

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022

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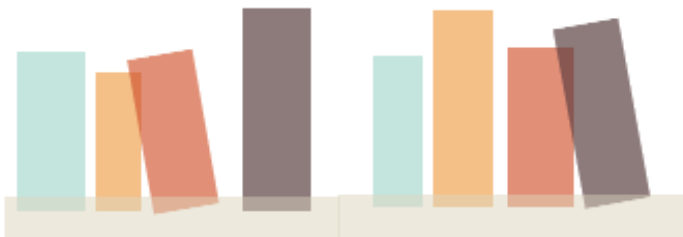


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Blue Ridge Academy Mission and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

The mission of Blue Ridge Academy is to provide a safe, collaborative and individualized learning experience in partnership with families and the community. Our independent study model allows our students opportunities to grow in an environment of inclusion, individualization and accountability. We will provide support and resources to students and families to ensure success towards their goals academically, emotionally, and socially.

Vision Statement

The vision of Blue Ridge Academy is to support and empower students to demonstrate the values and skills that promote knowledge and critical thinking. Our students are prepared to thrive in and contribute to their communities with kindness, respect, integrity and purpose.

Description of the Program

Blue Ridge respects a family's right to educate their children and strives to offer innovative, personalized learning options for all families. Our programs engage students with a truly personalized learning plan based on their own interests and specific learning needs while preparing them for success both now and in the future. Enrollment in our independent study program is tuition free.

Our programs provide students with many opportunities:

- Learn at home or on the go with options for flexible, standards based learning pathways using choices of curriculum, online platforms, and or bundled textbook programs
- Receive guidance, support, and assistance in person and virtually from your assigned credentialed Homeschool Teacher
- Optional field trips and community events
- Numerous and diverse vendor services and programs

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs)

At BR, we have goals for our students. They are known as our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes, and they represent what students at Blue Ridge Academy engage in and strive to achieve when they work through our program. The SLOs are a part of our school culture, and they reflect our school vision, the College and Career Readiness standards, the education of the whole child, and the values of our homeschool community. Teachers, students, and parents partner together throughout the year to review and reflect on student progress of the SLOs. SLOs are also an important part of the WASC process as they demonstrate our school's commitment to support student learning.

Blue Ridge Academy Students are...

Navigators of the Digital World

Navigators of the digital world who are proficient in the use of technology, media, and online resources

Self-Directed

Self-directed and motivated students who are able to set attainable goals to achieve academic success.

Personalized Learners

Personalized Learners who are able to thrive in the style of education that best fits their individual needs.

Independent Critical Thinkers

Independent Critical Thinkers who have the ability to problem solve, take ownership and apply their knowledge to a variety of problems.

Responsible Citizens

Responsible Citizens who demonstrate integrity and respect while actively seeking knowledge of local and global issues.

Effective Communicators

Effective Communicators who can thoughtfully articulate their thinking with confidence while collaborating with peers.

WASC Accreditation

The WASC process is designed to allow us to go through an in-depth self-study of our school, focusing specifically on organization, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school culture. We take a close look specifically at our high school students and their success. In addition, we identify and reflect on our progress towards our school-wide learning outcomes (SLOs.) The WASC cycle includes targeting our areas of strength and areas of growth and the creation of an action plan to address those areas to increase student achievement.

When a school becomes accredited, it:

- Certifies to the public that the school is a trustworthy institution of learning.
- Validates the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts.
- Fosters improvement of the school's program and operations to support student learning.
- Assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable educational program.
- WASC accreditation is important because the military often requires applicants to be from accredited schools and many school districts and universities will only accept credits from WASC accredited schools.
- Allows high school students' courses, grades, and units to be accepted at more colleges and

Enrollment Requirements

Required enrollment documentation includes: Proof of age, immunization record or waiver, and proof of residence.

Student must reside within a county Blue Ridge Academy serves and provide proof of residency prior to enrollment. While attending BR, if a family moves they must submit a new proof of residence within ten days to POR@theblueridgeacademy.com.

Proof of Residency (POR): The best POR document is your most current utility bill (gas, water, or electric bill). You can also use your most current property tax bill, mortgage statement, or lease agreement. If you have one of the extenuating circumstances below, you would need to complete the corresponding forms.

- Living with a friend or relative: Verification of Residence
- Transitional living: Parent Residency Affidavit Form

High school transcripts are necessary for determining proper class placement and for creating Individualized Graduation Plans. Transcripts should be submitted during the enrollment process and can be submitted by hand, faxed, or emailed to the Enrollment Department.

All information on the application must be true and correct. If misrepresentations are made or incorrect information is provided, the application may be considered as not meeting the requirements of the school and may result in the revocation or halting of enrollment until accurate information is provided.

Enrollment in Blue Ridge is contingent upon the student, parent, and teacher signing a Master Agreement Form (school contract) prior to the commencement of instruction and services. Parent and student will not have access to curriculum or instructional funds until the Master Agreement is signed and returned.

All Blue Ridge Academy students will be enrolled in their age appropriate grade level, unless a previous school has officially approved a retention or promotion.

Our school is a full-time, general education, independent study program; not a supplemental program or a part-time program. A student may not be dual enrolled in any other private or public school.

The Parent/Guardian's Role

- Regularly support your student in daily learning during the school day, following the educational plan you and your Homeschool Teacher agree to.
- Treat all Blue Ridge Academy Homeschool Teachers and school staff with respect and professionalism.
- Work in collaboration with your Homeschool Teacher, ensuring your student participates fully in their homeschool learning journey.
- Make sure your student participates in online or other recommended intervention supports if needed and advised by your Homeschool Teacher.
- Complete and submit the monthly Student Learning Log (attendance log).
- Complete the STAR 360 online assessment 2-3 times per school year.
- Support student in attending state-mandated testing (SBAC, CAST, and Physical Fitness Test).
- Practice consistent communication to enhance collaboration through daily checks of email and phone.
- Attend scheduled Learning Period meetings, as well as any other necessary meetings (on the phone, via web conference, or in person), with Blue Ridge Academy staff and student.
- Align all work, meetings, and progress monitoring with the school calendar to ensure all compliance items are fulfilled during the appropriate timeline.

It is vital that the parent/guardian follow the expectations listed above. Not maintaining these expectations could result in your Homeschool Teacher beginning the non-compliance process.

Student Behavioral Expectations

At BR learning takes place in a variety of settings. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Online learning sessions
- Public libraries, coffee shops, parks, community sites
- Vendor locations
- Blue Ridge Academy sponsored field trips, workshops, and social events

At Blue Ridge Academy, the primary focus is on student learning. Any behaviors that prevent all students from this focus will be reviewed and discussed with all parties involved. As a diverse community of learners, students must strive to work together in a setting of civility, tolerance, and respect for each other in an environment that does not distract from the mutual commitment to academic inquiry and reflection. To that end, the following student behavioral expectations have been established.

