense – Lunch detention

Second Offense – One day In-School Suspension

Third Offense – One day Out of School Suspension

Fourth Offense – Failure for the Marking Period

DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Disciplinary action will be taken against students who destroy school property. In addition, Parent/Guardians will be held liable for the damages (N.J.S.A.8A:37-3).

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

Disruptive conduct in the classroom, halls, any place in the building, or on school grounds will not be tolerated. Students displaying such behavior will result in disciplinary action.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Possession/use/sale of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We are required to report all such matters to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

FALSE PUBLIC ALARM

Any student causing a false public alarm (i.e. bomb threats, pulling fire alarm) will be suspended from school for an amount of days to be determined by the Administration and formal charges will be filed with the appropriate law enforcement agency as required by law

FIGHTING

All fighting will be investigated and will result in disciplinary action for all parties involved and will be reviewed by the Administration to assess appropriate actions.

FORGERY

Students found forging passes, notes, letters, etc. will be referred to the Administration for discipline action as appropriate.

GAMBLING

Gambling is not permitted on school property or while attending school-sponsored events or activities. This includes card playing, rolling dice or any other activity construed by the Administration as gambling. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

HATS/HOODIES

(Grades 9 -12 only)

There will be no hats or hoodies allowed except on designated days such as (hat day, team spirit day, etc.)

LIFE Academy

Students are prohibited from wearing hats and hoodies during instructional time and during Structured Learning Experiences.

INSUBORDINATION

Students who fail to cooperate with staff members and are defiant will face disciplinary action.

LATENESS TO CLASS (Grades 9 -12 only)

1. **Excused Lateness** - A student who is late to class (including lunch) because of being detained by a teacher must obtain a note from that teacher.
2. **Unexcused Lateness** - A student who is late due to his/her own fault will be admitted to class as tardy. Teachers will forward the name of tardy students to the Office. Systemic lateness/tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

Offense Number	Disciplinary Action
1 & 2	Lunch detention for each offense
3	Lunch detention + A meeting including: Counselor, Teacher and student
4 – 6	In-School Suspension + A meeting including: Administrator and student + Parent/Guardian and district notification for each offense
7	1 day Out of School Suspension + Re-entry meeting including: Administrator, Parent/Guardian and student
8	Failure of class, Parent/Guardian and district notification

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Any student who leaves school grounds during school hours without permission will be disciplined.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is prohibited and will result in appropriate administrative action. It is defined as, but not limited to, “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.”

SMOKING

In accordance with New Jersey Law and Banyan High School policy, smoking and/or the possession of cigarettes, lighters, or matches are prohibited in school. Students who are found to be in violation of this policy will be suspended. Students with multiple offenses will be suspended for an amount of days to be determined by the building principal and charges will be filed against them with local authorities as per N.J. Statute 2c:33-13. Students acting as lookouts or warning suspected smokers will be judged as accomplices and punished accordingly.

STEALING

A student who has taken property that is not rightfully his/hers will be suspended from school for an amount of days to be determined by the Administration and formal charges will be filed with the authorities when appropriate.

THREATENING ANOTHER WITH BODILY HARM

If the Administration deems a threat to be of a serious nature, the student (s) will be removed from the school environment. Threatening another with bodily harm, intimidation of students, school personnel, etc. will result in disciplinary action and disciplinary action and criminal charges may be filed.

WEAPONS

All students have the right to a safe educational environment. Banyan High School Policy and New Jersey Statute 2c:39-1 prohibits the possession of weapons on school property before, during, or after school, on school buses or at any school activity. A “weapon” is defined as:

1. Inherently dangerous, capable of causing harm or bodily injury and for which the students cannot demonstrate an educational, instructional or legitimate purpose for its possession in the educational environment,
2. Displayed, threatened to be used, or used against persons or property.
3. Mace or mace-like substances.

Students who violate this policy will be immediately suspended from school for an amount of days as determined by the building principal.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Any act which results in violence to another’s person or property or which threatens the safety of others in the school, on school property, on school buses, or at any school activity is extremely serious, and will result in administrative actions, including an immediate informal hearing which may result in expulsion from school. Parent/Guardian notification is required, and the matter will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

All violations shall be reported to the Little Falls Police Department, and a formal criminal complaint shall be filed by the Administration as appropriate. The foregoing is not meant to preclude any criminal or civil action.

