



The Core Knowledge STEAM School of Choice

## WELCOME TO BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY!

On behalf of the Ben Franklin Academy, welcome! We are committed to providing a high-quality education and care to all students. The Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) handbook is designed to help students and parents become a part of the BFA community and to integrate into our culture of academic excellence and caring. We are all responsible for knowing the contents of the  $\pi$ . Although this handbook does not cover every situation or question, it is designed to be your guide through the most common situations.

### General Expectation

At Ben Franklin Academy, we believe that communication is paramount to the success of our students, and we believe that parents are essential in the communication process. Therefore, we ask that all members of the school community adhere to the following guidelines:

#### Keep up-to-date with our communication

- Check the [school website](#) (at least weekly for updated information)
- Check [Gradelink](#) (frequently to stay apprised of your student's grades)
- Read BFA emails and communication updates
- Check your student's planner daily
- Check class websites at least weekly

Treat our faculty and staff with respect – This includes during school events, in emails and telephone conversations, as well as in the classrooms during and outside of school hours. Our students are held to a high standard in this regard, and they truly need to see this modeled by all adults in their lives.

Respect our learning community – Enrolling your student at BFA indicates your commitment to supporting and respecting the rules outlined in this handbook.

Cooperative relationships provide the win-win support that all our students need to be able to focus on their education.

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## SECTION 1. BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

### MISSION

The mission of Ben Franklin Academy is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged.

### VISION

Our students will excel academically through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes math, science, the arts, and literacy. We will be a data-driven institution, focusing on individual students. Our students, teachers, parents, staff, and leaders will be held accountable for the success of our school. Finally, we recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering social emotional development, character, sports, and nature.

This Student-Parent Handbook outlines various policies of Ben Franklin Academy (BFA). This document is not meant to cover every aspect of BFA in specific detail. Instead, this document outlines the basic expectations, policies and day-to-day practices. Please be mindful that these policies were created with the best interest of the school as a whole in mind. A charter school is a school of choice; by enrolling your child at BFA you have chosen to abide by this handbook and BFA's policies. Please review this document thoroughly. This document may be modified throughout the year as necessary. As such, please check BFA's [website](#) for the latest version.

## **THE THIRTEEN VIRTUES**

- Temperance – Control is the key to improvement. Keep your words, actions, and temper in control.
- Silence – There is a time and place to speak up and a time to listen. You learn more by listening than speaking.
- Order – All things have their place. Keep your work area in order; keep your day in order.
- Resolution – Keep your word. When you have a task, get it done. Turn in your homework on time and be prepared.
- Frugality – Be frugal. Do not waste the school’s resources. Respect what you have been given. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Industry – Keep on task. There is a time for work and a time for play – do both with a good attitude.
- Sincerity – Be kind. Say kind words and treat others as you want to be treated. Encourage each other to succeed.
- Justice – Be respectful. Give everyone a chance to work or play. Give others a chance to express themselves. Share. Remember that others are counting on you, so live up to your duty.
- Moderation – Keep yourself in balance. Focus both on accomplishing things in which you excel and those you do not. Try new things.
- Cleanliness – Keep yourself and your work area clean. Keep your uniform clean. Keep your school clean. Keep your words clean.
- Tranquility – Keep yourself from reacting poorly to others. People are not perfect and the world is not fair. Learn to deal with both despite imperfections. Be patient.
- Purity – Be pure in thought and deed. White lies, a little gossip, and small, mean words are painful and say more about you than about others. What you think about others is how you will treat them. Develop good thoughts and feelings toward all.
- Humility – Be mindful of others before yourself. Treat them as you want to be treated. Think about how you can help others before being asked. Let others speak when it is their turn.

## **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

The Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) Board of Directors (Board) works for the students, parents and patrons of BFA in promoting the vision and mission of the school. As a governing board, BFA’s Board sets policies and has oversight over financial matters of the school while focusing on the long-term strategic direction of the school.

BFA’s Board is composed of seven individuals, committed to the success of BFA’s students. Brief biographies of BFA’s directors can be found online. If you are interested in learning about the composition, regulations and



limitations that govern the Board, please download the [Bylaws of Ben Franklin Academy](#).

The BFA Board holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at BFA, and are often live streamed for community viewing. Specific dates are listed on the [BFA website calendar](#). [Agendas](#) are posted 24 hours before a Board meeting and [minutes](#) are posted after approval at the following Board meeting. All are welcome to attend.

## **SECTION 2. STUDENT, PARENT AND TEACHER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **STUDENT RIGHTS**

As a student you have the right to:

1. Attend a safe, orderly and caring school.
2. Receive daily instruction that is competent, well-planned and geared to increase student achievement.
3. Be treated with respect by all staff, students and school personnel.
4. Receive the extra support needed to help you excel at your individual level.
5. Receive ongoing assessment of progress.
6. Receive academic and personal guidance as needed.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a student you have the responsibility to:

1. Learn and live the Thirteen Virtues.
2. Abide by all rules of behavior and to demonstrate your personal best in all areas.
3. Attend school on a regular and timely basis.
4. Make BFA a better place.
5. Treat all students, staff, and teachers with respect.
6. Take home your homework and correspondence as required by your teacher.
7. Follow BFA's policies, procedures and rules.
8. Make up work missed.