1. When participating in group dialogue, no one monopolizes discussions to the exclusion of others, either in terms of time or opinions expressed.
2. Conflicting opinions among members of a group are respected and responded to in a polite and respectful manner.
3. No side conversations or other distracting behaviors are engaged in during group discussions or presentations.
4. No offensive comments, language, or gestures are part of the learning environment.
5. Impersonating another person on an online platform is prohibited.

6. Use only your own username and password for any online platforms, and do not share these with anyone.
7. Do not post personal information in online environments (Phone Number, YouTube, Facebook, Physical Address, Email Address, Passwords, etc.)
8. All appropriate and respectful use of virtual platforms are maintained.

An infraction of these expectations that is deemed to be disruptive of the learning environment, is cause for removal of a student from an activity and may result in disciplinary action.

Consequences

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently. Discipline includes, but is not limited to, advising and counseling students, conferring with parents/guardians, and the use of alternative educational environments, suspension and expulsion. Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

School Calendar

As a public charter school, we offer families full-time, continued enrollment throughout the entire school year.



Curriculum Choices & Learning Paths

Blue Ridge's academic program is designed to be extremely flexible and customizable. Working together, credentialed teachers and parents design a learning plan for each student that can incorporate:

- A variety of curriculum options and platforms
- Academic support including interventions
- A child's optimal learning modalities
- Seemingly limitless enrichment resources, materials, and experiences
- School sponsored learning enrichment, field trips, and student activities
- A blend of virtual and in-person support

If you are looking for an engaging, easy-to-follow learning platform, explore the options below managed by our Curriculum Department. Other curriculum options such as Timberdoodle, Bookshark, Moving Beyond the Page, BYU Independent Study, UC Scout, and many more can be ordered through the [Procurify System](#).

Blue Ridge Academy curricula include learning paths and platforms designed to address the needs of all students including:

- English Language Learners
- Students in Special Education
- Students with 504 Plans
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Youth
- Homeless/Foster Youth
- Gifted & Talented

To ensure students enjoy learning and feel prepared for life after school, our Blue Ridge curriculum department works closely with partners to offer the opportunity to enroll in engaging online platforms and we encourage you to explore these options below. As well, students are provided with access to supplemental yearly subscriptions such as MobyMax, BrainPop, NetTutor, Touch-Type, Read Spell, and others. Other homeschool-friendly curriculum options can be ordered through our Enrichment department.

Objectionable Materials

Blue Ridge Academy aim to remove any barriers to learning so that all students are able to make personal and academic progress. If your family finds certain lessons or materials in a particular unit of study to be objectionable for various personal reasons, please contact your Homeschool Teacher and she/he will work with you to identify alternative lessons to meet the lesson objectives.

Curriculum: Transitional Kindergarten - 8th Grade

Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade students enrolled in Blue Ridge Academy have many options to choose from, including various online curriculum that may be project-based or a hybrid, and bundled textbook programs, live virtual instruction, or an abundance of print or online homeschool-friendly choices for creating a personalized learning path. A discussion with your credentialed Homeschool Teacher and a review of our curriculum flyers will help pinpoint how to gain the most from your curriculum, based on your student's need. Below is a sample of options available to students based on their grade level. Please note that these options are not exhaustive.

TK -2nd Grade:

- [Acellus](#)
- [Calvert Learning](#)
- [EMBARK](#)
- [Lincoln Empowered](#)
- [McGraw Hill](#)
- [Redbird](#)
- Other Curriculum - Can be ordered through the [Procurify System](#)

3rd-5th Grade:

- [Acellus](#)
- [ALEKS](#)
- [Bridgeway Stepping Stones](#)
- [Calvert Learning](#)
 - [iLead Online](#)
 - [Lincoln Empowered](#)
- [McGraw Hill](#)
- [Redbird](#)
- Other Curriculum - Can be ordered through the [Procurify System](#)

6th-8th Grade:

- [Acellus](#)
- [ALEKS](#)
- [ASU Prep Digital](#)
- [Bridgeway Bridge](#)
- [BYU Independent Study](#)
- [Edgenuity Direct](#)
- [Edmentum EdOptions Academy](#)
 - [Florida Virtual \(FLVS\)](#)
 - [FuelEd](#)
 - [iLead Online](#)
 - [LanguageBird](#)
 - [Mr. D Math](#)
- [McGraw Hill](#)
- [Redbird](#)

- Other Curriculum - Can be ordered through the Procurify System

Curriculum: High School

BR offers an Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) for all high school students and the curricular options to meet course requirements of the IGP. Upon enrollment, students will discuss and create an IGP with their Homeschool teacher or a High School Counselor, based on the student's short and long-term academic goals. BR provides high school students with various homeschool curricula and vendor options to meet all academic and learning needs including rigorous college prep A-G and AP courses. Students have the freedom to choose instructor-led courses or the ability to work from our A-G Interactive Guides:

9th-12th Grade:

- [Acellus](#)
- [ALEKS](#)
- [ASU Prep Digital](#)
- [Blue Tent Online](#)
- [Bridgeway Elite](#)
- [BYU Independent Study](#)
- [Edgenuity Direct](#)
- [Edmentum EdOptions Academy](#)
- [Florida Virtual \(FLVS\)](#)
- [LanguageBird](#)
- [McGraw Hill](#)
- [Mr. D Math](#)
- [Rosetta Stone Gold](#)
- [UC Scout On Demand](#)
- Other Curriculum - Can be ordered through the [Procurify System](#)

Graduation Requirements

High school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements are not the same. Course selection should be based on academic, career, and personal interest. Student interests and goals should guide the path through high school.

College admission requirements will vary from school to school, it is recommended that students check admission requirements before applying to their college of choice. Students can always reach out to their Counselor if they have questions about graduation requirements or the college admission process.

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements	Total Credits
Social Studies	6 semester courses <i>(Must include 1 year of US History, 1 year World History, 1 semester of Government, and 1 semester of Economics)</i>	30
English	6 semester courses	30
Math	4 semester courses <i>(Algebra 1 must be completed)</i>	20
Science	4 semester courses <i>(Must include 1 year of Physical Science and 1 year of Life Science)</i>	20
Visual & Performing Arts	2 semester courses	10
World Language		
Career and Technical Education (CTE)		
Electives	18 semester courses	90
Total =		200 Credits

* Please note that once a subject area graduation requirement has been fulfilled, all excess credits will be rolled over to the Electives category.

