

Bear Valley International School

3005 S. Golden Way
Denver, CO 80227

Phone: (720) 423-9600 (Attendance Line)

Fax: (720) 423-9675



FAMILY & STUDENT HANDBOOK

*A school designed by the community, for the community.
We are a district-run, neighborhood school option focused on
growth and achievement for **all students!***



ADDRESS

3005 S. Golden Way 80227



CONTACT US

720-423-9600



FOLLOW & LIKE US!

@bearvalleyinternational



WEBSITE

<https://bearvalley.dpsk12.org/>



bvoffice@dpsk12.org



@_bearvalleyint

Bear Valley Administration

To reach any of our administration, please call the front office and they can connect you: 720-423-9600

<p>Rachael Sutherland Principal rachael_sutherland@dpsk12.net</p>	<p>Joy Christensen Assistant Principal joy_christensen@dpsk12.net</p>
<p>Kelsey Alley Assistant Principal kelsey_alley@dpsk12.net</p>	<p>Christopher Plesko Assistant Principal christopher_plesko@dpsk12.net</p>

Table of Contents

Vision, Mission & Values	Page	Restorative Practices
School Goals	Page	PASS Class
Schoolwide Expectations	Page	Dress Code
Bell Schedule	Page	Cell Phones & Personal Tech
School Calendar	Page	Chromebooks
Attendance Policy	Page	Restroom Policy
Family Communication		Hallways & Class Transitions
Tardy Policy	Page	Walking out of Class
Schoolology		Harmful Substances
Grading Policy	Page	Inappropriate Language
Morning Entry		Weapons
Breakfast & Lunch		Bullying & Harassment
Lockers & Backpacks	Page	
After School Activities	Page	
Emergency Response	Page	
Illness, Injury & Medication	Page	

Vision, Mission & School Values

BVIS Vision: Bear Valley International School is a pillar of academic excellence and service in its local community, immersing students in educational experiences focused on leadership, active citizenship, and a culturally affirming curriculum.

BVIS Mission: Bear Valley International School engages scholars in whole child, restorative, and community based learning that is comprehensive, personalized, and engaging to prepare them to be active members of society.

Our Core Values: At Bear Valley we commit to enacting the values of our Yeti community at all times, all staff and students will work to exemplify these core values each and every day as we are One Yeti, One ROAR.

I am Yeti, hear me ROAR:

Relationships: I build relationships with peers, staff, and community members through trust and mutual respect. I believe in supporting those around me and I model solidarity every day as I unite with those in my school, local, and global communities. I do not accept mediocrity in myself or my peers, instead pushing for continuous improvement towards excellence.

Open-mindedness: I embrace the expansion of my mindset and look for opportunities to gain further understanding of struggles, victories, and experiences that are not my own. I contribute to our school being a Safe Place for everyone through supporting the well-being of all. I believe that I and my community can transform only by growing the capacity for empathy.

Antiracist and Inclusive School: I am an agent of change and work to understand how I can and will disrupt systems of oppression and bigotry in all levels of community. I take action in ways that ignite and bring about sustained empowerment of those whose voices and rights continue to be disregarded.

Responsible: I am responsible for being a part of my community via service and a commitment to Restorative Practices. I cultivate ways in which I can consistently improve my school and community by utilizing my strengths and passions. I learn from failures and risks to innovate and relentlessly aim towards success, development, and greatness. I embrace humility and commitment to healing any wounds I cause within our school and local communities and they embrace me with trust and confidence, lifting me up with support as we move forward.

School-wide Expectations

At Bear Valley, we expect **all** students to uphold the following expectations. **You will receive a monthly progress report from your student's LC mentor informing you on their current progress:**

1. 92% attendance or higher
2. C's or better in all classes
3. On track iCAP
4. No major or repeated behavior issues

Each quarter, our student council plans a school-wide celebration. Students will be rewarded with this experience if they are "on track" with the above expectations. Additionally, there will be incentives and rewards throughout each quarter. LC mentors will conference with students regularly regarding on track / off track progress and will send families their monthly progress report. Students who are "off track" at any point during a quarter will have an opportunity to get back on track.

