

BREMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2011 - 2012

BREMOND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 190

BREMOND, TEXAS 76629

www.bremondisd.net

The Bremond Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, or disability in providing educational services.

The Superintendent has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX and of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

BREMOND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PREFACE

This booklet contains a great deal of required and useful information for a large number of students and parents. Because it cannot be as personal a communication as we would like, we address students not directly as “you” but rather as “the student”, “student”, or “children”. Likewise, the term “the student’s parent” may refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for the student.

BREMOND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose and intent of the Bremond Independent School District is to direct the students in their learning experiences and activities, individually and collectively, so that they will be prepared to successfully meet the problems of life in our competitive democratic society. A fundamental premise underlying our democratic way of life is a belief in the intrinsic worth of every individual. Therefore, we believe that all members of our free society must be provided the opportunity for development of their individual capabilities through education. Another fundamental premise at the heart of civilized society is a respect for excellence. The intent of the Bremond Independent School District is to provide a learning environment which will encourage the development of individual potential, desire for excellence, and a sense of responsibility to self and society. It is toward this purpose that trustees, administrators, teachers, and support staff dedicate their efforts in providing each student with intellectually stimulating instruction of the highest quality together with guidance required to foster and develop the full scope of the student's abilities and potential.

The Bremond Independent School District bases its educational philosophy on the following beliefs:

- Each child is a unique and valuable person who should be respected as an individual.
- There is a need for a school environment which is administratively flexible enough to allow the student to experience success and develop his or her potential both mentally and physically.
- Each student will benefit from the communication and cooperation among students, staff, teachers, administrators, parents, and community.

In keeping with these beliefs, the Bremond Independent School District seeks to provide opportunities that are consistent with the abilities and potential of all students by constantly reviewing and upgrading facilities, materials, equipment, and instructional programs.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BREMOND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

To develop each student's intellectual, social, and emotional abilities in order to insure that each child masters the basic curriculum and maximizes their innate potential .

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

1. Each student must take the state required curriculum for his or her grade level.
2. The passing grade is 70, or a 70% mastery of the state required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) upon which the curriculum is based. If the yearly average (the average of the two final semester grades) is 70, or above, the student has passed that subject for the year.
3. All report card grades used for grades 1 through 5 will be the actual number grade for that reporting period. S, N, and U will be used for grades in Handwriting , Art, Music, Physical Education, Pre-K subjects, and Kindergarten.

ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of the reading diagnosis test.

ASSEMBLIES

Students are required to conduct themselves in assemblies as they do in class. Students who are tardy or who do not abide by District rules of conduct during an assembly shall be subject to disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led activities, to build each day’s learning on that of the previous day, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws, one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for credit are of special interest to students and parents.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The state compulsory attendance law requires that “a student between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend school and District-required tutorial sessions unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused.”

ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

In order to receive credit for the school year, a student must be in attendance for at least 90% of the school year. This allows for only 18 absences during the school year. Students who are absent more than 18 days during the school year shall not be allowed to be promoted to the next grade level unless the attendance committee finds that the excessive absences are the result of extenuating circumstances.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first, and second grade students are assigned. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of the reading diagnostic test.

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional instruction (termed “accelerated instruction” by the state) assigned by a grade placement committee; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the students:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

When returning to school after an absence, a student must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence; notes signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will be considered a forgery and the student will be disciplined.

Bremont Independent School District accepts the following as extenuating circumstances for the purpose of granting credit for the school year:

- An excused absence based on personal sickness, sickness or death in the family, quarantine, weather or road conditions making travel dangerous, or any other unusual cause acceptable to the superintendent or principal.
- Participation in court proceedings or child abuse/neglect investigation.
- Others as appropriately accepted by the attendance committee.

If the attendance committee finds that there are no extenuating circumstances for the absence or if conditions established by the committee for earning or regaining credit are not met, the committee shall deny credit for the school year.

Parents of students who are excessively absent (more than 18 absences for the school year) will be required to appear before the attendance committee.

Students whose petitions for credit are denied may appeal the attendance committee's decision to the Board of Trustees.