Suggested Course Sequence			
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 9 Algebra 1 Physical Science or Earth Science Elective / Elective Elective / Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 10 World History Math Biology Elective / Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 11 US History World Language or Visual & Performing Arts Elective / Elective Elective / Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics and Government Elective / Elective Elective / Elective Elective / Elective Elective / Elective

A-G	Subject Area	Subject Requirement
a	History Social Science	2 years <i>(1 year of World History and 1 year of US History, or ½ year of US History and ½ year of Government)</i>
b	English	4 years
c	Mathematics	3 years <i>(Algebra or higher)</i>
d	Laboratory Science	2 years <i>(At least 2 of the 3 disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)</i>
e	Language Other Than English	2 years <i>(Must be 2 years of the same language)</i>
f	Visual & Performing Arts	1 year
g	College-Preparatory Elective	1 year

4-year College Entrance Requirements

Students who plan to apply to a 4-year college right after high school graduation should plan to meet “a-g” requirements. These requirements are mandatory for students who apply to the CSU or UC systems, and recommended for students who plan to apply to private and out-of-state colleges and universities. The “a-g” requirements are summarized below:

Students who plan to apply to the UC or CSU systems will need to take courses that are “a-g” approved. All “a-g” courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. There are alternative ways to meet “a-g” requirements through testing and community college courses. Students can check the progress of their “a-g” requirements by consulting with their counselor.

Subject requirements will vary for private and out-of-state colleges and universities. However, most students who are eligible for UC admission and fulfill the “a-g” requirements will also likely meet the admission requirements for most of the private and out-of-state colleges and universities.

Students should also plan to take the SAT or ACT. SAT Subject Tests are usually optional; however, students who are applying to specific departments or highly selective schools will want to check with the admissions office of the college or university of interest to verify requirements.

For more information, please visit the sites below:

- [“A-G” Requirements](#)
- [Blue Ridge’s “a-g” Course List](#)
- [SAT Information](#)
- [ACT Information](#)

High School Elective Credit for 7th & 8th Graders

Blue Ridge Academy will grant high school elective credit for high school core courses taken by 7th and 8th grade students. As a parent choice school, we allow 7th and 8th graders to take high school courses, but it is important to consider how taking courses in middle school will affect high school and college before choosing this option for your student. Please contact one of our High School counselors to discuss starting high school courses early prior to enrolling in high school level course.

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Academic Expectations

TK-8th Grade

Families choose to enroll at BR for a variety of reasons, but at the cornerstone of each decision is a supportive partnership between the family and their chosen/assigned credentialed Homeschool Teacher. Our school provides the tools and guidance for students to experience a high quality education by providing access to personalized curriculum and instruction. Students need to be engaged in learning each school day. Families and credentialed Homeschool Teachers work together to provide support for struggling students. Families are required to meet with their credentialed Homeschool Teacher once every 20 school days.

High School

All high school students enrolled at BR will discuss and create an Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) with their Homeschool Teacher. Short and long term goals will be created based on the needs of each student. A guidance counselor is also assigned to each student and will review the IGP. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of four courses each semester and should complete a minimum of five courses each semester (25 units) to remain on track for graduation. Students are expected to meet with their teacher regularly to ensure adequate progress is made toward completing courses.

I CAN Statements

I CAN statements are family friendly guides that can be used to help your family and ensure your students are on track for their grade level. All learning objectives for Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies are provided, written in family-friendly language. I CAN statements help make grade level learning targets clear for families and they address the standards students of the same grade learn in all public schools.

Academic Integrity

Blue Ridge Academy urges students to conduct themselves ethically and honorably. It is expected that the grade a student earns is based upon work that the student has completed.

By definition, Academic Integrity is the moral code or ethical policy of academia. This includes values such as avoidance of cheating or plagiarism; maintenance of academic standards; honesty and rigor in academic work.

The following behaviors may be considered as acts that do not uphold Academic Integrity:

- Plagiarism
- Talking during a proctored exam
- Copying another student's test/assignment
- Allowing others to copy your work
- Exchanging assignments with other students (either handwritten or computer generated)

- Using a computer or other means to translate an assignment/part of a World Language assignment to another language
- Using summaries or commentaries (Cliff Notes, Spark Notes) in lieu of reading the assigned materials
- Submitting purchased papers
- Altering a grade (on a computer, on a report card, on an assignment)
- Taking an exam for someone else
- Using bribery/blackmail/threats

Any student known to have acted without academic integrity will be subject to disciplinary action in the following manner:

- **First offense:** A grade of F and/or 0% on the assignment/exam with a chance to resubmit within 1 week and parent/guardian notification
- **Second offense:** A grade of F and/or 0% on the assignment/exam with no resubmit and conference with parent/guardian
- **Third offense:** A grade of F in the class, in person conference, and placement on Academic Probation for 1 year
- **Fourth offense:** Disciplinary hearing; possible expulsion from the school

Students placed on Academic Probation may be subject to the following consequences:

- Copy of cheating referral placed in permanent cumulative file
- Proctored unit tests and finals by a Blue Ridge Academy staff member
- Restricted from participating in school activities (field trips, prom, graduation)
- Ineligible to receive letters of recommendation from staff and faculty

Report Cards

Report Cards - TK-8th

At Blue Ridge Academy, students, parents, and teachers work in partnership to design personalized learning plans and goals. The credentialed Homeschool Teacher affirms the learning plan and is guided by the I CAN statements.

Report Cards are not required for grades TK-8, but families may request them from their teacher. While TK-8 report cards are not required, they are sometimes necessary for other student endeavors such as sports teams, insurance, government verifications, etc. Please consider your family participation in these types of activities when deciding to request a report card or not. We highly recommend that parents of 7th and 8th grade students request a report card as this type of documentation is frequently requested when transitioning into a traditional high school setting. If you do not request a report card, nothing will be stored in a student's cumulative file.

Parents of TK-8th grade students have three (3) Report Card options (Option B is the default if you do not make a selection):

- **Option A:** I would like my teacher to create a Report Card and I would like a copy filed in my student's Cumulative Record.

- **Option B:** I would like my teacher to create a Report Card and I would NOT like a copy filed in my student's Cumulative Record.
- **Option C:** I DO NOT want a Report Card to be generated.

Your Homeschool Teacher will communicate directly with you to ask which option you would like for Report Cards.

Review of Student Work

Families share all of the learning that has occurred during their monthly meetings with their teachers and provide this portfolio of work in all subjects to their teacher throughout the year. Teachers work with the family to review and reflect on student learning. Teachers will use the shared information to determine mastery of standards and match these to the I CAN statements, determining a score of 1-4 as indicated in the chart below.