2023-2024 Bell Schedule

Period	Time	Learning Communities (LC) Students will be assigned to a learning community (LC) with their assigned mentor. LC is similar to a "homeroom" and will be where they begin their day. Social Emotional learning (SEL), iCAP and other LC announcements will occur during this time. Your student's LC mentor will serve as your primary point of contact throughout the school year.
LC	8:50-9:10	
Period 2	9:13-10:11	
Period 3	10:14-11:12	
Period 4	11:15-11:46 (<i>6th & 7th LUNCH</i>) 11:15-12:13	
Period 5	12:16-12:47 (<i>8th LUNCH</i>) 11:49-12:47	
Period 6	12:50-1:48	
Period 7	1:51-2:49	
Period 8	2:52-3:50	

Campus Logistics

- Lost items are stored in the Main Office and then donated at the end of each quarter. Found articles should be turned in to the main office.
- Report all change of address or phone numbers to the **Attendance line** at 720-423-960.
- All visitors to the BVIS office must enter through the school main doors and checked in with the main office staff.
 - If you plan on staying on campus for an extended period of time we will check you in through our Raptor system, please have your state issued ID available to create an ID badge.
- BVIS is a Closed Campus. Once on school grounds, including being dropped off by the school bus, students are expected to remain on campus until school is dismissed unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and signed out in the main office according to school policy.
- Click [HERE](#) for our Safe Drop-off and Pick-up Map including when campus is open for breakfast!

School Calendar

Bear Valley has a unique [23-24 school calendar](#) that is slightly different from other DPS schools. Please be aware of the BVIS ONLY no school days.

Save the Date: No School For Students!

You can help maximize your student's attendance by scheduling appointments on the following days whenever possible.

- September 4th
- September 22nd
- October 12th-October 14th
- November 3rd (Bear Valley Only)
- November 20th-24th
- December 18th- January 2nd
- January 15th
- February 9th (Bear Valley Only)
- February 16th-19th
- March 25th-April 1st
- April 19th
- May 10th (Bear Valley Only)
- May 27th

23-24 Bear Valley International School Calendar																																									
July							August							September							October																				
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31																					30	31																			
First Days of School*							CMAS - early release							No School - Vacation/Holiday							Interim Testing																				
8/16	6th Grade						4/8/24 - 4/12/24							No School - District planning							Last Day of School																				
8/17	7th Grade						End of Quarters							No School - BV ONLY planning							early dismissal at 11:30am																				
8/18	8th Grade						10/13, 12/15, 3/8 & 5/30							Visit our website under EVENTS at https://bearvalley.dpsk12.org for reminders and community engagement dates!																											
*6th grade returns on 8/17 and 8/18. 7th grade will return on 8/18																																									

Attendance Policy

At Bear Valley we value community and learning. With these values, student attendance is incredibly important and we expect students to **maintain an overall attendance percentage of 92% or higher**. This means a student can only **miss 14 days total** throughout the school year. All tardies count against this percentage as well. We are here to partner with students and families to ensure students are at school, in turn, maximize their overall success at school.

- We will be having monthly attendance celebrations and awards to celebrate high attendance and attendance growth!
- Please CALL (720-423-9600) or email (bvoffice@dpsk12.org) the front office if your student will be absent
- If families need assistance with transportation or other barriers: please contact the mental health and wellness team at (720)423-9665.

- Families can support their child in checking their attendance percentage and tardies regularly through DPS parent or student portal
- **Excused absences still count against a student's overall attendance percentage**
- We understand that circumstances arise for families and scholars must be out of school for more than two days. Please call the front office as soon as you are aware of these extended absence circumstances so we may properly support your scholar to keep them on track.