### **PARENT RIGHTS**

As a parent you have the right to:

1. Be informed of your child's progress on a regular basis.
2. Be involved in your child's education.
3. Have your child attend a safe, orderly and caring school.
4. Be properly informed of all ongoing school issues by obtaining information from [BFA's website](#)

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a parent you have the responsibility to:

1. Check your child's school work, review Gradelink (Training video can be found [Here](#)), as well as interim reports and report cards.
2. Provide educational support by ensuring your child attends school daily, is on time and prepared to learn by having the necessary materials.
3. Support school rules and work cooperatively with the school, avoiding confrontational and adversarial resolution of grievances.
4. Be familiar with and follow school procedures found on [BFA's website](#).
5. Review BFA's proactive discipline plan with your child.
6. Complete your volunteer commitment.

## **TEACHER RIGHTS**

As a teacher you have the right to:

1. Work in a safe, caring and orderly environment, conducive to teaching and learning.
2. Receive support required to provide optimum learning in the classroom.
3. Work with students who make an honest effort to learn.
4. Receive support from parents in the teaching and learning process.
5. Have distractions from educational tasks kept to a minimum.
6. Be treated with respect by all students, parents and school personnel.
7. Correct inappropriate behavior to maximize the learning environment.

## **TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a teacher you have the responsibility to:

1. Come to school dressed appropriately, for a professional environment, prepared to teach all students.
2. Provide well-planned instruction.
3. Address the needs, concerns and problems of each student.
4. Provide assessments, data and feedback to students and parents EX: gradelink, student work and google classroom.
5. Read and know BFA's policies and procedures, including the Student Discipline Policy.
6. Treat all students, parents, and school personnel with respect.
7. Inform parents of behavior changes or academic struggles in students that may potentially affect their academic success.

### **SECTION 3. ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

The [Academic Calendar](#) for the year can be found on our Calendar section of our website.

### **SECTION 4: SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

#### **Contact Information**

Address: 2270 Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Main phone number: 720.383.4519

[Email: info@bfacademy.org](mailto:info@bfacademy.org)

Attendance phone number: 720.432.9239

[Attendance email: attendance@bfacademy.org](mailto:attendance@bfacademy.org) or through the BFA App

#### **Office Hours**

The office is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office will close daily from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. to assist with carpool. The school office is closed on all holidays listed on the school calendar and during weather-related school closures.

#### **School Hours**

Regular School hours: 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Morning Kindergarten: 8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Afternoon Kindergarten: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### **Closed campus**

Students are not permitted to leave campus without being signed out by a parent, guardian, authorized adult, or a signed note with written parental/guardian permission to walk or bike home. If a student leaves school grounds without permission, (s)he is considered truant and subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Change of Contact Information**

Please notify the school office of any change in contact information in writing immediately. Changes can include phone numbers, address, email, and emergency contacts.

#### **Messages for Students**

Messages for students must be called into the school office and only should be urgent. Parents are not allowed

to call directly into the student's classroom to speak with their student. Messages received after 2:00 p.m. may not be delivered before the end of the school day.

### **Early Student Pick-up**

Early pick-up of students must be completed before 3:00 p.m. Parents must sign out their student in the office. The student will be called to come to the office for dismissal. For the safety and security of all students, parents must wait in the office for their child. No dismissals will occur through the front office after 3:00 p.m. All parents will be directed to the carpool line to pick up their student after 3:00 p.m.

### **Late Student Pick-up**

The afternoon carpool is from 3:30 p.m. to 3:55 p.m., and all parents are expected to pick up their children during this time. Students not picked up by the end of the afternoon carpool and who are enrolled in BASE will be sent to BASE and parents will be charged at the current BASE tuition rate. Students who are not picked up and are not enrolled in BASE will be held in the office while parents are contacted. A late fee will be charged for students who are not picked up by the end of carpool. Students must be picked up from BASE by 6:00 p.m.

### **Weather Related School Closures and Delays**

BFA will follow Douglas County School District ("DCSD") for school closures and delays. Closure information can be found at the district website or any local news source. Please use your discretion regarding late starts to ensure the safety of your family. Please call the office if your child will be tardy or absent on these days.

### **Visitors/Guests**

Visitors must come to the office to register (with valid government-issued ID) and receive a visitor's pass to visit classes or be in the building. Visitors must undergo a background check at the start of every new school year at BFA.

### **Classroom Visits by Parents**

Parents are welcome to visit the school, however, drop-in or unannounced visitors to the classroom can be disruptive. Classroom visits must be coordinated with the classroom teacher.

Classroom visits during the first 2-3 weeks of school are discouraged. These weeks are an important relationship building time for teachers and students.

### **Lockers**

BFA provides lockers for students in grades 6-8. Lockers are school property and do not belong to individual students. Students will be held responsible for any excessive damage to their lockers. BFA has the authority to search lockers when deemed necessary. Lockers must be kept closed when not in use to maintain the integrity of the fire corridors and to avoid careless accidents. Items outside of lockers or on the floor may be removed and

disposed of or placed in lost and found.

