



***2021-2022***

**Student Life Handbook**

***Lower School***



## Campus Phone Numbers

Lower School (MR) Office:	Donna Branney	(803) 807-4311
Lower School (SAR) Office:	Gwen Cornwell	(803) 807-4351
Lower School (NE) Office:	Bekah Wenning	(803) 807-4500
School Receptionist:	Christy Lambert	(803) 807-4000

## Other Important Numbers

Admissions	Lil Mason	(803) 807-4111
FACTS and Tuition Payments	Susan Carpenter	(803) 807-4129
Development	Kelly Davis	(803) 807-4114
Health Services (MR)	Michelle Harris	(803) 807-4126
Health Services (SAR)	Kelly Tomlinson	(803) 807-4400
Health Services (NE)	Bekah Wenning	(803) 807-4500
Lost and Found	Contact School Office	
Marketing and Communications	Rebecca Austin	(803) 807-4127
RenWeb	Contact School Office	

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## School Hours

Monday: 9:20 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Ben Lippen has late start for all students every Monday. School begins one hour later and ends at the regular time. This allows the faculty and staff time for professional development.*

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# **Ben Lippen School Mission Statement**

Ben Lippen School seeks to glorify God by educating students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ and by assisting the family and church in equipping students spiritually, academically, socially, and physically under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

# **Ben Lippen School Vision Statement**

Ben Lippen School's vision is to be the premier Christian school in the Southeast identified by its intentional discipleship of students, varied college preparatory academic offerings, dynamic fine arts department, and competitive athletic program.

# **Ben Lippen School Core Values**

## **Authority of Scripture**

The Bible is the ultimate foundation and the final truth in every aspect of our lives. We concentrate on mastering God's Word, learning to understand its meaning and apply its teaching.

## **Victorious Christian Living**

Victory in Christ comes to those who yield humbly to the Holy Spirit who makes us more like Him in our daily lives.

## **World Evangelization**

"For God so loved the world He gave..." We prepare each student to have an impact as part of the "missions team," whether in a "sending church" or as one sent. The Holy Spirit dispenses blessings and works through us so that we are a blessing ourselves

## **Prayer & Faith**

The CIU community seeks joyful reliance upon God for material provision, victory over sin, growth in Christlikeness, and fruitfulness in ministry. Our relationship with Him is expressed in daily prayers of a loving and needy heart.

## **Evangelical Unity**

Evangelical unity means accepting other Christians of evangelical conviction, regardless of denominational or theological affinity, for purposes of fellowship, encouragement, edification and ministry.

# Ben Lippen School Statement of Faith

The following, together with other Christian principles of doctrine and practice, including the affirmation of the full trustworthiness of Scripture, which in its original writing was verbally inspired and without error, shall be the basis of the faith and doctrine of Ben Lippen School:

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content, and without any errors in its teachings;
2. All men in their natural state are lost, alienated from God, spiritually dead: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23);
3. Salvation is only by grace, a free gift of God, through faith in the Lord Jesus, who died for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3); Those who thus receive Christ by faith have their sins forgiven (Eph. 1:7), their hearts cleansed (Acts 15:9), are born of the Spirit, become children of God (Jn. 1:12,13), and are made new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17);
4. God is One God, Who reveals Himself in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ, as the Scriptures affirm, is the Son of God and Son of man, was born of a virgin, and is Himself very God. The Scriptures also declare the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit;
5. Our Lord Jesus rose from the dead in the same body that was laid to rest in the tomb (Jn. 20:25-27); The bodies of all believers who die will be raised from the dead, and they will receive an incorruptible body like unto His glorious body (1 Cor. 15:53; Phil. 3:21). All other men shall be raised unto "the resurrection of judgment" (Jn. 5:28,29);
6. Christians, born of the Spirit, are to live the new life in the present power of the Spirit. "If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk" (Gal. 5:16-25; Col. 2:6). The Christian's responsibility and his normal attitude of life is to yield himself to God (Rom. 6:13), trusting God to keep him;
7. Christian "living" includes Christian service, the winning of souls around us, and the preaching of the Gospel in the uttermost parts of the earth. In carrying on this work there is needed the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit which is granted to every believer as he yields and trusts (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 3:20; Acts 5:32). And in all of this service, prayer is to have the central place (Jn. 14:12-14; Eph. 6:18-19);
8. Jesus Christ will come again to earth a second time (Heb. 9:28), personally (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16), bodily (Acts 1:11; Col. 2:9), visibly (Mt. 26:64; Rev. 1:7). His coming will precede the age of universal peace and righteousness, foretold in the Scriptures (Mt. 24:29,30,42; 1 Thess. 2:7,8; Rev. 20:1-6).

## **Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy**

Ben Lippen School admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship program, athletic or other school-administered programs.

## **Lifestyle Statement**

Ben Lippen School is a religious institution providing an education in a distinct Christian environment, and it believes that its biblical role is to work in conjunction with the home to mold students to be Christ-like. On those occasions in which the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home is counter to or in opposition to the biblical lifestyle the school teaches, the school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, living in, condoning, or supporting sexual immorality; homosexual acts or sexual orientation; promoting such practices; or otherwise the inability to support the moral principles of the school (Leviticus 20:13a, Romans 1:27, Matthew 19:4-6).

# Welcome



Welcome to Ben Lippen School. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in the education of your child(ren). Ben Lippen School is comprised of teachers dedicated to the growth of students academically, spiritually, physically, and socially. It is our desire to provide a strong foundation for learning while challenging students in 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking. Critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication are among the points of emphasis in 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking that assists us in instilling a love for learning in our students.