BUS DISCIPLINE

Students are assigned to bus routes by the student's sending district. While on the bus, students are expected to behave in an orderly manner. Smoking is not permitted.

1. Show respect for the driver at all times.
2. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly fashion. No pushing or crowding.
3. Be seated while the bus is in motion and wear the seat belt.
4. Talk in a reasonable tone of voice. No calling out to passers-by. No profane or abusive language is allowed.
5. Keep the bus clean- no littering and no vandalism.
6. Remain in their seat. No extension of any part of the body out of a window, no jumping over the seats, and no throwing of objects is permitted
7. Smoking is **not permitted** on school buses.

New Jersey State Law Chapter 18AAA:25-2 states:

The driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for order; he shall never exclude a pupil from the bus, but, if unable to manage any pupil, shall report the unmanageable pupil to the principal of the school he/she attends.

In keeping with that statute, Banyan High School adopts the following procedure for students deemed unmanageable:

1. **First Offense**-A letter will be sent to the student's Parent/Guardians informing them of the problem as well as what procedure will be followed if a second or a third offense occurs during the school year.
2. **Second Offense**-The student will be excluded from the bus for a period of one school day.
3. **Third Offense**- The student will be excluded from the bus for a period of five (5) school days. Any further infractions will be subject to an additional suspension of bus privileges.

FOOD/SNACK/LUNCH

Grades 9-12:

A variety of meals and snacks are available. Students are required to clear their tables and place garbage and recyclable items in the receptacles located in various parts of the cafeteria. **Food and beverages are to be confined to the cafeteria only.** Beverage containers will be confiscated. No student may leave the cafeteria without a staff escort.

LIFE Academy:

Students are responsible for their own lunch. They may bring their lunch or prepare their own meals. Students must dispose of their trash and wipe down their area. If students cook, they are responsible for the cleanup of all items and utensils.

CLASS TRIPS

Class trips are scheduled by teachers to provide visits to places and performances of various kinds as a means of enriching and expanding the school curriculum.

While away from the school in such trips, students are expected to observe the highest standards of conduct and to dress appropriately. Close instructions of Teacher/Chaperones will ensure maximum benefit from attendance on class trips. The school reserves the right to exclude students from class trip participation and discipline those who do not observe the highest standards of conduct and expected behavior.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES/ CELL PHONES/ RADIOS/ PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES AND VIDEO RECORDERS

Use of paging devices (beepers and cell phones) in school: Any student in possession of a paging device may be suspended and the device confiscated and forfeited to the district as per N.J. Statute 2C:33-19 and Banyan High School Policy. **Cell phones are prohibited in any part of the school building.**

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones and electronic devices are prohibited for personal use unless designated by a staff member. Students may only use their cell phones or electronic devices for school related activities or when directed during instruction.

Students may be asked to turn in the cell phones during Homeroom period in the morning. Phones will be returned to students during Homeroom in the afternoon.

If a cell phone is **seen, heard or powered on** during the school day the following action will be taken: (we consider the school day from 8:00 AM- 2:45 PM)

Offense	Grades 9-12	LIFE Academy
1	Phone confiscated, student serves 2 day lunch detention. Written communication to Parent/Guardian, phone returned at end of the day.	Phone confiscated. Written communication to Parent/Guardian, phone returned at end of the day.
2	Phone confiscated, student serves 5 day lunch detention. Phone conference with Parent/Guardian and school administrator. Phone will be returned at a mutually agreed upon time after phone conference.	Phone confiscated. Phone conference with Parent/Guardian and school administrator. Phone will be returned at a mutually agreed upon time after phone conference.
3	Any other offense will result in an out-of-school suspension and/or the suspension of cell phone privileges.	Any other offense will result in an out-of-school suspension and/or the suspension of cell phone privileges.

Use of cell phone cameras is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Criminal use of a cell phone camera will be referred to the local law enforcement.

Use of cell phones to record others while on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

In the case of an emergency/illness requiring telephone use, students will report to the Main Office or Nurse's Office for assistance. Parent/Guardians may contact the Main Office when needed to have an important message delivered to a student.