It is the student's responsibility to keep lockers secured. Locker combinations are not to be given to anyone else. BFA cannot be held responsible for valuables that are taken and/or damaged from lockers. Students can decorate lockers with magnets and command strips that can be easily removed.

### **Gum**

Gum is not permitted on school transportation, playground or in school.

### **Public Display of Affection**

Display of affection is not appropriate or permitted at BFA. Students are not allowed to hold hands, kiss or demonstrate other similar acts of affection.

### **Lost and Found**

Found items are kept in BFA's lost and found. Uniform items that can be identified with the child's name will be returned. Parents are encouraged to label their child's belongings and to check lost and found for missing items. Parents who are checking lost and found must sign in at the front office. All unclaimed items will be donated or thrown away during the fall break, winter break, spring break and end of year.

### **Transportation Procedures**

These transportation procedures will be modified throughout the year to seek the most efficient and effective procedures possible. Please check BFA's website for the more current transportation procedure.

### ***Arrival Procedures***

The building doors will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 8:13 a.m. There will be no supervision prior to 7:45 a.m. Students arriving between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. will be sent to the gym (K-4) or the commons (5-8).

### ***Dismissal Procedures***

BFA is a closed campus. Students are expected to remain on school grounds at all times unless special permission is granted. Parents must check students in and out of the office if they leave for any reason throughout the day. School dismisses at 3:25 p.m. Students who are not picked up and are not registered in BASE will be held in the office while parents are contacted. A late fee will be charged for students who are not picked up by the end of carpool.

### **Hours**

Morning carpool drop-off: 7:45 a.m. – 8:13 a.m.

Afternoon carpool pick-up: 3:20 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Morning kindergarten pick-up: 11:15 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Afternoon kindergarten drop-off: 12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Parking Lot Procedures**

The Traffic Policy and Traffic Procedures can be found at the BFA website. All parents shall abide by the parking lot procedures. Parents must understand that drop off and pick up at a charter school is a complex process. Please pay attention, follow the policy, and follow any direction provided by staff. The complexity associated with pick up and drop off can only be mitigated if everyone cooperates and is patient. But, most importantly, please be patient and remember your kids are watching how you behave.

Please see BFA's Traffic and Parking Management Policy for additional details.

### **School Lunch**

Free school lunch will be provided by DCSD, and additional snacks can be purchased by students.

The lunch menu (including ingredients and allergy information) can be found at

<http://dcsd.nutrislice.com/>.

### **Student Fees**

Each year the Governing Board and the BFA Administration will review the budget to determine the student fees for the year.

You will not be asked to provide school supplies for your child's classroom. If student fees are charged, they are non-refundable. These fees do not include field trips.

All textbooks and electronic devices are the property of BFA and are on loan to students for their use during the school year. Students are responsible for the proper care of textbooks and electronic devices, and must maintain them in good condition. Students should not highlight or write in textbooks. At the end of the year or unit of study, students must return the exact numbered copy they were issued to get credit for turning in the book. Excessive damage will be noted at this time and students may be charged for damages beyond typical wear and tear.

Students/parents will be responsible for the replacement cost of textbooks or electronic devices that are damaged beyond repair or not returned for any reason. If a textbook or electronic device is lost during the school year, a duplicate item will not be issued until the cost of replacing the lost item is paid. All replacement textbooks or

electronic devices will be purchased by BFA.

### **Birthday Parties and Invitations**

Students are permitted to bring in small treats to celebrate their birthdays. Please ask your student's teacher before bringing in treats to check for allergies and to determine the appropriate number. Treats must be brought for the entire class or not at all.

Invitations for birthday parties can be delivered at school only if every student in the class is invited or if only all the boys or girls in a class are invited. No exceptions.

### **Dress Code**

Students are required to arrive at school properly and neatly attired. Uniforms are mandatory and should be worn as the manufacturer intended. Uniforms must be purchased from Educational Outfitters (<https://denver.educationaloutfitters.com>), French Toast ([www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com)), and/or Tommy Hilfiger ([www.globalschoolwear.com](http://www.globalschoolwear.com)). The acceptable school uniform can be found by reviewing the Ben Franklin Academy Uniform Standards for all students. Clothing, which is oversized, undersized, excessively baggy, tight, or revealing is not acceptable. Uniforms are required to be in good repair. Under no circumstances may students write on, cut up, defame or add to their uniform.

BFA's Uniform Policy can be found on the BFA website [HERE](#).

### **Safety**

#### *Drills*

BFA will hold emergency drills as proscribed by Colorado Law. Students are expected to comply with all instructions during these drills.

#### *Crisis and Emergency Response Plan*

The administration and staff of BFA have taken significant steps to ensure the safety and well-being of your child(ren) at school. The school has created a School Crisis and Emergency Plan in accordance with DCSD. This plan takes into consideration a variety of situations that could potentially arise in our school, or our neighborhood and plans have been created should an emergency or crisis arise.

In the event of an emergency situation, parents may be contacted via email and phone.