It is our school's policy and practice that individual student data is never shared with anyone other than the parent and teacher. The data is used solely to show grade level and school-wide trends for accreditation purposes.

AWRs-Assignment and Work Records

We work collaboratively with our families to create and discuss assignments each Learning Period using the Assignment and Work Record process (AWR). The HST and family review the specific needs and goals for each student. The goal is to create an individualized curricular path, via the monthly assignments, that work toward successful completion of educational goals by the end of the school year.

Report Cards - High School

All 9th -12th grade students are required to have a report card issued at the conclusion of each semester and are unable to opt out. Semester report cards will be based on progress made in the student's assigned high school courses.

Students in high school earn letter grades. High school students need to complete requirements and lessons as outlined by their Homeschool Teacher or by the High School Content Teacher, as applicable.

The chart below shows the grading rubric for quality of assigned work:

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D

59 and below	F
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Attendance

- Parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring that their child is actively engaged in learning each school day.
- Monthly Student Learning Log (Attendance Log) must be signed and submitted to your Homeschool Teacher at the end of each month. The Homeschool Teacher will communicate with individual families/students on the collection process of this document.
- The following are acceptable reasons for not logging attendance: prolonged illness, hospitalization, bereavement, family emergency, natural disaster. In such cases the absences would be considered excused. Some instances may require verification, such as a doctor's note, to be provided to your teacher.
- Homeschool Teachers will be knowledgeable of student progress, learning, and engagement in school. This can occur at regularly scheduled meetings, calls, emails, and or other methods.
- If the Homeschool Teacher is unable to obtain knowledge of the progress, learning, and engagement in school, attempts to contact will be documented and a non-compliance letter may be sent. After multiple failed attempts to contact a family, the school may deem that enrollment in Blue Ridge Academy is not in the best interest of the student and he/she may be subject to withdrawal. (Refer to Non-Compliance Policy on page 32)

Withdrawing Your Student From Blue Ridge Academy

To withdraw your student from Blue Ridge Academy please provide your Homeschool Teacher with the following information:

- Last date of Blue Ridge Academy attendance
- Name of school or school district your student will be enrolling in
- Reason for withdrawal

Once this information is received your Homeschool Teacher will assist you with the materials return process and finalizing any outstanding compliance items. All school property must be returned to Blue Ridge Academy.

Special Education

Blue Ridge Academy personnel are committed to identifying and serving students who have exceptional needs and are eligible to receive special education supports and services. Our commitment is based on the belief that all students shall have access to a high quality public education.

In cooperation with the Los Angeles County Charter SELPA, Blue Ridge Academy will work to ensure that a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is provided to all eligible students with exceptional needs in the student's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Specifically, Blue Ridge Academy will comply with all applicable state and federal laws in serving students with disabilities, including, but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and any other civil rights enforced by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR), and applicable special education policies and practices of the SELPA.

Common Questions

Following are the most common questions that the special education department receives from families regarding special education at Blue Ridge Academy. Please review and contact the department which serves your child if you would like to discuss these topics further.

What is Special Education?

Special Education is specially designed instruction, supports, and services to meet the unique educational needs of individuals with disabilities, which cannot be met in the general education program. It is an integral part of the total public education system, and special education services are provided:

- In a way that promotes maximum interaction between students with and without exceptional needs;
- At no cost to families; and
- Include a full range of program options to meet the educational and service needs in the least restrictive environment (LRE). --California Education Code Section 56031

Who should you contact when you believe your child may need additional academic support?

Your assigned Homeschool Teacher is the best person to initially discuss any academic questions or concerns with. Your Homeschool Teacher will most likely recommend interventions and/or accommodations for you to use with your child if appropriate.

In the event that you and your Homeschool Teacher need additional guidance in supporting your child, you may request for a Student Study Team (SST) meeting be held. This meeting will document the concerns of school staff and families, identify interventions attempted, and possibly recommend additional interventions. Interventions should be attempted for six to eight weeks and a second SST meeting should be held to document the student's response to intervention. Depending on the successful implementation of the intervention, the SST will contact the Assessment Team for additional support or recommendations.

How is it determined that a student is eligible to receive special education?

Assessments are the basis for Special Education eligibility, placement, and service decisions. The assessments will be done by professionals who have had specialized training and required certification/licensure. Please note: General Education teachers and parents, who know the students well, play a critical role in understanding a student's academic strengths and struggles and are essential in the process of documenting/identifying areas of needs.

When the school receives a referral for special education, the child's legal guardian will be sent an assessment plan that details the types of assessments being proposed. The child will receive a "full and individual initial evaluation" to determine if the child has a disability and what the child's educational needs are. A full evaluation means that the child shall be assessed in all areas of suspected disability within 60 calendar days of parental consent received by Blue Ridge Academy via signature on an assessment plan (timelines adjusted for student breaks over five consecutive days).

What is an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?

An IEP is a contractual, legal obligation, on the part of the school stating how the school plans to assist a student once they have been determined eligible for Special Education supports and services. The IEP document is written following the determination of a student's need and eligibility for special education.

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that an IEP include a "statement of measurable annual goals" which allow the child to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum and meet each of the child's other educational needs that result from the child's disability." The IEP team develops the IEP document annually and identifies the child's needs, annual goals, objectives, adaptations, services and placement.

What is the role of the parent in an IEP meeting?

Parents are encouraged to participate in the IEP meeting by providing information on which supplementary aids and services, program accommodations, and support for the parent's role as learning coach are needed to help the child progress toward attaining progress in general education curriculum and on their IEP goals. Please speak with your Special Education teacher further regarding the structure of IEP meetings and if you have any questions or concerns.

How are special education services provided at our independent study school?

Students with IEPs are required to participate in special education services as indicated in their IEP documents.

- Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) is delivered virtually and is taught by experienced and credentialed special education teachers. The format of these sessions are determined by the student's IEP team and based on their academic IEP goals.
- Related Special Education services, such as occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, etc. may be provided by qualified District staff or via non-public agencies (NPA) contracted with

Blue Ridge Academy. NPAs have a certification with the California Department of Education to work with school aged students and they are carefully selected by Blue Ridge Academy.

May a family maintain the same special education NPA Providers/individual therapists, if they enroll in Blue Ridge Academy and year to year?

Each NPA oversees the scheduling and availability of their services providers. Our Special Education Department will confirm an NPA's certification with the California Department of Education, establish a contract with that NPA to start services.

Please note: The Special Education Department is happy to work with families, however we are not able to guarantee that they may maintain the same NPA providers/individual therapists.

Should Special Education Teachers be included in the development of a student's education plan, designed by the Homeschool Teacher?