It is our hope that through a Biblically integrated approach to teaching and learning, your child(ren) will receive foundational understandings that promote further growth. We look forward to working with you in the educational journey of your child(ren).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Ben Porter, Ph.D.  
Lower School Principal  
Ben Lippen School

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6*

## Primary Expectations of a BLS Student

Ben Lippen students **RESPECT** others, authority, self, and property. Ben Lippen students are open to differences in others (cultural, age, gender, religion, etc.) and purpose to interact with all types of people while taking care to communicate respectfully (Philippians 2:3).

Ben Lippen students demonstrate personal **RESPONSIBILITY** for their own behavior and learning, as well as exercising self-control over their actions and words. Ben Lippen students voluntarily follow Ben Lippen rules, willingly devote themselves to learning, and fulfill their responsibilities without being asked or reminded regardless of whether they will be held accountable for their actions. Ben Lippen students respond to both correction and consequence with a repentant attitude when correction is necessary (Titus 2:12; 2 Timothy 1:7).

Ben Lippen students demonstrate personal **INTEGRITY** by pursuing a wholeness of character, action, and thought, filtering personal choices through the lens of what is morally and justly right in God's eyes. Ben Lippen students do not lie, cheat, or steal, and they show moral integrity in their relationships with others including matters of sexual purity and propriety (Proverbs 22:1).

Ben Lippen students practice good **STEWARDSHIP** and are responsible to oversee, preserve, protect, and use wisely all resources God has provided them: God's creation, the Ben Lippen campus and community, their physical bodies, their finances, and their relationships with others (Colossians 3:23-24).

Ben Lippen students show **COMPASSION** and care in their relationships with others. They are sympathetic and empathetic in their response to the needs of others. Ben Lippen students treat others as they wish to be treated and consider the needs of others before they consider their own (Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14).



# Profile of a Ben Lippen Graduate

A Ben Lippen graduate:

- **is prepared to thrive**, in college and beyond, striving for excellence, and displaying a teachable spirit.
- is armed with an **intimate knowledge of who God is** and desires continued growth in Christlike character.
- has the knowledge, skills, and experiences to **impact and lead in global professions and ministries**.
- **serves others** as a vehicle to expand God's kingdom.
- **utilizes God-given gifts and talents** to further His mission.
- intentionally and instinctively **seeks Christian community** in future life stages because of the love, acceptance, encouragement, and accountability of the Ben Lippen family.

## Spiritual Life Expectations

Ben Lippen School (BLS) does not replace the role the local church plays in the life of its students and families. Instead, BLS hopes to come alongside its students and support their spiritual development. For that reason, we maintain the following expectations:

### Quiet Time

Developing the habit of meeting with God each day in Bible reading, meditation, and prayer can be the most important thing one learns while at BLS (Psalm 1:2; James 4:8; Mark 1:35).

### Church Attendance and the Sabbath Day

Regular attendance at a local church is expected of all BLS students. Participation in other activities of the church is highly encouraged (Hebrews 10:25). Additionally, while BLS is a busy, hard-working community throughout the work week, it seeks to make the Sabbath day a special day in which we spend more time in quiet rest, worship, and service for our Lord (Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:27-28).

### Chapel Attendance

Chapel is required for all students. Chapel is generally held once a week for the purpose of worship and spiritual challenge.

### Other

The Bible is clear in its teaching that God created man in His own image, and in this creation, He created male and female (Gen. 1:27; Mt. 19:4). His design from the very beginning was that a man and a woman would be joined together and become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). This expression of marriage is affirmed throughout Scripture and leaves no room for same-sex

unions nor sexual expressions of intimacy between those of the same sex. Therefore, we hold that marriage is between one man and one woman. The idea that those of the same sex can marry is contrary to Scripture and unacceptable. Based on this, Ben Lippen School/CIU prohibits any form of homosexual behavior, as well as any public expression of support for such behavior or same-sex marriage.

As stated above, God created male and female when He created mankind. There is growing concern and discussion regarding gender identity. Some individuals believe they are trapped in a body of the opposite gender (i.e., a person with a male body feels that he is a female). Some people have had sex-change operations to deal with this disconnect. We believe that God's design in creation is clear and that seeking to change one's gender identity through surgery or any other means is prohibited, as well as any form of transgender expression, such as cross-dressing. Those associated with Ben Lippen School/CIU should not publically advocate for any type of transgender expression.

## Discipline and Conduct

God commands children to obey their parents and those in authority (Col 3:20; Heb 13:17). By enrolling their children in BLS, parents delegate aspects of their God-given authority for their children to the teachers and administrators. The BLS administration retains at their sole discretion the prerogative to assign specific consequences up to and including suspension/expulsion.

### Disciplinary Procedures

Classroom discipline is necessary to teach children respect for God and other people in authority, and to provide the best possible atmosphere for learning. Students are to be subject to the authority of all faculty and staff members. Each class has a discipline system based on class rules, consequences and positive rewards.

The steps outlined below are typical when responding to a situation where a student fails to follow the primary expectations of a BLS student: respect, responsibility, integrity, stewardship, and/or compassion.

Step 1: Ben Lippen Lower School faculty and staff will, at a minimum, address incorrect student behavior when minor offenses occur by talking with student regarding primary expectations and/or school policy.