Please avoid coming to the school until you've been instructed to do so. It is possible that, during a crisis in the neighborhood, you may not be able to enter the school building if it compromises the safety of the children during a lockdown.

Please DO NOT call the school directly during an emergency as this ties up phone lines and prevents important

inbound or outbound calls with emergency personnel.

### **Communications**

The [BFA website - www.bfacademy.org](http://www.bfacademy.org) - shall be up to date on all school matters and will be the primary communication tool. This website as well as email communication shall be the primary mode of communication between the BFA and parents.

A school newsletter shall be emailed weekly to registered users. These newsletters shall include information about assemblies, special events, etc.

### **BFA Mobile App**

Stay connected to BFA from your mobile device through our mobile app. Download the BFA App for instant access to BFA contacts, the latest news, calendars, menus and more! If you enable push notifications, you will receive important announcements immediately after publication. You can also use the app for attendance reporting and connecting with Infinite Campus.

The app is available on IOS and Android devices – get it now on the App Store or Google Play.

### **Parent-Teacher Communication**

Regular communication is critical in the educational process. Email is the primary form of communication between teachers and parents. If a parent meeting is necessary or a parent wishes to come visit with a teacher, such meetings should be scheduled ahead of time and around the teacher's teaching schedule. When sending an email message for a teacher, please understand that a teacher's daily schedule may limit the time available to return calls. If unsure which teacher to address, the parent should start with the student's homeroom teacher. The teacher or staff member will return contact within 48 hours. All response times will be based upon when school is in session.

## **SECTION 5: STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

### **Compulsory Attendance**

State law requires school attendance by every child between the ages of seven (7) and sixteen (16) years. Attendance in class is an integral part of the successful educational process. Students are required to be in attendance every day school is in session during each academic school year. Parents, guardians and legal custodians of students between the ages of seven (7) and sixteen (16) are obligated by state law to ensure the child's attendance.

The courts may issue orders against the child, child's parent, or both compelling the child to attend school or the



parent take reasonable steps to assure the child's attendance. The order may require the parent, child, or both to follow an appropriate treatment plan that addresses problems affecting the child's school attendance and that ensures an opportunity for the child to obtain a quality education.

### **Attendance Procedures**

All absences and tardies must be called in to the attendance line at 720-432-9239 or [emailed](#) to by 8:30 a.m. Extended or planned absences should be reported in advance to the office. If you have not contacted the main office by 8:30 a.m., DCSD will contact you to let you know your student is not at school.

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences are those resulting from temporary or extended illness, injury or physical, mental or emotional disability; family emergencies; planned absences approved by the administration; or absences which occur when a student is in custody of a court of law enforcement authority.

If a student is absent due to illness for more than three (3) consecutive days, a note from a medical doctor stating the medical reason for the absence may be required for that absence to be excused by the school.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences are absences (with or without prior knowledge and approval of the parents) that are not acceptable to the administration. An absence is classified as unexcused if a parent/guardian fails to properly notify the school of the absence.

### **Absences due to Planned Trips or Vacations**

If an absence of three (3) or more days is planned, parents/guardians must provide written notification to the front office at least one (1) week prior to the first day of the planned absence. Make-up work may not be provided prior to the planned absence. It will be provided once the student returns to school and must be completed in the timeframe identified below.

### **Tardiness**

Tardiness to school is a failure to appear on time in the first class of the day and is considered a form of absence. All tardies are recorded daily, and chronic tardiness to school will result in a warning letter and, eventually, a parent/guardian meeting with administration.

The front doors of the school are locked at 8:10 a.m. After 8:10 a.m., students will be required to enter through the front office where they will receive a tardy slip. Students will also be considered tardy if they are not in their classroom, settled in and ready to learn by 8:15 a.m. If students arrive later than 8:15, parents must walk the student into the building and sign them in.

### **Missed/Make Up Classwork and Homework**

Students are expected to make up any classwork and homework missed during absences. Students will be given two (2) days for each day of the absence to complete and turn in missing assignments. The two (2) days begin the day the student returns to school. A homework plan may be developed by the teacher for any absence of five (5) or more consecutive days.

If the absence occurs near the end of a grading period, all work must be turned in within five (5) school days of the end of the grading period in order to receive credit. The student's report card may be delayed for up to two (2) weeks in order for make-up work to be graded. For the third trimester, all work must be handed in by the last day of school and there may be a delay in the report card.

### **Habitually Truant Students**

Habitually truant students are those who have four (4) or more unexcused absences with a one (1) month period or ten (10) or more unexcused absences during one (1) school year. Once a student is deemed habitually truant, the school administration shall notify the student's parent/guardian in writing. In cooperation, the parent/guardian, teacher and school administration will develop a plan to prevent any further unexcused absences. As a last resort, court action may be initiated by the school administration when necessary to enforce attendance requirements. If students have ten (10) unexcused consecutive absences, without any communication with the school, the student may be withdrawn from school.

BFA tracks attendance and tardies closely. Each time a student has five (5) absences or seven (7) tardies within a single trimester, either excused or unexcused, administration will send home a letter informing the parent/guardian of the situation. If there are an additional five (5) absences or five (5) tardies in the same trimester, either excused or unexcused, another letter will be sent home requesting a conference with the parent/guardian, the assistant principal and the classroom teacher.