Bremont Independent School District shall provide alternative ways for students to make up work or regain credit lost because of absences. Teachers shall inform their student of the time allotted for completion of make-up work after absences; however, the student shall be responsible for finding out about the assignments and making up the work within the allotted time.

Students who are absent from school for any reason will not be allowed to participate in school-related activities on that day or evening.

Students who are late to class are tardy and may be assigned to morning, afternoon, or Saturday detention hall. Repeated instances or tardiness shall result in more severe disciplinary action.

Students who are absent from school without permission will be considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action.

A student who must leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning. Students who become ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the office. The principal or secretary will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

ATTENDANCE AT ATHLETIC EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Elementary students attending athletic events and other extracurricular activities will not be admitted unless accompanied by an adult, age 18 or over.

AWARDS PROGRAM

On the last day of school, an Awards Program is held to recognize academic achievement.

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

State law requires the District to provide the following information:

WHAT IS MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

HOW SERIOUS IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

HOW IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS SPREAD?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside of the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as sharing drinking containers and utensils).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

HOW CAN BACTERIAL MENINGITIS BE PREVENTED?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, etc.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85-90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOU OR A FRIEND MIGHT HAVE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

School personnel, your family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov and the Texas Department of Health: www.tdh.state.tx.us

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK

Celebrate Freedom Week is scheduled by law for the week in which November 11 falls. Grades 3-12 are required instruction concerning intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution in their historical contexts.

You have the right to request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone the principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. Students with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school when their disease is contagious.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the District has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purpose. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and their parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (included in the enrollment packet) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that electronic communication—e-mail—using District computers are not private and may be monitored by District staff.

CONDUCT

In order for students to take advantage of available learning opportunities and to be productive members of our campus community, each student is expected to:

- *Demonstrate courtesy—even when others do not.
- *Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- *Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- *Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- *Meet District or campus standards of grooming and dress.
- *Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- *Respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and other District staff.
- *Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- *Avoid violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

COUNSELING

The school counselor may be able to help students with a wide range of personal concerns. Students who wish to discuss concerns with the counselor should make arrangements through the principal's office. Usually, the principal and/or teachers refer students to the counselor's office.

DETENTION

A student may be detained outside school hours (for not more than 1 hour) on one or more days if the student violates the school's rules of conduct. The detention shall not begin, however, until the student's parents have been notified of the reason for detention and then make arrangements for the student's transportation on the day or days of detention. Saturday detention may last a maximum of 4 hours.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The law permits the district to designate certain personal information about students as "directory information." This "directory information" will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, release of a student's directory information may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the child's first day of instruction for this school year.

For specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, grade level, honors and awards received in school, most previous school attended, and E-mail address. This information will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent.

Unless you object to the use of your child's information for limited purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use this information for the school-sponsored purposes.

DISCIPLINE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

Students who violate the student code of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. When students commit drug and alcohol related offenses, they will be referred to legal authorities for criminal prosecution, in addition to school-imposed discipline which may include completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program. Information on available drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs may be obtained from the school counselor.

Bremont Independent School District's disciplinary options include using one or more discipline management techniques, removal to alternative programs, suspension, and expulsion. Disciplinary measures are applied depending on the nature of the offense. All students are issued a copy of the Code of Conduct on the first day of school.

DISRUPTIONS

The Bremond Independent School District may pursue a criminal charge against and/or discipline any person whose presence at school interferes with the educational process. It is a good idea for parents to have an appointment for a conference with a teacher or principal. All visitors are required to check in at the Principal's Office prior to entering any classroom building.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Bremond ISD dress code policy is included in the Code of Conduct Handbook. Obviously, many of the dress code requirements do not apply to elementary students. However, the elementary campus tries to operate within those general guidelines in order to establish a sense of consistency within the entire school.

Students of Bremond Schools should take pride in their personal appearance at school and when representing the school in various activities. Knowing what to wear and how to wear it is a sign of good teaching and training. Schools have a definite responsibility in helping students to develop good habits and good tastes in personal appearance. Such traits will aid in personal success later in life.