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES/VIDEO GAMES

The use of any of these technology devices is generally prohibited. There may be occasion when students are permitted to use these devices as determined by the Banyan High School Administration.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

New Jersey law prohibits corporal punishment. School personnel are granted reasonable and necessary use of force in the following situations:

1. To quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others.
2. For the purpose of self-defense.
3. For the protection of persons and property.

DRESS CODE

Students are required to adhere to the following dress code:

1. Flip-Flops of any kind are not allowed.
2. NO cleavage, midriff or undergarments are to be exposed.
3. Halter tops and strapless tops ARE NOT allowed.
4. Skirts and shorts must be at fingertip length.
5. There will be no hats or hoodies allowed except on designated days (such as hat day, team spirit day, etc.)

Violation of the dress code will result in the following measure:

A call will be made to the home for appropriate clothing to be supplied by Parent/Guardian. Student will not be permitted to return to class until proper attire is worn. Student will be required to submit all missed assignments for that day.

FIRE DRILLS

The law requires that we have two (2) emergency safety drills including one (1) fire drill per month. Students and staff are to move away from the building and proceed to the area behind St. Frances Hall. Emergency exit procedures are posted in each room.

In the event of an emergency, it is important to be able to account for every student. Students are to remain with their teacher. Teachers will take attendance during all evacuations of the building. Students are not to wander, sit on cars or enter cars. Students who fail to cooperate will be referred to Administration.

HALL PASSES

Grades 9-12

Any student passing through the halls during class time must have a pass. Loitering in halls, lavatories, or staircases will result in disciplinary action. Continued behavior may result in disciplinary action.

LIFE Academy

Hall passes apply only to LIFE Academy students when they are present in the main building.

HEALTH AND EMERGENCY CARDS

Every family registered in the school must have the following on file in the office:

1. Health History
2. Physician's report
3. Medication Contract
4. Authorization to administer medication Emergency Contact Card
5. Emergency Contact Card

The above information will be used for locating Parent/Guardians in the event a student becomes ill or has an accident at school. It is important that if any information on the card changes during the course of the year, the school office is informed immediately. **If health information is not completed and returned, the student will not be permitted to return to school.**

HOMework

All students receive a homework assignment pad the first week of school. It is vital that all Parent/Guardians read and review the homework assignments each day. All homework is the student's responsibility.

If a student is absent, homework and classroom assignments are expected to be completed. If absence is due to a serious or prolonged illness, Parent/Guardians should consult with the teacher.

Although the amount of homework will vary with each subject, the average amount of time to be spent on homework is as follows:

Grades 9-12

45 minutes- to 1 hour

ILLNESS

Communicable illnesses are to be reported to the school nurse. A written statement from the doctor is required for re-admission to school after 5 days of illness. Students leaving the school because of illness must be signed out by the Parent/ Guardian in the school office. If a child sustains an injury requiring crutches, or a cast, the school nurse must receive authorization from the doctor to return to school.

LOCKERS

Each student has been assigned an individual locker. His/her responsibility is to keep locker contents in good order, to guard the combination, and to use the locker for his/her own needs. No signs, posters, or anything of a permanent nature may be affixed to the exterior or interior of the locker.

Student lockers are the property of Banyan High School and the school reserves the right to inspect or search lockers at any time. Student lockers are also subject to inspection by local police enforcement canine units. While Banyan High School recognizes the right of a student to be free from unreasonable searches, it also recognizes its responsibility to maintain order, safety and discipline, and to provide an educational environment conducive to learning.

The Principal or other officials designated by the Board of Trustees may inspect lockers or other storage facilities provided for use by students so long as students are informed in writing at the beginning of each school year that inspections may occur. This Handbook serves as such a notice.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students must wear sneakers during gym period. Jewelry must be removed for safety.

LIFE Academy

Students are required to wear workout clothes (no jeans) when participating in Physical Education.

VISITORS IN SCHOOL

All visitors are required to report to the school office to obtain a visitor's badge and to wear the badge during the time they are in the building. All visits must be arranged with the Administration. Anyone in the building without proper authorization shall be considered a trespasser and appropriate action will be taken.