What Counts as an Excused Absence? What does not?	
Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
<p>Absences are excused only when there is family to school communication and fall into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness or injury - you may be asked for a doctor's note • Religious holiday or observance • Death in the family • Legal Obligations <p>Please call 720-423-9600 or email bvoffice@dpsk12.org if your student will be absent for one of these reasons.</p> <p>**Excused absence still count against a student's overall attendance percentage**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unexcused absence occurs when a student is absent and the school is unaware. • When your student is absent you will receive an automatic phone call • Students with three or more unexcused absences or trancies will be subject to disciplinary action which could include lack of eligibility to participate in school performances or suspension. • Truancy can be filed with 4 unexcused absences in one calendar month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Truancy is when a student has been absent from school without permission for 4 or more days in a given month or 10 or more cumulative days.</i>

Family Communication

For the most immediate information and updates around school wide events, as well as emergency notifications, please expect the DPS auto-dialers based on the preferences you choose during Registration. If at any point you would like to adjust how you receive communication (i.e. phone calls, emails, texts) please call the front office to request the adjustments.

Our website, <https://bearvalley.dpsk12.org/> and our Facebook page (@bearvalleyinternational) is kept up-to-date with the most current information and calendar updates. Similarly our Instagram page

(@bearvalleyint) is often updated with fun videos and photos of our scholars engaging in learning so please be sure to follow us!

In situations of hardship or need, families can reach out to our School Social Workers or Counselors in our Mental Health and Wellness Department

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in every class, on time, every day. Scholars are expected to be in their Learning Community classrooms in their seats and prepared to start the date by 8:50am. **Scholars with excessive (3 or more) or habitual tardiness in a single class will attend lunch service and a family member will be contacted.** Our staff is committed to supporting your family in getting your scholar to school on time. For students who struggle with getting from class to class on time, our teams will implement targeted interventions to support those students.

Schoology

Families and scholar can receive up-to-date academic information using Schoology by logging in to the DPS parent portal. All grades, assignments and other academic resources can be accessed through this Platform. Teachers are expected to update grades regularly. We recommend that families sit down with their scholars on a weekly basis and review schools. This will hold students accountable with late or missing assignments and their academic goals. If your family requires support with Schoology. Please contact the front office. Click [HERE](#) on how to log in!

Grading Policy

At BVIS we understand that students make progress towards mastery of the target standards and content when they receive specific, timely and accurate academically-focused feedback that provides precise next steps. Academic grades are just one way students and families can understand their progress towards mastery of the standards. Students should always understand what is being graded, how they will be assessed and the criteria for mastery of every task and assignment.

- Any tasks or assignments that are missing will be marked as “incomplete” in schoology to inform students they need to be completed and submitted
- Students are welcome to complete incomplete assignments or re-attempt work up until 1 week before the end of the quarter.
- Students will not receive lower than a 50% on any graded work
- **Feedback** is **always** provided so students know their next steps in the learning process and may inform them of how their engagement and participation is **IMPACTING** their process grade.

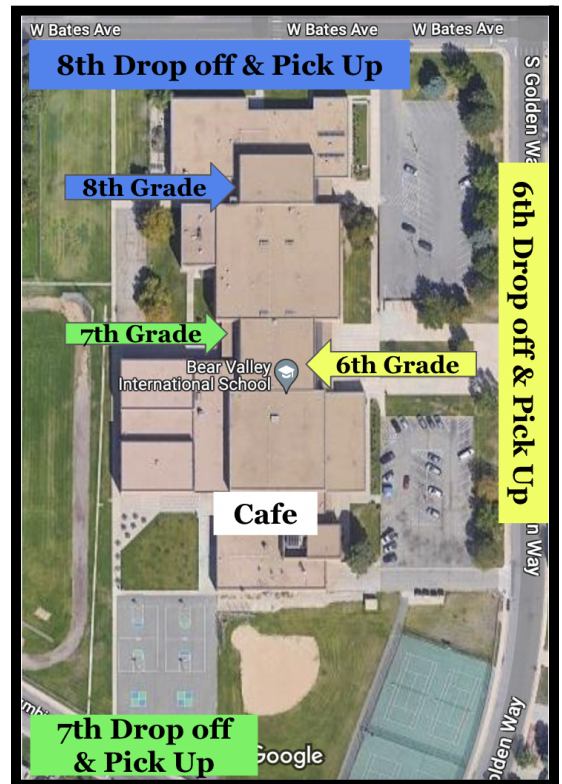
- Student receive monthly progress reports which are communicated to families
- It is our expectation that families review scholar grades on a weekly basis using Schoology, therefore report cards for each quarter are typically available for pick-up by request only. End of Year report cards will be available online via Parent Portal. Paper copies will be printed by request only.