Any type of dress or accessories that attracts undue attention, disrupts school, or detracts from the learning environment is unacceptable.

The principal, in conjunction with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity, if the principal reasonably believes that the student's dress grooming:

1. creates a hazard to the student's safety or the safety of others; or
2. will prevent, interfere with, or adversely affect the purpose, direction, or effort required for the activity to achieve its goal.

Specific standards include which are inappropriate and not allowed include items of clothing with indecent/suggestive words or slogans. Shorts may be worn. Shoes should be worn at all times...flip-flops are discouraged. Shoes with skate-like wheels are not allowed during school or at any school activity. Male students are not allowed to wear earrings or pony tails. Mohawk-style haircuts are not allowed. Boy's hair should be neatly trimmed off the ears...out of their eyes and off the top of the collar. In hair violations, the student has until the next day to correct the problem and shall not return to school until the hair meets the code.

Students whose dress or grooming are judged to be unacceptable may be sent home to correct the problem.

If there is any doubt as to the acceptability of a situation, the principal will make the final decision.

DRILLS-FIRE, TORNADO, AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Students, teachers, and other District employees shall participate in frequent drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students must follow the direction of teachers quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Parents shall complete an emergency care form each year that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to obtain medical treatment for the student, as provided by law. Parents shall also be asked to supply other information that could be required in case of an emergency; parents should update this information as often as necessary.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In the case of severe winter weather, occasionally a school day could be canceled. When such a decision is made, school officials notify KWTX, Channel 10, in Waco. Also, all parents will be called at phone numbers provided during registration.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student must have been promoted from the prior grade level.

Also, the student must be passing all subjects during the six weeks reporting period. A failing grade in any subject during a six weeks reporting period makes that student ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities during the following six weeks:

Extracurricular activities include band, UIL Literary, and 4-H.

FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to students. Students are expected to provide their own supplies of pencils, paper, eraser, notebooks, and other supplies as published in the school supply list. Other fees or charges to the student may include fines for damaged library or textbooks, band instrument rentals, voluntary purchases of school pictures, student insurance, and replacement costs of destroyed or lost library books or textbooks.

FOODS OF MINIMAL NUTRITIONAL VALUE

An elementary school campus may not serve or provide access for students to Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) at any time anywhere on school premises during the school day. Restricted foods include soda water, chewing gum, and various candies. The complete list of restricted foods is available in the Principal's Office.

The only exception to this policy is three designated holiday parties, field trips, and field days. Traditional cupcakes for birthday celebrations are allowable, but may not be consumed until after 1:00 P. M.

FUND RAISING

Student clubs and parent groups will occasionally be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives. Proper approval from the principal's office must be in order at least one week before the event.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

Bremont Elementary offers a Gifted and Talented Program for grades K-5. This program is for the approximately 5% of the student body who show the greatest capabilities, leadership, creativity, and achievement. Nominations may be made in the Principal's office.

GRADING POLICY

The six weeks and semester grades are derived from averages of daily work, tests, special projects, and other student products at the discretion of the teacher. If a student fails to master certain skills, the teacher may require that student to attend one or more tutoring sessions for reteaching activities. The student may then be retested to bring the failing grade on that specific skill to a maximum of 70.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

By federal law, parents have the right to request the following information about their children's teachers:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the Grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to students and, if so, their qualifications.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework assignments may be given at every grade level. The nature of assignments may vary from practice and drill for specific skills, studying for tests, reading assignments, reports, individual worksheets, assignments from textbooks, and other assignments at the discretion of the teacher. Incomplete assignments or assignments not done could result in failing grades.

Make up work for assignments missed during an absence should be completed in as many days as the student was absent (2 days should be allowed to make up work for 2 days of absence, etc.).

HONOR ROLL

TIGER Honor Roll—all grades 95 or above.

“A” Honor Roll – all grades 90 or above.

“B” Honor Roll – all grades 80 or above.