Step 2: Ben Lippen Lower School faculty and staff will address incorrect student behavior when continued minor offenses occur by talking with student regarding primary expectations and/or school policy and contacting

parents via email or phone call. The teacher will then record the offense and response in RenWeb and notify the parents. The BLS faculty or staff member may additionally choose either of the following courses of action:

- Parent-teacher conference
- Other appropriate consequences at teacher discretion

Step 3: Ben Lippen Lower School faculty or staff will refer incorrect student behavior to administration when major or repeated offenses occur. Following a meeting with administration, any of the following courses of action may be taken:

- A parent-teacher conference with administrative presence
- Isolated lunch
- Suspension from participation in specific activities for a designated period of time
- Suspension
- Behavioral contract between student, parent(s), and BLS
- Withdrawal from Ben Lippen
- Other appropriate consequences at administrative discretion

**Possible infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Class disruption
- Disobedience, disrespect, and/or insubordination
- Cheating – carries both academic and behavioral consequences
- Inappropriate language
- Lying
- A minor offense which has become a habit
- Stealing
- Uncontrollable behavior (physical-kicking, fighting, hitting; verbal-outbursts)
- Willful destruction of school property
- Harassment or Bullying
- Misuse of school-issued technology
- Possession or use of knives, firearms, or any other weapons on campus

For major offenses, parents will be notified. Consequences may include loss of recess, isolated lunch, out-of-school suspension or withdrawal.

**Behavioral Contract**

Students who demonstrate a pattern of disobedience or insubordination, and a habitual unrepentant and/or negative attitude, will likely be required to sign a Behavioral Contract, along with their parents and the principal. Signing this document indicates the student’s commitment

to change and subsequently applying themselves to the behaviors and attitude to which God has called them. This contract will indicate the specific area(s) being addressed and the time frame for monitoring and evaluating the student's progress. Not honoring the contract would likely result in the student's dismissal from the school.

### **Matthew 18 Principle**

When questions or problems arise, please make arrangements to speak first with the teacher or responsible party. ***Please refrain from talking to other parents about a problem; it is divisive and not unifying.*** If a problem persists, then make an appointment to speak to the principal, with the teacher or responsible party present.

## **Interpersonal Relationships**

### **Harassment Policy and Bullying**

BLS protects the right of every student to have an environment that respects human dignity. Harassment of students is contrary to Scripture, morally wrong, and illegal. We expressly forbid sexual harassment (opposite sex or same sex) or any threatening and offensive conduct or expressions with respect to gender, race, color, national origin, disability, or age.

Harassment can include a pattern of remarks, gestures, jokes, physical contact, teasing, excessive attention, bullying, picture or written material that a person finds personally threatening, derogatory, offensive, or unwanted. Sometimes individuals responsible for these actions may not know that they are offensive. Students feeling harassed should tell the person harassing that he/she is being offensive as well as notify a teacher or administrator.

Bullying 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." Bullies "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." Bullying can be verbal, social, or physical, and can occur on or off campus, during or after school hours, and online or in person. "Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose," actions that a reasonable person would consider inappropriate. (Definition and information from [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov).)

Any student initiating or persisting in any form of harassment – verbal, physical, or visual – is subject to immediate discipline by the administration.

If a student finds the environment hostile or offensive, if a student believes he/she has been

harassed or bullied by another student or individual, or if a student knows another person who has been harassed or bullied, the student should promptly tell a teacher or administrator. All reports will be promptly reviewed and investigated in as confidential a manner as circumstances permit, and appropriate action will be taken. If a student is dissatisfied with the investigation or action taken, the student should bring the matter directly to the administration.

### **Sexual Immorality**

While enrolled at BLS, all students are expected to exhibit purity in their relationships. BLS retains the right to refuse enrollment or expel any student who engages in sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18).

The Bible is clear in its teaching that God created man in His own image, and in this creation, He created biological male and biological female (Gen. 1:27; Mt. 19:4). His design from the very beginning was that a biological man and a biological woman would be joined together and become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). This expression of marriage is affirmed throughout Scripture and leaves no room for same-sex unions nor sexual expressions of intimacy between those of the same sex. Therefore, we hold that marriage is between one biological man and one biological woman. The idea that those of the same sex can marry is contrary to Scripture and unacceptable. Based on this, CIU/Ben Lippen prohibits and retains the right to refuse enrollment or expel any student who engages in any form of homosexual or bisexual behavior, as well as any public expression of support for such behavior or same-sex marriage. Any sexual contact or intimacy with a person of one's same biological gender is homosexual conduct, regardless of one's "gender identity."

### **Gender Identity**

As stated above, God created male and female when He created mankind. There is growing concern and discussion regarding gender identity. Some individuals believe they are trapped in the bodies of the opposite gender (for example, a person with a male body feels that he is a female). Some have had sex-change operations to deal with this disconnect. We believe that God's design in creation is clear and that seeking to change one's gender identity through surgery or any other means is prohibited, as well as any form of transgender expression, such as cross-dressing. Those associated with CIU/Ben Lippen should not publically advocate for any type of transgender expression and BLS retains the right to refuse enrollment or expel any student who engages in such behavior.

## **Media Standards**

Media that is not consistent with Christian living is not to be brought onto campus. Faculty and administrative discretion will be the guiding factor in determining the appropriateness of any media item.

### **Movie Guidelines**

PG-13 and R-rated movies are not permitted on campus or at any BLS sponsored activity

unless approved by the administration. BLS students are not permitted to view movies rated NC-17 and X.

### **Music Guidelines**

- Personal listening devices are not acceptable during school hours except when a designated purpose has been stated by faculty.
- Music with inappropriate lyrics or themes is not permitted on campus or at school events.

## **Attendance**

The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences and study to achieve the goal of maximum educational benefit for each child. Essential to this process is the regular contact of students with one another in an appropriate learning environment and their participation in planned instructional activities under the leadership of a teacher. For a student to have a quality educational and academic experience, he/she needs to be in school when school is in session.

To maintain high standards of Christian scholarship, as well as to comply with the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law, BLS expects each student to attend school daily for the entire school day except in cases of illness, family emergency, or other excused reason.