### **Early Dismissal**

We must know the whereabouts of our students at all times. Students who must leave school during regularly scheduled hours must be checked out from the front office by the parent/guardian, designee or an emergency contact listed in IC.

Elementary students who leave 1.5 hours before dismissal are considered as being absent one-half day. Middle school students who leave early will only be marked absent for the class periods they miss. Middle school students who miss the entire school day will not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities at any time on that given day.

## **Withdrawal of Students**

To withdraw a student prior to the end of the school year, a withdrawal form must be filled out and turned into the school Registrar. This form will give BFA the information needed to forward the student's records.

## **SECTION 6: HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Health Information**

#### *Dispensing Medication*

Medication can be dispensed at the school only if the Medication Form is completed and signed by a doctor. This form will be kept in the health office. All medication must be prescribed by a doctor and sent into school in its originally labeled container. This includes over the counter medications. All student medications will be stored in the health office. In rare circumstances and in consultation with the school nurse and the principal, students may be allowed special medication privileges.

#### *Ill Students*

Please do not send your child to school if your child has vomited, has had diarrhea or has had a fever of 100 degrees or higher in the last 24 hours, or if your child has any contagious illness (i.e. chicken pox, COVID, pink eye, strep, measles, upper respiratory infection or impetigo). Your child will be sent home if they vomit, have diarrhea, have a fever of over 100 degrees, or other symptoms that interfere with the learning environment.

When a student becomes ill at school:

- (1) The student needs to report to the clinic.
- (2) The Health Assistant will contact parents. If a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact person listed on the emergency card will be called.
- (3) In case of a more serious injury or illness, "911" will be called for medical assistance and the parents notified immediately. Emergency personnel will determine if the child should be transported to the closest hospital.

#### *Emergency Contact Information*

Please be sure to keep your emergency contact information up to date in case we need to contact them to pick your child up.

#### *Immunizations*

The following immunizations are required by the State of Colorado for kindergarteners through 5th grade.

DtaP/DT (Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) = 5 doses

IPV/OPV (Polio) = 4 doses

HepB (Hepatitis) = 3 doses

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) = 2 doses

Varicella (Chickenpox) = 2 doses

Incoming sixth graders: Tdap (Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) = 1 dose

## **SECTION 7: ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

### **Core Knowledge**

BFA will provide a rigorous educational program, challenging all students at their own level. The Core Knowledge Sequence – with an emphasis on math, science, and literacy – combined with programming for music, art, physical education, and principle-based character education constitute the backbone of the Academy’s academic program. Students exposed to the Core Knowledge Sequence have shown significant gains on standardized tests in reading comprehension, vocabulary, science, mathematics concepts, and social studies. BFA’s academic program will fully align with the Colorado Academic Standards. A brief overview of the BFA’s principal curricula is set forth below.

### **Envision Math**

Envision Math will be implemented as BFA’s primary mathematics program. This program is closely aligned to Colorado State standards. Envision uses repetition as well as spiraling review to teach math concepts and challenges students to problem solve. Each grade level has built in supports for students who need extra support or extra challenge.

### **Science**

Students, beginning in kindergarten, will have daily science exposure. BFA’s science curriculum, Core Knowledge Science, will increase students’ scientific literacy and expose them to the scientific method: teaching them to ask questions, hypothesize, make observations, collect and analyze data using various tools, draw conclusions, and communicate their results.

BFA intends to provide its students with increased opportunities for inquiry-based learning through hands-on labs and experiences.

### **Literacy**

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) is a comprehensive, preschool through fifth grade program for teaching reading, writing, listening, and speaking while also building students’ vocabulary and knowledge across essential [domains in literature, global and American history, and the sciences](#). In the early grades, CKLA focuses on oral

language development through carefully sequenced read-alouds as well as systematic instruction in reading and writing skills. In later grades, CKLA continues to advance students' knowledge and vocabulary through read-alouds and in-depth discussions while also immersing students in complex texts and advanced writing assignments that draw on the academic content they've been engaged in since preschool.

BFA will emphasize literacy by supplementing the CK Sequence in language arts and literature with *Step Up to Writing* and *6+1 Traits* (K-8), *Accelerated Reader* (K-5) and *Saxon Writing and Grammar* (6-8). Further, BFA's civics department will use *Pearson Learning Core Knowledge History and Geography* (K-6).

### **Character Education**

For its principle-based character education, BFA will use *Second Step*, along with a focus on Benjamin Franklin's Thirteen Virtues.

### **Technology**

BFA will create a dynamic learning environment by integrating technology into its curricula. BFA will provide opportunities for students to access information, organize data, create, and problem-solve using a variety of age-appropriate technologies that may include iPads, ChromeBooks and two technology labs. Classrooms have whiteboards, interactive projectors and document readers that enable teachers to display information from computers, creating a dynamic learning environment for students through the technology's interactive nature, vivid images, and video and audio capabilities. Research shows that students engaged in technology-rich environments show significant gains and achievements in all subject areas, improved attitudes toward learning, and increased self-esteem.