IMMUNIZATIONS

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of Health, Immunization division, can be honored by the District. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, Haemophilus influenza type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school office can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Texas Department of Health. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U. S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A parent has the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

INSURANCE

The school district provides and pays for an accident insurance plan for all students which covers all school activities. Information on this policy is usually sent home during the first week of school.

LIBRARY

All students have opportunities to take advantage of the school's library service. All classes are allowed to check out books on a weekly basis. It is the responsibility of the student to take care of and return library books. Fines are charged for books returned late. For books damaged beyond repair and for books lost, the student will be required to pay a replacement cost for a new book.

Students are expected to abide by the student code of conduct while visiting the library.

LUNCH AND CAFETERIA

Information on the Bank-A-Meal program is included in each registration packet. Students are not allowed to charge meals. Students with negative balances will be provided an alternate meal (sandwich and milk) or may call parents for lunch money.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

No District employee will give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, or dietary supplements except:

*Authorized employees, in accordance with policy, and:

*If the medication is prescription, it must be provided by the parent, along with a written request, and be in the original, properly labeled container.

*If the medication is nonprescription, it must be provided by the parent, along with a written request, and be in the original, properly labeled container.

*If the substance is herbal or a dietary supplement, it must be provided by the parent and will be administered only if it is required by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or section 504 Plan for a student with disabilities.

*In certain emergency situations, for which the District will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only if:

*The District has obtained from its medical advisor licensed to practice medicine in Texas (or from a licensed physician at the county or regional health authority) a protocol for treatment of the particular emergency; and

*The parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the district's form.

A student with asthma who has written authorization from his or her parent and physician or other licensed health care provider may be permitted, at the student's discretion, to possess and use prescribed asthma medication at school or school-related events. The student and parents should see the principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for the management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity.

MORNING ARRIVALS

Students arriving to school before 7:30, meet in the cafeteria. Students may eat breakfast or go to class after the 7:30 bell.

OBTAINING INFORMATION AND PROTECTING STUDENT RIGHTS

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U. S. Department of Education that concerns:

- *Political affiliations or beliefs of the student's parents.
- *Mental or psychological problems of the students or the student's family.
- *Sexual behaviors or attitudes.
- *Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- *Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- *Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, doctors, and ministers.
- *Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- *Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation.

As a parent, you also have the right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child's participation in:

- *Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- *School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.
- *Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam Or screening permitted or required under state law.

As a parent, if you choose that your child's artwork, special projects, photographs, and the like not be displayed to the community on your district's web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of communication, you must notify the principal in writing.

As a parent, you also have the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child. Parents also have the right to inspect surveys created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

As a parent, you also have the right to review your child's records when needed. These records include:

- *Attendance records,
- *Test scores,
- *Grades,
- *Disciplinary records,
- *Counseling records,
- *Psychological records,
- *Applications for admission,
- *Health and immunization information,
- *Other medical records,
- *Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- *Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- *State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

Parents have the right to grant or deny any written request from the district to make a videotape or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a videotape or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- *When it is used for school safety;
- *When it relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity; or
- *When it relates to media coverage of the school.

As a parent, you have the right to temporarily remove your child from the classroom if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by the Texas Education Agency.

If you are a noncustodial parent, you may request in writing, to be provided for the remainder of the school year a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to misconduct that may involve placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program or expulsion.

As a parent, you have the right to request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the board or its designee to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for transfer to another campus. You may also request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO NEED OR MAY NEED SPECIAL EDUCATION

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the Counselor Rosemary Wilganowski at (254)746-7145 to learn about the districts overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention. The implementation of response to Intervention has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of school districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of their rights if they disagree with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent of how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*.

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the PTO is for students, parents, and teachers to be partners in education. The PTO also will serve as a means of coordinating parent involvement. The PTO is not a policy-making organization. The local PTO is very active in parent involvement activities and fund-raising. All parents are encouraged to join and become actively involved in structured parent involvement.

PEST CONTROL

The District periodically applies pesticides inside buildings. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child(ren)'s school assignment area may contact Mr. Jerry Hadley.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In accordance with state law and district policies, the district will ensure that students in kindergarten through grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes of physical activity per week.