### **Definition of Absences**

#### **Excused Absences**

1. Student illness where attendance in school would endanger his/her health or the health of others (more than three consecutive days must have a doctor's note)
2. Death or illness in student's family
3. Medical or dental appointments (with a doctor's note)
4. Other: court proceedings, religious observations, family emergencies

Excusing an absence does not mean it is erased. Excusing the absence means there is a legal/valid reason for the absence, but the absence remains on the student's record.

#### **Planned Absences**

Absences, such as those for family trips may be excused by the school if the student meets the established criteria. Parents need to submit a written request to the principal at least one week in advance of the absence. For the request to be

approved, a student must be in good standing with each teacher/class, not have a problem with tardies, and not be in danger of exceeding the number of absences allowed by policy to earn credit. Due dates for homework, tests, and other assignments are to be arranged with the teacher on the students' or parents' initiative before the student departs on the planned absence.

### **Tardies, Late Arrivals, and Early Dismissals**

Punctuality is an important character trait that we are seeking to instill in our students at BLS. The tardiness of one person can disrupt an entire class and therefore the school community. Parents are encouraged to assist in making sure that students are prompt in arriving to and departing from school. The goal is to create and maintain an educational environment that is orderly, dynamic, and conducive to learning.

#### **Tardies**

Any arrival after 8:20 a.m. (9:20 a.m. on late start days) will be counted as tardy. Students must be in their designated classroom at 8:20 a.m. Tardies due to medical, verified by doctor statements, sickness may be excused. Tardies due to traffic (unless an accident), running out of gas, oversleeping, etc. are not excused. Please note arriving late or leaving early is not an acceptable reason to delay due dates of assignments, tests, projects, etc. Students are fully responsible to seek out their teachers to fulfill these responsibilities.

#### **Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals**

Students must attend school at least five hours to be counted present for a full day of school.

### **Procedures, Expectations & Consequences**

1. Students may not receive academic credit when there are more than 10 absences per semester not excused by a physician or 17 absences in a year for any reason. In some cases, a student with excessive absences may not be promoted to the next grade level.
2. A written note should be sent to the school office with the student on the first day back after an absence stating the reason for the absence. Student absences will be considered unexcused until this note is received from the parents or absences are excused by the administration. A note does not excuse an absence; rather, classification is determined by the nature of the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.
3. The parent will need to sign in and give a written explanation of why the student is late.

The student will be given a pass before going to class. In cases where a parent assumes responsibility for the student's lateness (an emergency, not just "running late"), the reason for the lateness should be noted in the student sign-in notebook or a note must be presented on the same day in order to be listed as excused. Failure to provide explanation will result in an unexcused lateness.

4. Early dismissal should always be done through the main office. If a student must leave during school hours, a note to the teacher will be required from the parents prior to dismissal. Parents must sign their child out in the school office and office personnel will contact the classroom teachers. If a student returns to school the same day, the parent must sign him/her in at the office upon return to school. Early dismissals will not be permitted after 2:30 PM.
5. 4 unexcused tardies per semester = notification by email  
6 unexcused tardies per semester = one unexcused absence  
Excessive tardies per semester = administrative intervention

### **Carpool Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

Students are released to an adult in charge from 8:00 a.m. - 8:17 a.m. (Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:17 a.m.). All children should arrive by 8:17 a.m. (Monday, 9:17 a.m.) in order to be seated and ready to begin the day at 8:20 a.m. (Monday, 9:20 a.m.) sharp. Parents should never leave a child without making visual contact with one of the BLS staff members. If you cannot see a teacher or staff member stationed at the outside door, please park and bring your child to the office.

Both half-day and full-day dismissals will be by a pick-up line. In order to keep the car pool line moving, the teachers and staff need their full attention directed toward the students. Please do not use this time to confer with them. No student will be released to anyone other than his/her pre-arranged carrier (parent, car pool, sitter, etc.) without a note from the parent and proper identification of that person (driver's license, car description, etc.). Your child must bring a note signed by his/her parent similar to this:

My child, (name, grade), will be picked up by (driver, relation). He/she will be driving a (make and model of car). Signature and date.

A phone call will suffice only in an emergency. The safety of your child is a priority.

### **Extended Care Program**

Ben Lippen Lower School is pleased to offer morning and/or afternoon extended care for our lower school students. Extended Care registration forms are available online at

[www.benlippen.com](http://www.benlippen.com).



### **Morning Extended Care**

An early drop-off, from 7:15 to 8 a.m. is made available through the extended care program. Students may not enter their classrooms until 8 a.m. There is no fee for this service. *Non-extended care students may not be dropped off in the mornings until 8 a.m.*

### **Delayed Start**

Extended care is provided without charge on Mondays from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

### **Afternoon Extended Care**

The afternoon extended care will begin after school at 3:00 p.m. and close at 5:45 p.m. There is a fee for this service.

***Please Note: Afternoon extended care will not be offered on early dismissal days.***

### **Late Pick-Up**

Students must be picked up within 15 minutes after classes finish for the day. Parents must make contact with school personnel if they are going to be late picking up their child. Students who have not been picked up by 3:15 p.m. will be escorted to Extended Care and hourly charges will be assessed. Parents must make contact with school personnel if they know that they are going to be late picking up their child. If you have an emergency, please call the off

## **Technology Policy**

Technology is an integral part of our society and an important age appropriate tool in education, the workplace, and daily life. As such, BLS embraces and utilizes technology in order to enhance the pursuit of the BLS mission and vision. At the same time, BLS recognizes the need to exercise caution and restraint when technology interferes with the primary expectations of a BLS student.

### **Expectations of Student User**

The student user of the BLS technology network is expected to regard use of computer network as a privilege. The student user accepts all responsibility for the use of his or her account and therefore, he or she must not allow others to use their individualized network access.