Product: 70%	Process: 30%	Participation: 0%
Anything throughout the unit or module that reflects students learning process towards mastery of standards and grade level content	Anything throughout the unit or module that reflects students learning process towards mastery of standards and grade level content	Anything that reflects participation but is NOT directly linked to measuring mastery of the standard. This category will NOT impact the students' grade in any way but may have a direct correlation to student's progress towards content mastery.
Examples: Final unit projects, assessments or quizzes	Examples: Exit tickets, assignments, quiz, formative assessments,	Examples: Do Nows, class participation

Morning Entry

School starts at 8:50am.

- Doors to the cafe will be open for students to eat breakfast between 8:30 and 8:40.
- These doors will close at 8:40. Students who arrive after 8:40 are expected to enter through their external grade level door.
- Doors will open at respected grade level entries at 8:45am. Students are expected to place their personal belongings in their lockers and proceed directly to their LC classrooms ready to learn when the rings at 8:50am.



bell

Breakfast & Lunch

Breakfast in the Cafe

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 8:30am to 8:40am, and is free for all students. Students must enter through the cafe doors to receive breakfast. There will be no access to lockers or classrooms during this time. Students will be expected to sit in their seats after obtaining their breakfast and will remain there until they are dismissed to go to class. Students will not be permitted to bring cafeteria food out of the cafeteria.

- If you are not dropping your student off by 8:40am for hot breakfast options in the cafe, please ensure your student has eaten before arriving at school as we have no Grab and GO options.

Lunch & Recess

Due to the number of students in our 8th grade class, 6th and 7th graders will eat lunch together.

Lunch is free for all DPS students

- Students are expected to follow behavior expectations during lunch, including a reasonable voice level, cleaning up after themselves, and being kind and respectful of others and their property. Students may not leave the building for lunch unless signed out by and accompanied by your parent/guardian.
- Grade levels will each earn the privilege of using phones at lunch this year. Please know that your scholar will not have access to their personal devices during the school day for at least the first several weeks of school,

Food Delivery Services

Students are NOT allowed to access food delivery services (Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub... etc) at school. Any food ordered will be held by Bear Valley front office staff and returned after the end of the school day.

Lunch Service

Rather than serving lunch detention, lunch service provides students with a restorative and community-focused approach as a way to repair harm and give back to the school community. This may include projects such as cafe clean up, front office support, wiping tables, campus beautification, ect.

Students will be assigned lunch service (for following day) due to following:

- 3 or more tardies in a single class
- 3 or more redirections in auditorium
- Repeated classroom disruptions or not meeting school-wide expectations
- Hall Sweeps

If a student is assigned lunch service, a member of RCT or admin will contact their family. Students will be informed if they are assigned lunch service during LC. If a student is assigned lunch service, they should get their lunch from the cafe and report directed to room 103. If a student does not show up, families will be called and it will result in now needing to serve 2 days of lunch service and families will be notified. If the student still does not show up, it will turn into a ½ day of PASS class.

Lockers & Backpacks

Lockers provide students a safe and secure place to store their personal belongings throughout the school day. **To maximize school safety, students are not permitted to wear bags or backpacks throughout the day.** All personal items should be locked in their locker. Students only need their chromebook and class materials for the day.

1. **Locker sharing is not permitted.**
2. Only students officially assigned to a locker have the right to use the locker.
3. Students should report any locker issues or challenges to their LC mentor immediately.
4. **Students may only use their lockers during morning entry, before and after lunch and during afternoon dismissal.**
 - a. *If a student needs materials for class from their locker, teachers can write them a pass. However, this should be a rare occurrence and students should be prepared for the day.*
5. Cell phones must be powered off, not silenced and placed in lockers throughout the duration of the school day.
6. Locker combinations should not be shared. It is the student's responsibility to keep their locker combinations private and to be responsible for their possessions. Students should keep only their own belongings in their locker.
7. All lockers are the property of the school and are assigned to students for their use for approved purposes only. All lockers are subject to periodic inspection.
8. School officials may, without prior warning, search property assigned for the students use, including assigned lockers.
9. Security of a locker is the responsibility of the student assigned to the locker.
 - a. Teachers should not hold on to student personal possessions in place of locker
 - b. Teachers should not support students in opening lockers beyond the first two weeks of school. They should never hand a locker key to a student. Rather, they should work together to build the skill of opening a combination locker
10. It is the responsibility of the assigned student to keep the locker clean and orderly.
11. Bear Valley International School is not responsible for the valuables in the locker (including money, jewelry, electronic equipment or phones)

12. Do not keep contraband items including weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or any other inappropriate materials.