Parent's notes for students will be valid for two days of student inactivity. Parents need to include the following on the note: the date of inactivity, student's name, reason for inactivity, and parent's signature. Any student inactivity beyond two days will require a doctor's note with guidelines stating when the student shall return to full or limited activity. Any student who has more than four days of inactivity during a six weeks period due to parent's notes will require a parent conference with the physical education teacher, school nurse, and/or principal in regards to the inactivity.

Students must wear appropriate athletic shoes for Physical Education classes. Flip-flops and other non-athletic shoes are not permitted during PE.

PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3-5. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to Kathy Wilganowski to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Texas law requires students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag each school day. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their children from reciting the pledge. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows.

PROGRESS REPORTS

At the end of the three weeks period of each six weeks reporting period, the teacher will send home a progress report to the parent of any student who has a grade lower than 70 in any subject.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION STANDARDS

According to BREMOND ISD policy, in order for a student to be promoted to the next grade level, the student must:

1. Have a passing grade (70 or above) in Language Arts. This is a weighted average of Reading, English, Spelling, and Handwriting.
2. Have a passing grade (70 or above) in Math and
3. Have an overall average of 70 or above in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science.

REPORT CARDS

Once every six weeks, the student will be given a report card to take home to his or her parents to sign and return. For grades less than 70, the report states the need for a conference between teacher and parent.

The Kindergarten report card includes a skills checklist based on mastery of specific skills and objectives from the curriculum. Kindergarten students should master at least 70% of the items on the report card in order to be promoted to grade 1.

SCHOOL BUSES

Students being transported in school-owned vehicles shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct. Any student who fails to comply with that code or established rules while on school transportation may be denied transportation services and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The following rules shall apply to student conduct on school transportation:

1. Passengers shall follow the driver's instructions at all times.
2. Passengers shall board and leave the bus in an orderly manner at designated bus stop nearest their home.
3. Passengers shall not stand if there is a seat available. If a passenger must ride standing, the passenger shall face the front and hold on to the seat rails.
4. Passengers shall keep books, band instrument cases, feet, and other objects out from the aisle of the bus.
5. Passengers shall not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
6. Passengers shall not extend head, hands, arms or legs out of the window nor hold any object out of the window nor throw objects within or out of the bus.
7. Passengers shall not smoke or use any form of tobacco.
8. Usual classroom conduct shall be observed. Unruly conduct will subject the passenger to disciplinary action.
9. Upon leaving the bus, the passenger will wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.

SMOKING

Students shall not smoke or use tobacco products on school property or at any school-related or school-sanctioned activity, on or off school property as provided by law.

SNACK BAR

The snack bar in the cafeteria is not available to elementary students. No elementary student is allowed to purchase or accept items from the snack bar. Items from the snack and drink machines may be purchased after lunch.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The District provides special programs for handicapped, speech therapy, gifted and talented, dyslexic, and bilingual students. Students or parents with questions about these programs should contact the principal.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

There are proper channels for all complaints. Any person having a grievance to be filed in the school district shall first have a conference with the individual closest to the problem. If satisfactory adjustments are not made, go to the next person in line of authority. The proper channels are as follows:

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Superintendent
- d. Board of Trustees
- e. Commissioner of Education

Unless the problem is of emergency proportions, please do not call school personnel at their homes. All teachers have conference times during the school day. That is the proper time to conference with teachers.

STUDENT RECORDS

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is 18 or older OR who is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Release is restricted to:

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of the court order terminating rights. Federal law requires that, as soon as the student becomes 18 or is emancipated by a court, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes.

- District staff members who have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records includes working with the student; considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data,; or investigating or evaluating programs. Such persons would include school officials (such as board members, the superintendent, administrators and principals), school staff members (such as teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff); a person or company with whom the district has contracted to provide a particular service (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official or staff in the performance of his or her duties.
- Various governmental agencies.
- Individuals granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intend to enroll or in which he or she subsequently enrolls.