### **Assessments**

As a data-driven institution, BFA will conduct annual Family and Staff Satisfaction Surveys as well as collect, review, and analyze data from the Colorado Measures of Academic Progress (CMAS), iReady Assessment program, Accelerated Reader/STAR Early Literacy ("STAR"), and teacher observations, in addition to any new State assessments, to make decisions about the progress and direction of each student.

Notably, these standardized tests will not only assess individual student achievement but also score how the BFA is performing relative to State standards and other schools' programming.

Recognizing that the success of its students is directly related to the effectiveness of its Board, administrators, faculty, and staff in implementing BFA's vision and mission, the Academy has developed a professional development plan to provide all of its professionals with opportunities for continuous growth and improvement of their skills, which will, in turn, further strengthen BFA's programs and improve student achievement. BFA will use technology, such as EduClimber, to conduct and analyze assessments thus enabling teachers to effectively differentiate instruction for each student and quickly identify students who are falling behind, as well as allowing administrators to determine the training needs of the Academy's faculty. Continuing evaluations,

including the student assessments identified above, Family and Staff Satisfaction Survey results, and needs assessments, are integral to BFA's professional development.

### **Professional Development**

Initially, BFA's professional development plan for administrators, faculty and staff focuses on its mission and vision, CK Sequence and supplemental curriculum, assessments, differentiated instruction, flexible ability groupings, character education and general policies and resources. Research suggests that when professional development is focused on academic content and curriculum that is aligned with standards-based reform, teaching practice and student achievement are likely to improve. Throughout the year, staff also will participate in scheduled, structured and purposeful weekly team meetings, and may visit and observe faculty at nearby successful charter schools. While subsequent training activities will review and reinforce prior topics, quarterly needs assessments and evaluations will be conducted to ensure that the BFA is providing adequate resources to support its academic program as well as to determine the effectiveness of the training activities as they relate to increasing student achievement. Pre- and post-assessments in writing, reading, math, and science may be used to gauge whether students are benefiting from teacher development opportunities.

### **Grade Scale**

Grades shall be distributed in accordance with the BFA's Grading Policy.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards will be distributed at the end of each trimester. BFA will provide traditional letter grade report cards as set forth in the Grading Policy.

### **Homework**

Homework is an integral and essential part of BFA's academic program. As such, BFA has adopted a [Homework Policy](#) which can be found at. Teachers, parents, and students are responsible for reading and complying with the Homework Policy as it is amended from time to time.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conference sessions will be scheduled twice a year during the first and second trimesters- dates for these can be found on the academic calendar. Parents will be notified via email regarding the schedule for parent-teacher conferences.

### **Field Trips**

A field trip can be a valuable extension of the classroom experience. Only field trips that have a specific goal clearly related to the curriculum and a significant educational value will be considered. The principal must give approval and sanction arrangements for all field trips.

For more information please refer to the [Field Trip Policy](#).

**Response to Intervention (RTI) and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support)** Response to Intervention is a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and to reduce behavior problems.

With RTI, schools identify students at risk for poor learning outcomes, monitor student progress, provide evidence-based interventions and adjust the intensity and nature of those interventions depending on a student's responsiveness, and identify future steps to support students. Through this process, ongoing data collection is used to recognize if formal, data driven interventions would help a student with academic or behavioral challenges much earlier than in the past. This allows students to be provided with the help they need before further learning disabilities develop.

### **Internet Use**

Ben Franklin Academy is pleased to offer students access to our computer network and the Internet. The intended purpose of BFA's network and access to the Internet is to promote educational research and enhance learning. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases and countless other educational resources. While BFA's intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well.

Students accessing inappropriate sites/material will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Mobile Electronic Device Use**

The goal at BFA is to ensure that mobile technology is properly used for educational purposes and is not a distraction for students, teachers, staff and administration.

Please review BFA's [Mobile Electronic Use Policy](#) on BFA's website.

### **Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to be honest and to display a high standard of integrity in the preparation and presentation of work for credit in all classes.

## **SECTION 8: BFA RULES**

The word discipline comes from disciple, which means "one who learns". BFA's discipline plan is a three-pillared process set on a foundation of best practices in education and relationships. The first pillar is prevention through the use of restorative practices and the establishment of clear rules and procedures. The second pillar is equity through fair and consistent responses to harmful and unacceptable behavior. The third pillar is restoration

through empathy and forgiveness. The educational foundation that these pillars stand upon is curriculum, instruction and assessment practices that are engaging, rigorous, and individualized.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

BFA's code of conduct is based on the premise that all students are capable of behaving in the school setting. Each student has the right to the school environment as a means of self-improvement and intellectual growth. It is, therefore, expected that all students will conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the BFA's function as an educational facility.

Discipline is an interaction with the student, both from BFA personnel as well as parents. Students must learn that there are consequences for their actions or inactions. Rules are established to serve a reasonable purpose, be practical and within the child's capability and be consistent and clearly defined. Our goal is to help each student learn self-control, self-direction and responsibility for their behavior.