Whenever possible, it is recommended that a Special Education Teacher be included in the development of a student's education plan, which is designed by the learning coach and Homeschool Teacher. While it is not a requirement, the involvement of the Special Education Teacher provides an opportunity for the team to get a different perspective on how to help support a student's needs, challenges, and strengths.

Shall your Homeschool Teacher collect work samples for students with an IEP?

Blue Ridge's Work Sample policy is the same for all students.

Instructional Planning Amounts

Program Description

At Blue Ridge Academy, we focus on Personalized Learning, a philosophy that truly puts every student first by supporting them in honoring and exploring their unique skills, special gifts, talents, and aspirations. In order to allow families flexibility on their personalized learning path, BR establishes a planning amount for students for educational items and services per full school year. Parents and students are not guaranteed to receive any educational items and services up to and equal to this planning amount, as a Homeschool Teacher and the Executive Director must approve all requests. The planning amount is also not a mandatory cap limiting the Charter School's ability to provide necessary educational services to students (e.g., pursuant to a student's individualized education program). Families utilize this planning amount to work with their teachers to carefully select educational products, such as curriculum, technology items, supplemental enrichment materials, field trip opportunities, and services, such as enrichment lessons and classes to fit their goals, learning plans, and subjects outlined in their Master Agreement. The Charter School developed this planning amount to help

ensure the school provides educational items and services aligned with its budget and to help ensure fair and equal treatment of students, to the extent consistent with individual needs. All orders must be secular and are approved by your Homeschool Teacher and/or our Enrichment Staff. Instructional Planning Amounts cannot be transferred between students.

Product:

- Academic Enrichment Materials
- Curriculum
- Technology Items*
- Educational Field Trips

Service:

- Fine Art Lessons & Classes
- Performing Art Lessons & Classes
- Academic Enrichment Classes
- Physical Education Classes
- Tutoring Services
- Driver's Education Courses
- Cooking Classes
- Gardening Classes
- Reading and Writing Classes
- STEM Classes

**The Technology Acceptable Use Acknowledgement must be signed in order to receive the technology equipment. All families receive this form through email at the beginning of the year. All families will have access to the list of approved vendors/service providers and product/material items. This list is updated on a daily basis throughout the school year.*

Instructional Planning Amounts are state funds and are not the property of the parent, nor is any material ordered through these planning amounts. All materials ordered through BR with state funding are the property of BR. Materials are loaned to enrolled students for educational purposes only. The items must be returned to the school at the commencement of the withdrawal process. All materials must be returned to BR within thirty days. Families may be billed for any items not returned and student transcripts may be held until all materials are returned.

How to Request Services/Products

1. Visit the Blue Ridge Academy Procurify System to request any service or product.
2. The first time a family uses a vendor for service, they will need to sign and submit a waiver form.
3. If families are requesting a service, an Enrichment Certificate will be created and sent via email to the parent. Students are not able to start services without an Enrichment Certificate.
4. Families will present the Enrichment Certificate to the vendor.
5. Each vendor will invoice Blue Ridge Academy for the services listed on the certificate.
6. Families must place an order for services prior to the start of services. Back dated service orders will not be approved.
7. Blue Ridge Academy pays vendors directly. Parents should not pay vendors for Blue Ridge Academy

Student services as we cannot provide payment/reimbursement to families.

8. To request technology products offered exclusively by our Technology Department (i.e. most computers, laptops, tablets, and specific software), please visit the Tech Catalog on our Procurify system. This catalogue offers a curated list of current items which require configuration or standardization.

How to Request New Vendors

- If a family would like to use a vendor that is not currently on the approved vendor list, a vendor application can be requested using this link: [Vendor Application](#)
- Product vendors do not need to be pre-approved.
- Our Vendor Team will contact the vendor.
- The vendor approval process is largely dependent on how quickly a vendor returns their application and supporting documents. The process could take a couple days to a couple of weeks. Our goal is to have the vendor approval process completed within two weeks.
- Vendors are often more willing to go through the steps to become an approved vendor if you, the family that is interested in their products or services, let them know that you are requesting their approval through Blue Ridge Academy. This way they will be aware when the application email arrives to them from us.

Tech Catalogue

Choosing technology can be overwhelming. Our Tech Catalogue helps simplify your selection by providing a curated list of qualified devices, items, and software. All items offered meet internal standards of quality, performance, value, availability, and support. These items can be obtained with Instructional Planning Amounts.

Some technology items (e.g. computers, laptops, tablets and printers) require specific configurations, must meet certain standards or be purchased through select suppliers, channels, or agreements.

Tech Costs

Most Tech Catalogue items are business-class devices and are not found in local retail stores, so be certain you are comparing the exact same models and specs. Remember, all taxes (ex. sales tax) and fees (ex. shipping, CA e-waste disposal) are also included in the price you see. Unfortunately, we are not able to price match.

Tech Catalogue pricing also includes software and device licenses, school compliance features, management services, enhanced warranties and damage protection, solid state drives (SSD), protective cases, asset tagging and inventory, packaging materials, shipping both ways, and lifetime support for the device is standard. These items are factored into the Instructional Fund cost of Tech Items.

The following limits have been placed for tech devices assigned to students and families:

- 1 computer per student
- 1 tablet per student
- 1 printer per student

How to place an order

Tech devices are now available through the Procurify System and can be ordered in the same fashion as other enrichment items. Please review the tech options on your Procurify account.

Tech Center Returns

All Tech items are the property of BR and returns can be submitted to our Technology Department. Please contact us for detailed directions on how to return item(s).

The school is unable to sell any enrichment/technology items to families.

For Tech Center assistance or questions, please call or email:

helpdesk@theblueridgeacademy.com , (661) 379-6145

Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Blue Ridge Academy is committed to providing our students with access to technology, information, and digital resources while fostering safe, responsible, and ethical learning environments. The Charter School is committed to upholding important security, privacy, and safety regulations, protocols, and standards. Users of the Charter School's devices, networks, accounts, and other resources must adhere to the Charter School's policies. Users are also expected to fully comply with local, state, and federal regulations. Failure to adhere to these policies or regulations may result in discipline, legal action, or other remedies determined to be within the rights of the Charter School. Relevant regulations include (but are not limited to):

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The purpose of the Blue Ridge Academy Governing Board approving this Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Technology Use Terms and Phrases
2. Identify the User Responsibility
3. Outline Acceptable Use of Resources
4. Outline Unacceptable Use of Resources

5. Outline the Expectation of Privacy
6. Define Cyberbullying
7. Outline Stolen Technology Procedures
8. Outline the Student Departure Procedures
9. Identify the Disclaimers and Acknowledgements
10. Establish the User Agreement

1. Definitions:

- **School or Organization or We** – the Charter School
- **ITD** – Blue Ridge Academy Information Technology Department
- **You or Your or I** - the parent/guardian, student, and signer of this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- **Resources** - devices, systems, services or networks owned, operated or issued by the Charter School.
- **User** - any person(s) accessing or utilizing the Charter School's resources that is not a resource operator
- **AUP** – Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

2. User Responsibilities: Access to the Charter School's technology, resources, and support is a privilege which offers a wealth of educational benefits. To maintain these privileges, all users must agree to, learn about, and comply with all information within this AUP document.