### **Expectations for Use through the Authorization of Supervising Faculty**

Student users may occasionally be granted permission from their supervising faculty member and the director of IT to use the BLS technology network for non-educational activities. Permission must be granted on a per occurrence basis.

## **Legal Expectations Regarding Ben Lippen School's Liability**

BLS is legally responsible for the technology network. Because of this, it is expected that student users do not infringe on the copyrighted works of others. This includes plagiarism, file-sharing, file swapping, and downloading copyrighted materials. BLS reserves the right to monitor the network. The community of users is not to expect privacy in their files which are stored on the technology network. Should a problem arise, BLS will cooperate fully with local, state, and federal officials in all investigations related to any illegal activities conducted through the school technology network.

## **Consequences for Misuse**

If misuse is suspected, student technology use will be suspended immediately, and student equipment can be confiscated, until clarification and resolution can be reached through the school personnel. Students may be disciplined for misusing school owned technology. They may also be disciplined for inappropriate actions stemming from non-school owned technology use (example: demeaning statements on Facebook).

## **Cell Phones/Smart Watches**

As a general rule, there is no need for a lower school student to have a cell phone or smart watch at school. However, if a student does bring a cell phone or smart watch, it must be turned off and out of sight during the school day.

# **Campus Wear**

Our desire at Ben Lippen is to do everything in a way which is pleasing to the Lord and in a manner which will honor Him and uphold His testimony. While recognizing that true Christianity is a matter of the heart and not the outward appearance, it is nonetheless true that our appearance is important.

To assist in creating an environment which promotes learning, students will choose their school clothing from the variety of campus wear styles available through Land's End ([www.LandsEnd.com](http://www.LandsEnd.com)).

### **All attire should be:**

- Modest
- Neat
- Demonstrate propriety (suitability to the occasion)

Ben Lippen Lower School requires a campus wear "top" and "bottom" for students in Pre-K4 through 4th grade.

- **Tops** – All shirts, tops, and blouses must be purchased from Lands' End.
- **Bottoms** – All skirts must be purchased from Lands' End. Pants and shorts may be purchased from any vendor as long as the clothing falls into specific guidelines. All bottoms should be solid khaki, black, or gray.
- **Jumpers/Dresses** – All jumpers and dresses must be purchased from Lands' End.
- **Pre-K – Second Grade** – Skirts/Dresses/Jumpers need to be at least mid-thigh in length and loose. Shorts and skorts may be no more than 3 inches above the knee.
- **Third – Fourth Grade** – Skirts/Dresses/Jumpers should be to the knee. Shorts and skorts may be no more than 3 inches above the knee.
- **Outerwear** – An outer layer of clothing (e.g. a jacket, a sweater, etc.) may be worn in the school building so long as the clothing meets all the guidelines outlined below. Even when wearing an outer layer of clothing, students are required to wear a campus wear top underneath it. All outerwear must be solid color in the BL Campus Wear color palette limited to green, yellow/gold, gray, black, or white. All images on outerwear must be appropriate and not offensive.
- **P.E.** – All shirts and shorts must be purchased from Lands' End. Sweatpants may be purchased from Lands' End or from any vendor as long as the sweatpants are within the BLS color palette, loose fitting material and no logo larger than two inches. No words may be written on the pants. Leggings may be worn underneath Land's End PE shorts as long as they are in the BLS color palette.

#### **Additional items which do not have to be purchased from Lands' End:**

- **Tights/leggings** – All leggings and tights must be of a solid color within the BLS Campus Wear color palette (black, grey, green, yellow, or white) and may be worn under uniform bottoms.
- **Approved Outerwear** – In addition to outerwear purchased from Lands' End, students may wear jackets and sweaters which are not purchased from Lands' End. These jackets and sweaters must be a *solid* color within the BLS Campus Wear color palette, and are not required to bear the Ben Lippen logo or promote a BLS team or organization. Company logos (e.g. The North Face) are acceptable. *Colors in the Ben Lippen color palette for outerwear include black, grey, green, yellow, and white.*
- **Shoes and hair accessories** can be any color. They must be clean and in good repair, and should not be a source of distraction in the classroom. Beach-style or bathroom flip-flops, athletic sliders, and slippers (including moccasin style) are not permitted.
- **Tennis shoes** must be worn for P.E. Please be reminded that our students are active learners and both campuses have flights of steps to be maneuvered. To provide a safe environment, it is strongly recommended that students not wear open-back shoes or shoes with heels higher than one inch.
- **Belts** are required for loose fitting pants and shorts.
- Extremes in clothing are to be avoided.

- Any clothing with questionable writing or pictures which contradict Christian standards or school policies is not permitted. Clothing which advertises tobacco, the drug culture, lifestyles or sentiments associated with social or spiritual rebellion, the occult or that which has slogans with ungodly or unsavory double meanings is strictly forbidden. The school reserves the right to decide what is considered inappropriate attire.
- No hoods or hats are to be worn in the building.

### **Friday Spirit Wear**

Students are allowed (not required) to wear jeans on Friday with any shirt that has the Ben Lippen logo. This can include sports, event and other BLS shirts.

### **Hair Standard**

All students are to keep their hair neat and well-groomed. Extreme hair styles are not acceptable.

## **Lunch**

Students may bring a packed lunch from home or purchase lunch online through Schoolhouse Fare at the Monticello Rd and St Andrews Rd campuses. We request that students not bring carbonated drinks to school. Please be sure to have food cut and peeled if needed (oranges, eggs, etc.). We ask that there be no food sharing during lunch unless it can be shared with the whole class. Please do not send food to school that needs to be heated on the stove or in the microwave. We do not have the facilities to heat your child's lunch. The school does not provide spoons, forks, napkins, cups, straws, etc. for students who bring their lunch from home. Custodial parents/guardians are welcome to enjoy lunch with their children; however, they are asked to follow the same guidelines expected of all students. Please see the Visitors and Guests section of this handbook for guidelines.