Discipline is only as effective as the support we get from the parents. Please discuss any discipline referral that is recorded in Gradelink or sent home with your child and use it as a learning opportunity for your child and to reinforce the BFA's code of conduct.

## **Recess and Playground Rules**

### *Recess*

Outdoor recess will be held every day unless it is raining or snowing heavily, or below 20 degrees. Students should come prepared with appropriate outerwear for the variable Colorado weather. If students wear snow boots to school, they need to bring shoes that conform to the dress code to wear in the classroom.

### *Playground*

The playground equipment is to be used the way it was intended. Students must wear appropriate shoes at all times on the playground.

- Fighting/wrestling of any kind is prohibited.
- Toy guns or weapons of any kind are not allowed on the school grounds. • Students may not throw snow, rocks, or and Students must stay in the playground boundaries.
- Students may not go outside of playground boundaries to retrieve a piece of equipment. Students must notify the playground supervisor.
- Students are not to participate in overly aggressive, tackle games of any kind. • Students are encouraged to work through their own disagreements during recess but should consult with the playground supervisor when necessary.



## Discipline

BFA's discipline policy is detailed in the [Discipline Policy](#).

## Bullying/Harassment

Bullying, as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

## Types of Bullying

**Verbal bullying** is saying or writing mean things.

**Social bullying**, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships.

**Physical bullying** involves hurting a person's body or possessions.

**Cyber-Bullying** involves using technology to relay threats, harassment or humiliation.

Behavior on or off school property which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel including intimidation, hazing, bullying, or threatening will not be tolerated.

Bullying cannot be investigated by the school until school personnel are made aware of such acts. If a student or staff member is a victim of any form of bullying, the incident must be reported to staff or administration and/or file complaints. All complaints will be promptly and appropriately addressed.

## SECTION 9: VOLUNTEERING

### Volunteering is Strongly Encouraged

Parents are strongly encouraged to complete 30 approved hours per year. As noted in the Volunteer and Visitor Policy, single family households are encouraged to contribute 15 hours of volunteer time. There will be multiple opportunities throughout the year to get involved. Siblings are not allowed to be with the parent/guardian during the volunteer time. These tasks can include such things as:

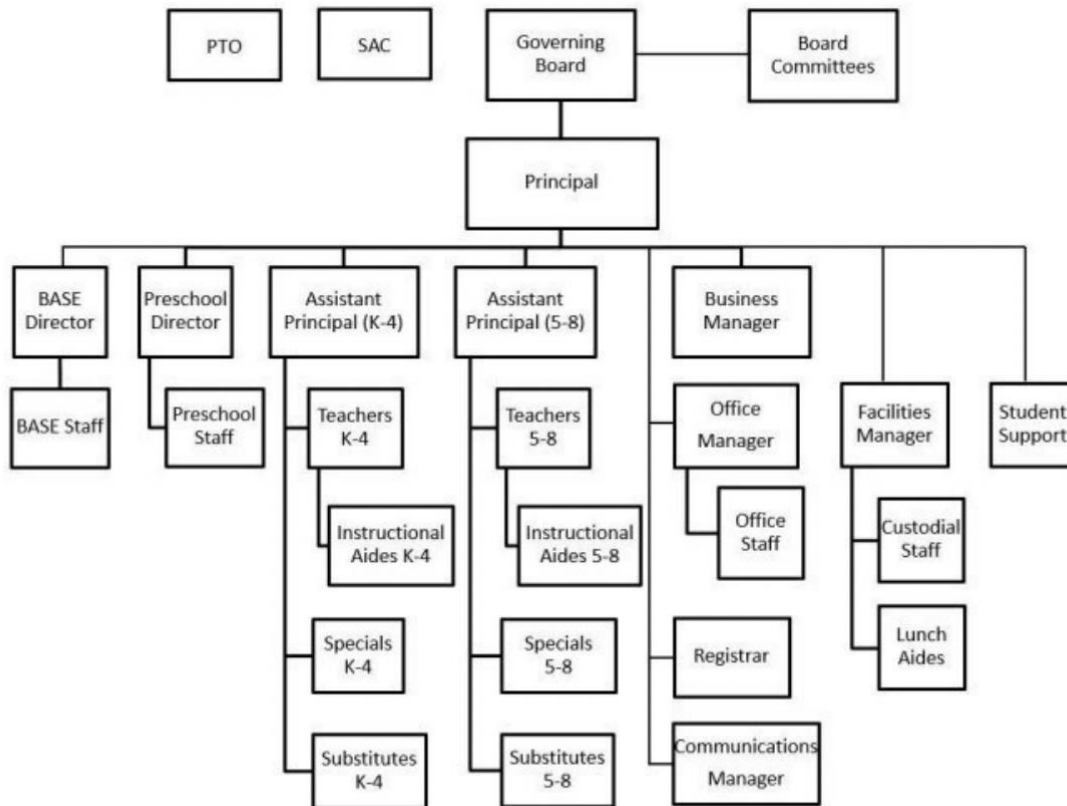
- Planning and organizing various events and activities including field days, art shows, science fairs, and musical programs.
- Assisting students with Accelerated Reader testing.
- Helping with classroom projects throughout the year, including many at-home projects that must be returned to school in the designated time frame.
- Assisting the school’s Facilities Manager with various building maintenance related projects such as snow shoveling, painting, and more.
- Supporting the library/media room and assisting the school’s • Library/Media Specialist.
- Work with any of the school’s committees or the parent-teacher organization.
- Provide for and support after school programs.