- You agree to learn about and comply with all information outlined in this AUP document
- Persons to whom items are assigned are expected to exercise reasonable care to protect those items against damage, loss and theft. "Reasonable care" is defined as:
 - Never leaving items unattended
 - Never lending, giving or releasing items to a person other than an employee of the ITD or Charter School
 - Never removing protective accessories or features (e.g. cases, bumpers)
 - Keeping items away from dangerous conditions (e.g. liquids, heat sources, unstable surfaces or items) and preventing actions which promote damage beyond normal wear and tear
- You must immediately report damaged, lost, or stolen items/resources. Items reported stolen or missing will require a police report.
- Parents/guardians are expected to provide supervision and monitor device/Internet access and usage.
- You are expected to make a reasonable effort to protect your passwords, information and data.
- You are obligated to notify the ITD of continued access to resources beyond student departure (e.g. withdrawal, graduation, expulsion) in the event the ITD has not contacted you to do so.
- **Items, devices and resources issued by the Charter School are School property and must be**

returned or relinquished to the Charter School upon request.

3. Acceptable Use of Resources:

- All of the Charter School-issued accounts are intended solely for use by the person authorized to use the account.
- When sharing or exposing personal information or data online, extreme caution should be exercised.
- Any information or communication accessible via any of the Charter School networks should be assumed private property.
- The Charter Schools reserves the right to verify whether specific uses of the Charter School technology or networks are consistent with this acceptable use policy.
- The Charter School is bound by certain licensing agreements. Users are expected to comply with those agreements.
- Educational and instructional use as related to the Charter School only.

4. Unacceptable Use of Resources:

- All commercial or personal for-profit usage is prohibited.
- The access, use or transmission of objectionable material (e.g. materials that are obscene, bullying, profane, lewd, threatening, disrespectful, hateful, pornographic) is prohibited.
- Violation of any local, state, or federal laws as well as School, board or administrative policies are prohibited. (e.g. Federal copyright laws - [Title 17](#), USC)
- Any attempt to circumvent the Charter School's security measures, content filters or access restricted resources is prohibited.
- All malicious and nefarious activities are prohibited. Examples include (1) unauthorized trespassing or infiltration of a network or device, (2) the intentional distribution of malware, (3) any attempt to deny a remote service. Malicious actors may also be in violation of *California's unauthorized computer access law, Penal Code 502(c) PC*.
- The intentional collection, mining, or uncovering of personal information, files, passwords belonging to a user other than yourself is prohibited.
- Impersonation of any user other than yourself is prohibited.
- Unauthorized falsification or modification of any school records is prohibited.

- The collection or transmission of personal information (e.g. home address, phone number, personal email) which may be useable to identify an individual without written consent is prohibited.
- Political lobbying or advertising is prohibited
- Unauthorized maintenance, service, repairs, or upgrades are prohibited. The Charter School's owned or operated resources must be maintained by the ITD or authorized third parties.

5. Expectation of Privacy: For email, networks, systems, and other resources owned or operated by the Charter School, users should have no expectation of privacy. The Charter School reserves the right to manage and monitor all aspects of its own resources. The following are examples of actions which may be performed for reasons deemed legitimate by the Charter School:

- Obtain emails, messages, and their attachments transmitted to or through the Charter School's owned or operated email systems
- Monitor an individual's use of the Charter School's owned resources
- Locate or track the location of the Charter School's owned resource
- Confiscate, search, disable, or wipe any of the Charter School's owned device, item or their contents/data

Personal devices are private. The Charter School must obtain permission to access personal devices.

6. Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is the use of technology resources to willfully harm either a person or persons through electronic systems (e.g. texts, photos, videos, messages, social media). Examples of this behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Transmitting false, cruel, hateful, or embarrassing information or media targeting others
- Creating posts or websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures or jokes ridiculing others
- Unauthorized access to any resource (e.g. social media, email) for purposes of downloading or transmitting vicious or embarrassing materials
- Engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information, and transmitting that information or media to others
- Posting of a student picture without their permission.
- The use of derogatory comments, including those regarding race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, political persuasion, body type, physical or mental health.

7. Stolen Technology: The Charter School is proud to work with Absolute Software - a solution that allows for effective security technology and student safety programs that track, locate and recover your endpoints in the event of a theft, while ensuring safety for students. Absolute provides:

- Remote security to monitor and protect each device
- Reporting tools that give hardware and software information
- Remote device freeze with user verification messaging
- Track assets on Google Maps, including recent and historical locations
- Web filtering to protect students on and off school networks
- Adherence to CIPA regulations around internet security policies
- Thief investigation services, remediation and more

Additionally, our devices have several digital tracking capabilities and we reserve the right to utilize these features for the purposes of recovering property that is believed to be lost or stolen.

The Recovery Investigation team will work with local law enforcement to recover any stolen device that is tracked through Absolute. They will attempt to collect the device up to 60 days. If they are unsuccessful, the Charter School may be compensated up to \$500 for that device. Pricing may vary and is subject to change without notice and is not guaranteed.

The Charter School's ITD always tries to take the most cautious and diplomatic approach when attempting to recover any stolen items. Three attempts will be made to contact the employee using all forms of communication. Once our attempts have been unsuccessful, a police report is established and all information is handed over to the Absolute Recovery Team for further investigation. Absolute will then continue their process by tracking the device, contact the person in question, communicate with local law enforcement and if found provide a warrant to search for the device.

If a student has a lost or stolen device while still enrolled with the School, please report the device to local law enforcement and contact the Technology Department to begin the investigation process. ITD will do their best to recover and replace any device that has been reported as lost, stolen, or missing. A police report must be provided prior to starting the investigation.

For more details, please visit: www.absolute.com/en/about/legal/agreements/absolute

8. Student Departure: Upon student departure (e.g. withdrawal, graduation, or expulsion) from the Charter School, all issued items must be returned within 30 days. Prepaid return labels and pick up services may be provided at no cost. Please reach out to your homeschool teacher for complete details regarding returns.