Students are not permitted to bring a friend or relative to school.

DRIVING/PARKING PRIVILEGES

Students who are in their Senior year at Banyan High School or those who are attending the LIFE Academy and have a valid NJ license may apply for driving and parking privileges, providing they have a valid NJ Driver License. If a student and their Parent/ Guardian are interested in applying for the driving and parking privileges, the student must obtain the rules and application from the Main Office.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES POLICY

Using technology in the context of a school setting is not a right, but a privilege. Inappropriate use will result minimally in a suspension of that privilege. Any student who uses the technological resources of Banyan High School consents to having all activities regarding this use monitored by a systems operator.

LAPTOP USER AGREEMENT POLICY

All students will be assigned a laptop for use throughout the year for assistance with their education as needed. Students are responsible for loss and damage which may occur throughout the year. The use of the electronic devices is strictly limited to school related work. *The signing of this handbook constitutes notice that the Parent/ Guardian and student assume all responsibility for loss and damage.*

Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Please read this document carefully.

With comprehensive access also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Banyan High School has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We (Banyan High School) firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the School. We recognize that for certain courses or projects, restricting access may impede the attainment of objectives. Staff members may request that any restrictions be lifted for such cases; these requests will be considered individually by the school administration.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users that must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Banyan High School user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated, and future access could possibly be denied. Violation of these regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense.

The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understands their significance.

Consent Requirement and acknowledgement:

No student shall be allowed to use the school's computer networks/computers and the Internet unless they have filed a consent form signed by the student and his/her parents. This includes accessing the internet using a guest logon information on personal technology devices.

Internet – Terms and Conditions of Use

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using computer networks/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

1. **Using the computer networks/computers for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purpose, or in support of such activities.**
2. **Using the computer networks/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third-party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.**

3. **Computer networks usage:**

Use of the computer network in a manner that:

- a. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
- b. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
- c. Uses the computing resources of the school for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud;
- d. Steals data or other intellectual property;
- e. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another person;
- f. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- g. Invades privacy of others;
- h. Posts anonymous messages;
- i. Possesses any data which is a violation of this Policy; and/or
- j. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purpose for which computer networks/computers are provided.

4. **Internet Safety Protection:**

The following prohibited behavior and/or conduct using the school's networks/computers, includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
- b. Using obscene language and/or accessing material or visual depictions that are obscene as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
- c. Using or accessing material or visual depictions that are child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code;
- d. Using or accessing material or visual depictions that are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image files or other material or visual depictions.
- e. Depicting describing, or representing in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors.
- f. Cyberbullying.

- g. Inappropriate online behavior, including inappropriate interaction with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms;
- h. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
- i. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks/computers;
- j. Violating copyright laws;
- k. Using another's password;
- l. Trespassing in another's folders, work or files;
- m. Intentionally wasting limited resources;
- n. Employing the computer networks/computers for commercial purposes; and/or
- o. Engaging in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer networks/computers are provided.

5. Student use of Privately-Owned Technology:

The use of privately-owned technology (hardware or software) by a student in the educational program during the school day must be approved by the student's parent or legal guardian and the school teaching staff member responsible for supervising and/or providing the student's instructional program.

A student granted permission to use privately-owned technology must comply with school policies and regulations regarding acceptable use of computers and technology. Any violation will subject the student to appropriate discipline and/or grading consequences.

The school assumes no responsibility for any privately-owned technology brought to school by a student. The school shall assume no responsibility for the security of or damage to any privately-owned technology brought to school by a student. Students are encouraged to purchase private insurance for loss, damage, or theft of any privately-owned technology the student brings to school.

6. Violation Consequences:

Individuals violating this Policy shall be subject to the consequences and other appropriate discipline, which includes but are not limited to:

- a. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
- b. Suspension of network privileges;
- c. Revocation of network privileges;
- d. Suspension computer privileges;
- e. Revocation of computer privileges;
- f. Suspension from school;
- g. Expulsion from school; and/or
- h. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

Banyan High School Student Handbook Supplement 2020-2021

Please note the following COVID-19 related amendments to the Student Handbook for this year. It is our hope that in future editions of the handbook, we can return to previous practices and we regard these revisions as temporary adjustments to this unprecedented time. Therefore, they are defined in this supplement, rather than completely revising the handbook itself.