Hot Lunch: Student lunches can be purchased from Schoolhouse Fare ([www.schoolhousefare.com](http://www.schoolhousefare.com)). To learn more about lunch menus and the procedures for purchasing lunches, contact your campus secretary. Hot Lunch at the NE campus will be organized through the main office.

***Ben Lippen Lower School campuses are tree nut and peanut free campuses.***

## **Care of Property**

All students, faculty, and staff are stewards of the property of BLS and are responsible for its care. Willful damage to school property or to the property of another student will result in disciplinary action, and the cost of repairing the damage due to willful acts will be charged to the student(s) at fault.

Students are asked to assist in caring for our property through accepting the challenge of good stewardship by:

- Walking on the sidewalks;
- Bringing food and drink only into designated areas;
- Refraining from chewing gum in classrooms and areas of public use.

## Security

A security guard is stationed on each BLS campus. Concealed weapons are not permitted on any of the Ben Lippen campuses unless carried by a professional law enforcement or CIU security officer. The phone number for BLS security is (803) 807-5555.

## Health Requirements and Services

It is mandatory that the school receive a copy of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) Certificate of Immunization for each new student on or before the first day of school. This form is available at a physician office or can be obtained from the health department if other proof of immunization is provided.

All students must be covered by health/accident insurance or an approved group share plan to attend BLS. Families will be asked to submit their insurance company name and policy number or the name of their group share plan. International students have the option of purchasing insurance through the school.

### Services

Each campus has a health service room that is staffed by a registered nurse. Please note that the Student Medical and Emergency Contact Form in RenWeb must be completed before medication will be dispensed to a student.

### Medication

Students may not have medication in their possession at school unless approved by the school nurse. All other medication(s) must be dispensed by the school nurse or her designee.

All medication dispensed at school must be in the original container. Prescription medication must be in a current, completely-labeled (date, pharmacy, physician, student, medication, full dosing instructions) prescription container. Over-the-counter medication must be in clearly-labeled original packaging and accompanied by a parent note stating the student's name and the instructions for dispensing the medication.

A [prescription medication authorization form](#) must be filled out by both the parent and the physician when the physician has ordered a medication (prescription or over-the-counter) that will require in-school administration for an indefinite period of time. However, a prescription medication authorization form is not needed if a medication is to be given for a limited number of days (up to two weeks), as long as the medication is brought to the nurse's office in an approved container (see above) and accompanied by a parent note indicating the purpose of the medication and the time(s) it should be given to the student.

### **Exclusion from School for Medical Reasons**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) publishes the School and Childcare Exclusion List each year for parents and schools. Please follow this link to access the list and read important information from DHEC about the illnesses that require students to be excluded from school: <https://scdhec.gov/health/child-teen-health/school-exclusion>.

In addition to the illnesses on the list, BLS excludes students from school if they have a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher until the temperature is below 100 degrees for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

## **CIU Campus**

Students are not permitted to be on the campus, or to use the facilities, of Columbia International University without BLS faculty supervision.

## **Academic Information**

### **FACTS/RenWeb**

The internet based school management system used by Ben Lippen is FACTS (RenWeb). It may be accessed through a link on the school webpage or directly at [www.RenWeb.com](http://www.RenWeb.com). Parents and students may access grades, lesson plans, homework assignments, attendance and behavior reports through RenWeb.

### **Academic Assessment**

Ben Lippen School seeks to provide academic assessment and evaluation through multiple methods and types with the goal to promote academic success in our students. While some uniformity is needed, teachers are encouraged to exercise professional judgment in developing assessment standards in their courses.

## Academic and Behavioral Probation Policy

Students on academic or behavioral probation will be evaluated at each nine-week interval. An administrator may place students on probation if grade averages fall below a C or if behavior is consistently unacceptable. At the end of the semester, probation may be lifted or continued with or without recommendation for tutoring, retention or referral to other professionals, or the student may be asked to withdraw from the school.

## Grading System

Ben Lippen uses letter grades on progress reports in academic subject areas, starting in the second grade. Report cards for Pre-K3 - Kindergarten are evaluated by teacher observations and developmental checklist. Report cards for first grade are geared to developmental and academic progress.

### Grades 2-4 Grading Scale

LETTER		PENMANSHIP/ENRICHMENT	
A	90-100	E	90-100
B	80-89	G	80-89
C	70-79	S	70-79
D	60-69	N	60-69
F	59 or Below	U	59 or Below
I	Incomplete		

### Key

Excellent = E

Good = G

Satisfactory = S

Needs Improvement = N

Unsatisfactory = U

## Homework Assignments

Homework assignments are given for reinforcement of learning, projects, and remedial activity. Homework acquaints parents with what the child is learning and affords them an opportunity to help their child.

The only acceptable excuses for late homework are illness of the student on the previous

evening or an emergency which prevented his/her studying. In such cases, a note from the parent must be provided. At the beginning of the year, teachers are to communicate clearly the classroom policy regarding late assignments in accordance to the BLS Assessment Policy and grade level procedures.

Students should expect to be given assignments that average 10 minutes for first grade, 20 minutes for second grade, 30 minutes for third grade, etc. This does not include work time for pre-announced projects or regular outside reading requirements. Homework will be given on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. Homework will not be given on Wednesday or Friday unless it is pre-assigned.