If all attempts to collect a device are unsuccessful, the matter will be handed over to local law enforcement and pursued on behalf of the Charter School. Any missing technology will also be added to the student's

records.

For information regarding technology returns, please review the Charter School's *Tech Centre and Issued Technology Agreement* or contact ITD.

9. Disclaimer & Acknowledgements:

- The Charter School reserves the right to modify its policies and rules at any time.
- **ALL DEVICES, ITEMS AND SOFTWARE ISSUED BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN ALL ITEMS ISSUED TO YOU UPON REQUEST BY OR DEPARTURE FROM THE CHARTER SCHOOL.** We reserve the right to issue penalties (e.g. denial of access to resources, withholding of transcripts) or seek legal remedies in response to non-compliance.
- Access to the Charter School's technology, resources and support is a privilege, not a right. These privileges are offered at the discretion of the Charter School.
- The Charter School will not be held liable for the information or data retrieved, stored, or transmitted by means of the Charter School owned or operated resources, devices, networks, or systems
- Users should not have an expectation of privacy in the use of the Charter School's resources, email, systems, networks
- Illegal activities performed using the Charter School's devices, networks, and systems will be reported to the proper authorities when discovered
- The Charter School will not be held responsible for losses or damages suffered by any user, including loss of data, interruption of service, delays, or non-deliveries
- The Charter School's issued property reported as lost, missing, or stolen may be remotely tracked, located and/or disabled at the discretion of the Charter School.
- The Charter School may confiscate and search any of the Charter School's resource for any reason deemed reasonable by the Charter School including in response to violation of school policies or government regulations
- The Charter School is not in any way an Internet Service Provider
- Parents/guardians are held financially responsible for all willfully damaged or lost properties. If properties are lost or willfully damaged, students and/or parents/guardians shall be responsible for restitution equal to the current replacement cost of the materials. If payment is not made, the Charter School may withhold the student's grades, diploma or transcripts, provided, certain due process is met.

10. User Agreement Statement: I have read, understand, and will abide by the PARENT- STUDENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY when using any of the Charter School's technology and other electronic resources issued, owned or operated by the Charter School. I further understand that any violation of the policies above is considered unethical, may subject my child to disciplinary actions and in some cases may constitute a criminal offense. Should I violate any of the policies outlined in this agreement, I understand my access to any of the Charter School's technology resources may be limited, revoked or returned and disciplinary and or legal action may be taken.

Non-Compliance Policy

Blue Ridge Academy Homeschool Teachers partner with families to educate students enrolled in our programs. The partnership is effective if students and parent/guardians are actively participating in our program and meeting enrollment requirements.

Indications that a student is not actively participating in our program include:

- Non-attendance
- Missing or refusing to schedule meetings
- Unable to contact
- Not meeting enrollment requirements
- Not submitting requested work samples
- Making inadequate progress

In these instances, BR may:

- Contact the family by phone and email requesting resolution within two school days.
- Two school days later, if there is not a satisfactory resolution, the Homeschool Teacher will attempt to contact the family again by phone, email, and a letter of non-compliance will be sent to the address on file. The letter will request a resolution within five school days.
- If the issue is resolved, the parent/guardian and teacher will confer to review expectations and create a plan to maintain compliance.
- If the issue is not resolved, the Homeschool Teacher will attempt to contact the family again by phone, email, and a second letter of non-compliance will be sent to the address on file. The letter will request a resolution within five school days. In addition, an Administrative Conference Call will be scheduled to be held no sooner than six days of the date the letter was sent.
- It may be deemed, at that time, that independent study is not the best educational placement for the student and the student may be withdrawn.
- Should a student be Administratively Withdrawn, the student is not eligible to re-enroll in the school for at minimum, one full academic school year.
- Enrichment and Curriculum orders will be put on hold until compliance issues are resolved.

Work Samples

To meet California Independent Study Guidelines, Work Samples will be required and collected at the end of each Learning Period. Students are required to submit work samples as requested by their Homeschool Teacher to demonstrate and document student learning. Failure to provide work samples may jeopardize your child's enrollment status at Blue Ridge Academy.

Acceptable Work Sample Criteria:

- Original or scanned PDF version
- Demonstrates neat and organized work
- Demonstrates a good reflection of your child's learning and abilities
- Includes student's first/last name, subject, and date in the top right hand corner
- The sample needs to be completed and dated within the collection Learning Period
- Must be non-sectarian (non-religious)
- Photographs must include a summary from the student's perspective
- Samples may be typed or handwritten by the student. Younger students may dictate to the parent to write or type for them

Non-Compliant Work Samples Include:

- Scanned documents that are difficult to read or are very light
- A scanned or printed document of a certificate of completion or report from an online learning platform
- Samples completed and dated not within the Learning Period
- A photograph which does not include the student's summary of the project/concept
- Incomplete worksheets or work

Testing & Assessment

Assessment data is critical to Blue Ridge Academy. Essentially, assessments are one indicator of student learning. Using assessment data is not only a healthy thing to do internally as a school community, but also a required part of the WASC accreditation process and the charter renewal process.

WASC accreditation shows that a school has met and is maintaining a high level of standards. Furthermore, having WASC accreditation validates the integrity of the school's program for transfer students and transcripts for university acceptance. Many of our families put great value on WASC accreditation. In order to receive WASC accreditation, a school must go through a rigorous process of describing, demonstrating, and evaluating its instructional program through a school-wide action plan.

It is a wonderful accomplishment for a school to be accredited, but the work is not finished. Maintaining accreditation is an ongoing cycle of managing change and improvement through regular assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring and reassessing. Blue Ridge Academy is involved in the WASC cycle.

Assessment data is also an important piece in our charter renewal process. All charter schools are authorized by a sponsoring school district. The authorizer is granting permission to the petitioning organization to make their own independent decisions and operate their own school. In return, the charter school needs to demonstrate compliance with the essential terms of the charter, which include Ed Code, student achievement, governance, reporting requirements, etc. Blue Ridge Academy must remain in good standing with the authorizer. Without authorization, we have no charter! Authorizers gauge compliance and achievement with assessment data. Scores at the individual student level are never shared, and privacy of student names is maintained according to federal laws that protect students.

It is very important to the school that all students participate in school wide assessment. We do our very best to listen to the needs of parents and students. We hope this year there are positive changes for you and your child with the different assessment adoptions.

State Standardized Tests – California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

As students of a public charter school, our students participate in the following state standardized tests:

- Grades 3 – 8: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
- Grade 11: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
- Grades 5, 8, and one time in High School during the year of their last science course: California Standards Test for Science (CAST)
- Grades 5, 7 and 9: Physical Fitness Test (PFT)
- ELPAC: English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (English Learners only)

As a public charter school we receive state funds that each student accesses when they use their Instructional Planning Amount.