After School Activities

After-school activities are a great way to get involved and make new friends.

After School Clubs

Students must be registered in advance in order to participate. Notification for clubs will go out in flyers around the school and LC announcements.

- Student voice will determine what clubs are offered for the year. Families will receive additional communication with details of the club options throughout the year.
- Positive behavior that is compliant with BVIS and after-school rules is expected of all BVIS students. Continuing behavior that violates these expectations will result in students barred from participation in after-school activities for time periods ranging from two weeks to a full school year. Students must report to their clubs by every day and must leave immediately after the club is done. Students are not allowed to stay on school grounds without adult supervision.

Athletics

Bear Valley proudly offers all DPS prep league sports! Tryouts are announced via LC announcements and will be communicated via social media and newsletters. All scholars participating in athletics are required to have a current physical on file. Even if you submitted a physical last year, we will need one from the current year. For each sport your scholar participates in, parents/guardians are required to attend the parent meeting, lead by the coach. This will outline expectations, practice times, etc. We believe that our scholar athletes are scholars first. Therefore, all scholars participating in athletics must maintain athletic eligibility. You will learn more about eligibility from your coach at your parent meeting. It is expected that athletes pay a \$25.00 Pay to Play fee in full by the 1st game of any season. See Ms. Sarah or the Athletic Director for information on Athletic Scholarships.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys Soccer Girls Softball Girls Volleyball Flag Football (co-ed)	Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Floor Hockey (co-ed)	Girls Soccer Baseball (co-ed) JFK Futures Football (co-ed)

Emergency Response: Fire, Lockdown, Secure Perimeter & Shelter in Place Drills

Safety drills are conducted on a periodic basis, and at least once per semester. Exit routes are placed in each room. Students are to remain silent while walking from the building during drills and during all lock-downs. Once outside, students may talk quietly, but are expected to maintain order and a sense of urgency.

Families will be notified when drills are conducted. In the event of a real emergency you will receive phone/text/email updates as we are able to share information.

Illness, Injury & Medication

The school health office is open to students who are ill, injured, or have a health concern. Students come to the office with a teacher, except in emergencies when a pass is not necessary. If a student has a specific health problem that requires medication during the school day, written instructions from parents and/or physicians are required. Medication must be checked in with either the nurse, or the school secretary. No medication will be dispensed without a properly labeled Prescription. **Students are NOT allowed to carry any medication including advil/tylenol.**

Restorative Practices

It is our goal at Bear Valley to provide our scholars with the skills they will need to be successful in the World. Restorative Practices are built on the philosophy that we are all a part of a greater community. When we are involved in a conflict, it is our responsibility as members of the community to restore the damage caused by that conflict. Bear Valley has a restorative culture team. They are available to speak with scholars and to help them find their voices to advocate for themselves. They work with families, scholars and staff to repair and restore relationships within our school community. If an RP (Restorative Practices Conversation) is facilitated involving your scholar, you will be contacted and a community repair letter will be sent home.

Restorative Practices is...

- Building meaningful **RELATIONSHIPS** with the people around us
- Mutual **RESPECT** for each other and the values we share
- Sharing **RESPONSIBILITY** for taking care of others and our environment
- **REPAIRING** the community when it has been broken/harmed
- **REINTEGRATING** those who have caused harm.

Dress Code

To develop COMMUNITY and Yeti Pride, BVIS has a Dress Code policy for all scholars. School culture will become more unified as students learn the skill of dressing to create an inviting atmosphere for all students.