### **Late Work**

The purpose of late work penalties is to encourage faithfulness and responsibility. Students are encouraged to turn in their work, even if it is late, to demonstrate their mastery of learned content. The standard late work penalty for students in third – fourth grades is a grade point reduction of up to ten percent per day for three days, after which time, completed work may not count for more than 69 percent of the original grade for up to two weeks. Teachers are not permitted to accept late work during the final week of each quarter without the principal's approval.

### **Make-Up Work**

Two days will be given to students to make up the work for each day of excused absence. Please call the school office before 11 a.m. if you want to pick up materials after 3 p.m. Parents can check RenWeb for their students' daily assignments.

Parents who have prior knowledge of their child's absence, due to long-term illness (more than two days), may request make-up work by calling or sending a note to the school office. The assignment will be ready the following day for pickup.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education is a vital component of the BLS curriculum. Students are expected to be active participants during class. Attention should be given to appropriate campus wear for a P.E. class. Students should wear the P.E. uniform all day. All students are expected to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

### **Promotion Policies**

- Student entering Pre-Kindergarten 3 must be three years old on or before Sept 1.
- Student entering Pre-Kindergarten 4 must be four years old on or before Sept 1.
- Student entering Kindergarten must be five years old on or before Sept 1.
- Students entering first grade must be six years old on or before Sept 1.



Students may be retained in kindergarten (Pre-K or Kindergarten) primarily for developmental reasons. Although teachers evaluate students in several developmental areas, emphasis regarding academic promotion is placed on the social/emotional maturation process, in addition to achievement of knowledge and skills. As learners develop socially and emotionally, they become ready to learn academically. In cases where students do not show sufficient evidence of social/emotional development, or if they lack sufficient achievement in fundamental skills, teachers may encourage families to allow their children to remain in kindergarten another year.

A student will be promoted to the next grade level upon satisfactory completion of work required by the curriculum.

If two major subjects are failed, the student may be asked to repeat the grade upon the teacher's recommendation and administrative approval.

Class placement will be determined by the administration in consultation with the faculty. Parent requests for specific teachers are not encouraged.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are available online through RenWeb.

### **Standardized Tests**

Students in grades K-4 will take MAP assessments in the fall, winter and spring.

Students in grades 3-4 will take the ERB each spring.

### **Textbooks**

Hardcover textbooks should be covered at all times. Please do not use tape or contact paper anywhere on the book cover. Books will be evaluated at the end of each year, and charges for damages will be assessed if necessary.

## **Conferences and Addressing Problems**

Parents are always welcome to call or email a teacher when necessary. To assist teachers in devoting their full attention to the students during regular classroom hours, we ask that parents who would like to have a private conference, contact the teacher in advance to make an appointment.

When questions or problems arise, in keeping with the principle outlined in Matthew 18, please make arrangements to speak first with the teacher or responsible party. *Please refrain from talking to other students, parents, or families about a problem; it can easily become divisive and destructive.* If a problem persists after speaking to the responsible party, please make an

appointment to speak with the principal, with the teacher or responsible party present.

## Communication

Regular forms of communication include the school website ([www.BenLippen.com](http://www.BenLippen.com)), RenWeb, periodic message from the Headmaster emails, and “Talon Times” (weekly email). Urgent communications such as school closures are sent via text, email and phone call using Renweb’s Parent Alert system.

Ben Lippen School also communicates through the following social media platforms:

- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BenLippenSchool/>
- Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/BenLippenSchool/>
- LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/ben-lippen-school/>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BenLippenSchool>

Additionally, Ben Lippen School Athletics communicates through the following social media platforms:

- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BenLippenSports/>
- Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/BenLippenSports/>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BenLippenSports/>

## Visitors and Guests

BLS permits volunteers and visitors on campus with the following guidelines:

- All school visitors are required to report to the office upon arrival to receive an ID sticker.
- Before inviting or allowing anyone to be a guest in class, students must receive permission from their teacher and administration.
- Parents are welcome to eat in the cafeteria with their child(ren) on any school day. All other family members or friends must have written permission from the child's parent or guardian, and should make arrangements at least one day in advance if possible.

## Volunteers

Volunteers must complete a volunteer application, obtain two references and interview as well as submit to a background check before they can be approved to serve the school in any capacity. Volunteer applications are available [on our website](#). Volunteers are required to report to the office upon arrival to receive and ID sticker.

## School Closings

In case of inclement weather or emergency, Ben Lippen will issue a parent alert by text, email, and phone call. To that end, please make sure Ben Lippen always has current email addresses and phone numbers for you in RenWeb. Closings will also be posted to the Ben Lippen website and social media as well as issued to television stations WLTX (channel 19), WIS (channel 10), or WOLO (channel 25).

## School Records

### Change of Information

Please contact the school immediately upon any change in such matters as address, phone number, church membership or a serious change in family situations.

### Student Records

The school maintains a complete record, including a cumulative academic record, for each student. All materials in these files are treated as strictly confidential and are available only according to the following guidelines:

- Students who have withdrawn from BLS may have their cumulative records sent directly to the new school upon the school's request, *provided their BLS tuition is paid in full.*
- Administrative permission will be needed for parents wishing to "hand carry" a stamped sealed copy of their child's cumulative record.

### Ben Lippen Individual Learning Plan

The Ben Lippen student body is comprised of a rich diversity of students, including students with challenges to their learning, such as learning differences, emotional challenges, and medical conditions. We believe all of our students are created in the image of God and are called by Him to steward their education in a manner that glorifies Christ. Our mission is to partner with parents in an effort to provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented need and to help these students develop educational ownership.

## Field Trips

All class trips will be planned with extreme care for the safety of your child. The students will be transported by buses. Parents are asked to sign a permission form prior to each field trip. Most of our field trips will need some parent chaperones. For safety reasons, siblings are not permitted to attend field trips as the full attention of the chaperone is needed toward the students. Ben Lippen campus wear is required for most field trips.