Please review the [Volunteer](#) page or contact via [email](#) for more information.

### SECTION 10: SCHOOL COMMUNITY

#### Governance

BFA will be organized in accordance with the following organizational chart:



### ***Board of Directors***

The Board of Directors operate as a policy-setting board in accordance with the Founding Board's bylaws. Board members shall be elected in accordance with the Board Election Policy. The BFA's Board of Directors shall:

- Establish and maintain the mission and vision of BFA.  
Implement policies that are consistent with the mission, vision, and goals of BFA.
- Hire and evaluate the Principal.
- Provide financial and legal oversight to ensure that the BFA's integrity is maintained.
- Be responsible for final accountability for the BFA's academic success, organizational viability, and faithfulness to the terms of the contract. • Organize subcommittees that report to the board of directors.
- Recruit and orient new Board members and assess Board performance.

### ***Principal***

The Principal will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school. The Principal reports to the Board and is responsible for: hiring and evaluating the Assistant Principals, Business Manager, teachers, preschool, and other staff; directing grant and fundraising efforts; assisting the Board with its long-term strategic plan; and overseeing and managing the development of the annual school budget. The principal, or designee manages all disciplinary matters for students and staff. The principal sets the tone for the school and is responsible for achieving the school goals, following the vision, and achieving the mission.

### ***Assistant Principals***

The Assistant Principals report to the Principal and are responsible for the development of the educational program and staff professional development plan, as well as the data collection and analysis of student assessments. The Assistant Principal shall also work with teachers and groups of teachers in developing and refining the BFA's curriculum.

### ***Facilities Manager***

The Operations Director reports to the principal and is responsible for the safety, risk, and overall upkeep and cleanliness of the facility.

### ***Business Manager***

The Business Manager reports to the Principal and is responsible for providing financial management. The Business Manager shall work with the finance committee to ensure the financial success of the school. The business manager is also responsible for reporting to the district, to the state, and shall work within the school budget.

***Preschool Director***

The Preschool Director runs and operates the preschool. The Preschool Director reports to the principal.

***Office Manager***

The Office Manager reports to the Principal and shall ensure that all staff have the needed resources to successfully do their job. The Office Manager shall manage BFA's documents, records and supplies. The Office Manager shall manage the office and the office staff.

***Community Events Committee (CEC)***

The mission of the Community Events Committee is to help build a BFA community that promotes interaction between students, staff, administration, parents and the surrounding community with emphasis on community service and outreach. The Committee also connects parents and students with the BFA internal and external community by focusing on outreach, service and information. Our Committee members are knowledgeable and supportive of school policy, events/activities related to the school and committed to the overall Mission and Vision of BFA.

[Email: cec@bfacademy.org](mailto:cec@bfacademy.org).

***School Accountability Committee (SAC)***

The SAC is tasked with informing, encouraging, and providing opportunities for parent and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school's instructional program and quality improvement processes. The SAC reports to the Board and participates in the District Accountability Committee. The state of Colorado requires each school to have a School Accountability Committee consisting of parents, teachers, and community members charged with advising the administration on the improvement of the school. SAC also serves as a sounding board for community concerns through their parent and student surveys. All meetings are open to the public and publicized beforehand. We encourage parents and other community members to attend.

[Email: sac@bfacademy.org](mailto:sac@bfacademy.org).

***Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM):***

The STEM Committee reports to the board on science matters and is a resource to the staff on Science Expos, Science Fairs, and other extracurricular science activities. Along with advising on the latest science curriculum, the STEM committee is responsible for bringing in speakers and sponsoring clubs for students after school, as well as participating in our science fairs and science expo. STEM seeks qualified scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians for this committee.

[Email: stem@bfacademy.org](mailto:stem@bfacademy.org).

***Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)***

The PTO is an organization for parents separate and distinct from BFA. However, the PTO works closely with BFA

for fundraising events. The objectives of the PTO are as follows: 1) Build a strong school spirit by working to enhance the quality of our students' education; 2) Support the school administration by serving as a volunteer resource; 3) Promote communication with the BFA community; 4) raising funds. Every parent is a member of the PTO. The PTO has a board, elected each year by parent vote, which oversees the activities of the PTO. The PTO plays a major role in fundraising and organizing parent volunteers in the classroom.

Email: [pto@bfacademy.org](mailto:pto@bfacademy.org).

## **SECTION 11: POLICIES**

All other policies of Ben Franklin Academy are incorporated herein by reference. The most up to date version of BFA's policies can be found on BFA's website.

In particular, the Conflict Resolution Policy should be referred to in all situations when an individual has a conflict with a teacher, staff, or administrator at BFA. The most up to [date version of this policy](#) can be found at <http://www.bfacademy.org/policies>.

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