- Attire must not disrupt the school's learning environment. It must meet reasonable standards of cleanliness and show respect for themselves and others.
- Students that do not meet the dress code policy will report to the yeti den. Once arriving, they will change out of their shirt and into a BVIS shirt. **Their non-dress code clothing will be collected and locked in the dress code room** (in the yeti den) and can be collected at the end of the day. This will minimize the number of students who attempt to get out of dress code during the day. Hoodies and jackets will remain in student's lockers as they will need access to them during lunch and recess. If a student refuses to attend to the policy, that student will be asked to call home for appropriate clothing to be brought to school or to be picked up.
- Throughout the year BVIS will have scheduled "Free Dress Days" (some earned and some available to all students) and "Spirit Days" when all students will be encouraged to wear personal clothing or theme-related spirit wear.

Purchase of BVIS Uniform & Spiritwear: BVIS will have uniform and spirit wear available for pre-order and onsite purchase during Registration and from the Front Office.

- Basic Uniform Shirts will be offered for sale at \$8 per shirt.
- Bulk purchase discounts will be available.
- An optional outside vendor Memories by AC is available that has several logo options to imprint on existing apparel or new blank items you would like to buy at Walmart or Target.
- Click [HERE](#) to review her ordering information

Acceptable Dress	Unacceptable Dress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Students MUST wear a shirt with a BVIS logo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Students may wear hoodies, but the hood must remain down • T-Shirts should not be cut, tied, rolled up or otherwise altered to intentionally expose a person's belly, chest or upper/lower back. • Pants, shorts, dresses & skirts must be worn to appropriately cover undergarments and maintain reasonable levels of personal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students MAY NOT wear hats, beanies or other headwear unrelated to students' cultural or religious guidance and norms. • Student MAY NOT have hoods up during the school day with the exception of outside recess • Students MAY NOT wear sunglasses indoors.

privacy - pants, shorts and skirts may not be worn to intentionally expose underwear or be too short to ensure modesty of private parts.

- Sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, hoodies and other over-clothing must be "BVIS Spiritwear" or be worn to ensure school uniform is visible while inside the school building.

- Students MAY NOT wear articles of clothing promoting drugs, alcohol, violence, discrimination, sexual innuendo, derogatory language, gangs, illegal activity or other items or actions deemed by school leadership to be a disruption of the learning environment or harmful to other students or the community.

Cellphones & Personal Technology

Having a cell phone policy will ensure a positive and distraction-free school day. When students enter the building and head to lockers before LC, **all cell phones, airpods and any other electronics should be powered off and put locked in lockers.** If a family is concerned that this is not a secure location, please keep the phone at home. Students are able to use the front office courtesy phone after school. Students choosing to bring cell phones and other electronics to school resume responsibility for those devices, the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

- **Grade levels will be able to EARN the privilege to use cell phones during lunch time.** The expectations for lunch are the following:
 - Take pictures of friends or film them ONLY with their consent
 - Access school appropriate content while on school grounds or using school devices

Electronic devices that are seen or heard in school during the academic day will be addressed with the following process:

- **1st Violation:** RCT supports the student with putting the device in their locker; family is contacted
- **2nd Violation:** RCT takes the device for the day; family is contacted
- **3rd Violation:** RCT takes the device for the day; family is required to pick up the device from the front office
- **4th Violation:** RCT takes the device for the day; required family conference to determine next steps. This may include checkin in the device to the front office each morning. Failure to comply will be treated as an act of discipline matrix defiance.

The school is not responsible for loss or theft of cell phones or other electronic devices. Investigation of theft will only take place upon receiving reliable tips.

Chromebooks

Every student is assigned a DPS chromebook to use during classes and at home. This chromebook

must be brought to school charged and ready to be used everyday. **Students are strongly encouraged to leave their chromebooks at school and plug them into the charging chart in their LC classroom at the end of each day** to minimize tech related concerns. Students that do not bring their assigned chromebook will need to sign out a loaner computer during LC. If a student has damaged or lost their chromebook, they must let their LC mentor know immediately. While DPS covers the repair cost for some damage, intentional or negligent damage to your Chromebook could result in charge from the Office of Technology.