# Withdrawal Procedures

Student withdrawals are to be initiated through the principal's office and will be subject to the terms outlined in the Ben Lippen School Education Agreement.

# Financial Policies and Procedures

## Payment Plans

Day students: Families may choose one of four payment plans available:

- **Annual Tuition Payments:** Full (100%) tuition is drafted through FACTS in July.
- **Semester Tuition Payments:** Sixty percent (60%) of tuition is drafted through FACTS in July. The remaining forty percent (40%) is drafted in December.
- **10-Month Payment Plan:** Monthly drafts through FACTS are made July through May. Senior (12th grade) students' tuition payments are drafted July through April. The payment plan fee for monthly payers is \$125 per family, applied annually.
- **11-Month Payment Plan:** Same as 10-month Payment Plan except drafts begin in June and are spread over 11 months.

## Tuition Deposits (for New Families)

Upon acceptance, a \$500 tuition deposit per student is due in order to secure the student's enrollment.

## Continuing Enrollment Deposits (for Returning Families)

A \$500 per student continuing enrollment deposit for the 2021-22 school year is due by February 28, 2021.

## Delinquent Accounts - Tuition and/or Incidental Fees

- Students with delinquent accounts may be denied access to RenWeb. Students and parents/guardians will not have access until a certified check or cash is rendered to Accounts Receivable.
- If your RenWeb account has been deactivated due to delinquency, you must bring a certified check or cash to the Tuition and Billing Office in order to have the account reactivated.
- Students with delinquent accounts may be suspended from school-sponsored activities, sports participation, field trips, and academic classes.
- Families will be charged any penalty fee assessed by the bank caused by NSF (non-sufficient funds) transfers.
- Students with an outstanding balance from the previous year will not be re-enrolled until the balance is paid in full.

- Grade reports, official transcripts, and diplomas for students with delinquent accounts will not be released until all accounts are cleared. This includes senior transcripts for college admission.

### **Financial Assistance**

Families desiring to apply for financial assistance may do so as part of the application or re-enrollment process. Applications are accepted online through FACTS. (An application fee is assessed and payable to FACTS.) A link to FACTS is available on the Ben Lippen website. Families are encouraged to apply by February 28 in order to have the greatest opportunity for assistance.

Financial aid is offered on the basis of demonstrated financial need and is limited. The following are the conditions for financial aid:

- No family will be awarded financial assistance or need-based scholarships without applying through FACTS.
- Families may not receive financial assistance over and above the amount for which they have qualified.
- Only the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply for aid.
- Financial aid may not be applied to accounts that are in arrears.

### **Late Fees**

A \$25 late fee may be assessed on tuition payments more than 30 days past due.

### **Returned Checks (NSF)**

A \$30 service charge will be assessed on all returned checks and returned FACTS withdrawals. After two NSF, only cash, cashier's check, or money orders will be accepted for all payments through the remainder of the school year.

## **Parties/Holiday Celebrations**

Parties will be planned for the students throughout the year. While classroom parties are generally not an open invitation to all parents due to lack of classroom space, a few parents may be asked to help in the planning and preparation. There will be several special school socials and events planned for the whole family. We encourage families to attend these celebrations.

- Christmas and Easter activities should reflect the biblical purpose and meaning.
- Invitations to home parties cannot be sent through the school unless the entire class is invited, or all of the girls, or all of the boys are invited.
- All notes sent by the homeroom mothers/fathers in regard to class activities should be approved by the teacher or administration before being sent home to parents or

discussed with students.

- Parents are invited to send a special pre-packaged snack (cupcakes, cookies, drink, etc.) for their child's birthday (or half-birthday for summer birthdays). All items must be peanut and tree nut free.

## **Teacher Appreciation**

Over the years, parents have been very gracious and thoughtful in doing special things for our teachers. We ask, however, that all special projects, such as collection of money by the parents, be cleared through the principal and reserved for occasions such as Teacher Appreciation Week (not for an individual teacher's birthday). Individual gift giving is still your prerogative. We want to be sensitive to all parents when asking for donations of any kind, knowing that the ability to contribute varies from family to family.

## **Toys and Games**

Please do not bring toys, electronic devices or computerized games to school unless approved by the teacher in advance for school purposes.

***Please complete the Handbook Commitment Form.***

**This form must be signed and returned each year**

to BLS before the start of classes.

Please return the form to the school office.

# Lower School Handbook Commitment Form

## Parental Commitment

Please initial next to each statement indicating agreement, and sign where indicated.

### As parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a Ben Lippen School student, I (we):

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to participate in the Christian education of our son or daughter by regularly attending a local church and exemplifying Christian principles of life in our home.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to support the principles contained in the *Statement of Faith* and *Mission Statement* of BLS.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to support Ben Lippen School and Ben Lippen policies as set forth in the *Lower School Student Life Handbook*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to communicate directly with BLS teachers and/or administrators in the event of conflict or disagreement before involving other parties.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve the publication of pictures of our son/daughter taken during the year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve establishing a Ben Lippen technology account, including email, for my student(s).

***I (we) have read, understand, and agree to support the Lower School Student Life Handbook policies.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father or Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother or Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Student Commitment

Please initial next to each statement if you agree, and sign where indicated.

### As a student at Ben Lippen School, I:

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to do my best in all my studies.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to obey the biblical and community standards set forth in the *Lower School Student Life Handbook* without complaint.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to maintain a high standard in accordance with the social life guidelines and entertainment standards outlined in the *Lower School Student Life Handbook*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to appropriate technology usage in line with Ben Lippen's technology policies.

***I have read, understand, and agree to support the Lower School Student Life Handbook policies.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date