Release to any person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a Scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The Principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. If circumstances prevent inspection during these hours, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretation of the records. The address of the Superintendent and Principal is 601 West Collins, Bremond, Texas, 76629.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. If the district refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student’s record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student’s grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL).

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Classes are scheduled for students with assurances made toward meeting the required amount of time for each subject area. Scheduled subjects include Reading, English, Spelling, Handwriting, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Music, Art, and Theater Arts.

STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Student Success Initiative was created by the Texas Legislature to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be successful in reading and mathematics.

Under the Student Success Initiative grade advancement requirements, students are required to meet the passing standard on the Grade 3 TAKS and TAKS I reading test in order to be promoted to Grade 4, and to meet the passing standard on the Grade 5 reading and math TAKS and TAKS I tests in order to be promoted to Grade 6.

Students have three opportunities to meet the passing standard on each test and will receive additional instruction after each testing opportunity on which they do not meet the standard. A grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent, meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and decides the most effective way to support a student's academic success. A student who does not meet the passing standard after three testing opportunities is automatically retained; however, if the parents appeal the retention, the grade placement committee may choose to promote the student if all members agree that the student is likely to perform on grade level with additional instruction.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Depending on the need, summer school may be offered. Various programs which may or may not be offered include remedial reading and math, library programs, etc.. Information is sent home at the end of the school year.

TESTING

The testing program at Bremond Elementary includes:

1. State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) which is given to students in grades 3, 4, and 5 in the spring. Students in grade 5 must meet the passing standard on the STAAR Reading and Math in order to be promoted to the next grade level.
2. State required reading assessments for grades K-2.
3. Individual testing for Special Programs (Special Education, Speech Therapy, Gifted and Talented, ESL, and others).
4. Other testing as determined by school personnel.

TEXTBOOKS

State-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class; students are required to use these books carefully. Books must be covered by the students, as directed by the teacher; students who are issued a damaged book should report that fact to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school shall lose the right to have free textbooks assigned until the book is returned or paid for by the parent or guardian.

TRANSFERS FOR STUDENTS

As a parent, you have the right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the board or its designee to have been the victim of bullying as the term is defined in Texas Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provide for the transfer to another campus or district.
- To request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school if your child attends school as a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.
- To request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that the student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault.

TUTORIALS

Teachers are available for tutorials from 7:30 A.M. until 8:00 A.M. Tutoring is recommended for students who are struggling with specific subjects or skills. If the teacher feels that there is a need for tutorials, the teacher may make the tutorials mandatory. Tutorial activities may include reteaching of a skill not mastered, drill in spelling, math facts, phonics and vocabulary, help with homework, TAKS practice, and other activities as needed.

VIDEO CAMERAS

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may be used to monitor student behavior on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video/audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

VISITORS

Parents and others are welcome to visit the school. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the office.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with the approval of the principal and teacher as long as their duration or frequency do not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

VOLUNTEERS

Parent and community volunteers are welcome on the campuses of Bremond ISD. Volunteers regularly assist staff in the workroom, cafeteria, various classroom activities, assisting on field trips, parties and PTO activities. Please sign in at the office after entering the building.

BREMOND ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORMS FOR STUDENT HANDBOOK, CODE OF
CONDUCT, CAMPUS PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY, AND DISTRICT
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
2011-2012

My child and I have received a copy of the Bremond Elementary Student Handbook and Code of Conduct for the 2011-2012 school year. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Code.

Please check one: Yes, I give permission for the use of corporal punishment.
 No, I do not give permission for the use of corporal punishment.

Print Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Date: _____

BREMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NOTICE REGARDING DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND
PARENT'S RESPONSE REGARDING RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION
2011-2012

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student. If you do not want Bremond ISD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by September 7, 2010.

Directory information includes your child's:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Most recent school previously attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team

Directory information identified only for limited school-sponsored purposes remains otherwise confidential and will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent or eligible student.

PARENT PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE CHOICES BELOW:

I **(do give)** **(do not give)** Bremond ISD permission to use the information in the above list for the specified school-sponsored purposes.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