Absence Reporting/ Illness (p. 6 and p. 21)

Student Screening will take place via multiple means.

- Parents will assert that they have checked temperatures and answered the prescribed questions prior to sending students on the bus or transporting them.
- The School Nurse will greet all students at the entryway to school to scan foreheads for body temperature prior to building entry. Entrance to the buildings will be limited to one access point upon arrival.

Ill Student and Pick up Procedure

Visitors to the buildings will be prohibited entrance, unless related to matters of student health.

- Parents/Guardians must call from the parking lot to notify the nurse of your arrival.
- Parents will only be permitted to enter if picking up a child who is ill, and that child will be escorted to the entry foyer by the school nurse.

Inclement weather procedures will be implemented per the handbook guidelines.

Drop Off

Both buses and parents will form a line at the front of the school for drop off in the morning. A staff member will greet the bus/car and guide the student(s) toward the door for temperature scanning. Once the temperature has been read, the bus/parent will be permitted to leave.

Students will immediately go to their assigned classroom for homeroom and the first period of the day. Students may leave their homeroom for individual therapy, counseling, depending upon scheduling and space allocation.

All coats, snacks, backpacks, etc. will be removed and placed in the student's tote bag.

School staff will be on hand to guide the drop off and pick up process. Please follow their guidance and the directions on signage provided. Under no circumstances

should parent drivers or bus drivers exit their vehicles. If unique circumstances require you to park, please use the parking lot. Please call the office to communicate any such unique circumstances before exiting the car.

At pick up times in the afternoon, a bus/car line will form in the same manner as the morning drop off. As timing warrants, vehicles may be directed alternately to pick up in the rear of the building. Please follow the directions of school staff while in the drop off and pick up lane.

All traffic signs and regulations will be enforced. Please make a note of signs around the school. These include no-parking zones and entrance and exit signs for the parking lot. Drive slowly in the vicinity of the school and the parking lot. Under no circumstance is a school bus ever to be passed. Buses always have the right of way.

Food/Snack/Lunch (p.18)

Students will be dismissed prior to lunch. No lunch will be served. Snacks should be sent in disposable bags, with all disposable items, to refrain from needing to handle and pack items.

Class Trips/Activities (p. 18)

All class trips, special events, Community Based Instruction, and extracurricular activities will be cancelled until further notice.

Lockers (p.21)

Use of lockers will be prohibited. Each student will be provided a large tote bag, to place all personal belongings inside the tote. Totes will remain at school for in-person students and will be cleaned daily after dismissal.

Behavior - Impacting Health (p.21)

Any behaviors that occur that may impact other students'/staff health will result in students being sent home for an extended period.

Students who demonstrate behaviors in a classroom that are not conducive to learning will be sent home for an extended period.

Physical Education: (p.22)

Physical education students are receiving their own personal yoga mat and when weather permits will utilize the outdoor area for activity. Scheduled breaks will be allowed (weather permitting) for student activity in designated areas outside the building throughout the day.

Visitors In School (p.22)

Visitors to the buildings will be prohibited entrance, unless related to matters of student health.

- Parent/Administration/Teaching meetings must be scheduled in advance to set up a Zoom meeting.
- Intake visits, IEP team meetings, and all related meetings will be held virtually rather than in person.
- Deliveries will be left outside the entry door.

Additional Areas not addressed in the Student Handbook:

Common Areas (Media Center and Lunch Room)

Common areas of the school will be used as classrooms. Access to the common areas will be limited to the students receiving instruction there.

School Laptops

Students will retrieve their daily laptop in the first period room of their day. At the end of the day students will leave their laptop in the last period room of their day. Laptops will be sanitized daily at the end of a school day.

Back to School Night

Our back to school night will take place virtually and will be scheduled for sometime toward the end of September or early October. The date predicted on the calendar may not be utilized, but ample notice will be given.

Week in Review (Email Blast)

The Week in Review will continue to go to all Banyan families, students and staff every Sunday. It will continue to give the “what’s happening,” and important dates to come. If you do not receive it, please contact Marguerite Freeman, mfreeman@banyanschool.com.