During registration, all families sign off on the "Chromebook Device Agreement" which outlines the responsibilities of families for any broken or damaged devices, including the fees that could occur as a Result. **Families can click [HERE](#) to see and overview of these fees**

MyTech Fee Structure			
Accidental Damage	Intentional Damage*	Loss	
Chromebook	Chromebook	Chromebook	Accessories: Chargers, Case, Hotspot
\$25	\$25 - \$100	\$100	\$20
*Damage fee determined by repair tech based on required replacement parts/device replacement.			
Fees may be paid on an alternative payment plan or waived, based on need, at school leaders' discretion.			

Restroom Policy

Bear Valley's restroom policy is in place to ensure that students are engaged as much as possible in class, receiving instruction and maximizing learning time. Our restroom norms and expectations also help ensure that our hallways and restrooms are safe.

- **Students use the restroom 2 times in each class per week.** There is a school-wide restroom system that will be familiar to all students
- **Students will not be permitted to use the restroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class.** This is a critical time to start and end class with success.
- If families are concerned about this policy or their student has medical related needs/circumstances, please reach out to Nurse Katia at 720-423-9580 so we can accommodate your student.

Hallways & Transitions

In the hallways, students are expected to stay to the right side of the hallways and stairs and walk directly and quickly to class. students have 3 minutes to get to class on time. Students are expected to be in their assigned seat ready to learn when the bell rings. Students should have all materials for

class and be working on the do now when they enter. When students are in the halls, they should keep hands, feet and objects to themselves. There is to be no horseplay, running, or yelling.

Hall Passes

Students are not permitted in the halls during class without a pass from their teacher. If you student needs more bathroom passes due to a medical concern, please speak to nurse Katie.

Walking Out of Class

Being out of class without permission is defined as being anywhere in the building during class, except your classroom, without a pass and/or not being where you are supposed to be, even if you have a pass. This means that you must have permission and a pass from a teacher before you leave the classroom. Students who are out of class without permission may be assigned lunch service or PASS class depending on the incident.

Harmful Substances

The use or possession or use of of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances illegal for minors is forbidden, and your student may be issued tickets by law enforcement officials if you are found in possession of these items. This rule also applies to inappropriate use of supplies provided by Bear Valley staff.

Inappropriate & Derogatory Language

We expect Yeti's to use school appropriate language at all times. Swearing, racial and gender slurs **As well as homophobic, racist and antisemitic language will not** be tolerated. This includes verbal, written and obscene gestures. Students using inappropriate or derogatory language will engage in a restorative conversation and next steps will be determined in alignment with the DPS discipline matrix. Students directing profanity at any Bear Valley staff member may be assigned PASS class. Derogatory language is handled separately at Bear Valley due to the severity and impact of the language. Derogatory language will not be tolerated and will result in PASS class and restorative projects.

Weapons

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing a knife or dangerous weapon results in a mandatory referral to law enforcement. Weapons make our school unsafe and are absolutely prohibited, and will result in behavior referrals, suspensions, and the potential for expulsion from Bear Valley Middle School. This includes any sort of knife.

Bullying & Harassment

Denver Public Schools uses the following definition of bullying:

Bullying is the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal or electronic means, or by a physical act or gesture.

Bullying is a very serious issue and is not tolerated. This does not mean that students who engage in bullying behaviors will be removed from the school, as every child has a right to an education according to the law. All attempts will be made to correct the behavior through restorative practices, counseling, and consequences that will increase in intensity as long as the behavior continues and can be documented. In extreme cases, bullying can result in suspension or expulsion.

Bullying behavior can include the following, **when it is prolonged, persistent and deliberate:**

- Physical abuse or hitting
- Verbal Abuse or name-calling
- Stealing or disrespect of property
- Malicious or hurtful name-calling, verbal threats or intimidation
- Incitement or getting someone else to do any of the previous mentioned actions
- Harassment, defined as repeated, unwanted and disrespectful attention and or any behavior which has the intention or effect of harming or intimidating others. This includes social network posts and other communication forms that are harassing in nature.
- Harassment based on sex, ethnicity, or religion will result in DPR paperwork being submitted to Student Safety. Harassment may result in charges being pressed.