Participation rates are critical to the success of our school. A public school is required to achieve a participation rate of 95% on any state testing. If a school has less than 95% of its students participate in any assessment, the school runs the risk of receiving a serious penalty by the state of California.

Blue Ridge Academy faculty administers all state standardized tests at facilities located within driving distance of your home. A testing schedule will be provided to you from your teacher. Individual student performance results on statewide achievement testing will be made available to parents that would like a copy.

Often our families have questions or concerns about the SBAC/CAST assessments. At Blue Ridge Academy we want our families to feel informed about assessments so they are prepared and feel more comfortable partaking. We have created Parent Testing Videos and Resources for this purpose. We also ask that you work closely with your teacher so your student can be assigned any designated supports that would help them during their testing session.

Star 360

Blue Ridge Academy believes that ongoing assessments will help to inform instructional practices. The Star 360 is not designed to find flaws but rather to build strength and skills necessary to become successful in the student's educational career.

BR chose Star 360 because of its adaptive and non-adaptive nature and the diagnostic tool pinpoints students' needs down to the sub-skill level. Star 360 provides data-driven insights and support for successful implementation of the new standards. Star 360 has a custom assessment (paper-pencil version) that can be used in place of the adaptive assessment. BR will provide the parents with the results of Star 360, so the parent and teacher can work together to create a personalized learning plan for each student.

Assessments allow our teachers to monitor student growth and performance consistently and continuously over a student's entire K-12 career. The questions will automatically change the level of difficulty, thus "adaptive," based on student response patterns. The non-adaptive paper pencil version of Star 360 will allow students to show mastery in standards over the course of the year and we can still measure growth and use these assessments to drive our instruction.

Star 360 Testing will occur up to three times a year, typically in the fall, winter, and spring of each year.

Testing for English Language Learners

California state law requires that the ELPAC be given each year to English Learners. The ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) is a test that measures how well a student can listen, speak, read, and write in English. The purpose of ELPAC is to ensure all students receive adequate support to succeed.

New students that have declared another language besides English on their home language survey must be assessed. This includes TK students. Students that have been previously designated as English Learners at another public school (even if it was years ago) must be tested by law every year until they reach a level of proficiency and are reclassified. At that point they will no longer need to take the test.

Records Department

The Records Department supports families by maintaining student records and will process requests for various documents such as work permits, enrollment verification, report cards, and transcripts.

Document Requested	Expected Time of Processing
Work Permit	2-3 Business Days
Enrollment Verification	2-3 Business Days
Copies of Grades & Official/Unofficial Transcripts	3-5 Business Days
Copies of CUME (Student Records)	3-5 Business Days

Work Permits

There are two types of work permits: Entertainment and Non-Entertainment

- **Entertainment Work Permits** are obtained from the entertainment industry employer, filled out, and sent to records@theblueridgeacademy.com,
- **Non-Entertainment Work Permits** are different. Before the Records Department can fill out a regular work permit, the employer needs to provide the student a **B1-1** permit (think of this as the permit to attain a permit). This is important because it tells our department where the student wishes to work. Once the **B1-1** permit is sent to records@theblueridgeacademy.com, one of our Records specialists will fill it out and provide a **B1-4** at the same time. The **B1-4** is the actual permit.

Concurrent, College Enrollment Exceptions

For all concurrent, college enrollment requests, please send applications and inquiries to your Guidance Counselor. There is a minimum five (5) business day turnaround for these applications, so please plan accordingly.

Call (661) 412-9363 if you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the Records Department.

Harassment

It is the policy of BR to prohibit harassment by any means, including but not limited to: sexual, physical, verbal, written, electronic, mental, emotional and visual harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying. Whether direct or indirect, such intentional acts substantially harm and interfere with a student's education, threaten the overall educational environment, and disrupt the operation of school.

Harassment for any reason including, but not limited to: race, religious creed (including religious dress and

grooming practices), color, national origin (including language use restrictions), immigration status, citizenship status, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, military and veteran status, or association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned characteristics or any other legally protected category is a violation of both state and federal law. Verified harassers may face loss of computer or other special privileges, suspension, or expulsion. Any disciplinary action will be determined by the school administrators and board of directors. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, the administration will report such crimes to local law enforcement officials. Harassers may also be subject to civil and criminal liability for any such unlawful behavior.

BR will take measures against harassment. This includes any act that takes place on or immediately adjacent to the location of any school event, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or off-campus activities that cause or threaten to cause a substantial and material disruption at school or interfere with the rights of students to be secure.

In situations in which electronic or cyber bullying originates from a non-school computer, but is brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be so severely disruptive of the educational process that it markedly interrupts or severely impedes the student learning.

It is important to understand that jokes, stories, cartoons, nicknames, the sending or posting of inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs and comments that violate school, state, and federal law may be offensive to others and will not be tolerated.

If you feel you have been a victim of harassment or are being bullied, inform your Homeschool Teacher or school administrator immediately. Keeping quiet or ignoring the problem will not make it go away. The teacher or school administrator will document the events, contact the appropriate parties, and appropriate steps will be taken.

Expulsion & Suspension

Definition of Expulsion

Expulsion shall be defined as permanent dismissal from BR, without re-enrollment privileges, and must be approved by the BR Charter Board or their authorized designee.

Definition of Suspension

Suspensions shall be defined as a temporary leave of absence from BR that may occur at the discretion of the individual BR Homeschool Teacher, Regional Administrator, or the BR Charter Board.

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion

A student may be subject to suspension and/or expulsion when it is determined that he/she, while on or within

view of, vendor locations, at a school sponsored activity/field trip, or online.

- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person or willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense.
- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object.
- Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of, any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance or material and represented the same as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- Possessed or used tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to: cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew, and packets. This restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products.
- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5.
- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e., a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, Charter School's Board of Directors, or designee(s)'s concurrence.
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4.
- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a witness or complaining witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- Made terrorist threats against school officials, students, and/or school property.
- Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5.
- Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 33032.5.
- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment including, but not limited to, acts outlined in the Harassment section.
- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act. "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate

violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing a reasonable student or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
- Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900.7, the making of a terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of \$1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out.

Suspension & Expulsion for Students with Disabilities

A student identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion which apply to general education students. All the procedural safeguards established by Charter School policies and regulations shall be observed in considering the suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities. In the case of a suspension or an expulsion of a student identified as having special education needs, BR shall comply with federal and state law.

Due Process Statement

BR shall provide for the fair treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them due-process rights. Rules regarding suspension and expulsion shall be revised periodically as required by any changes in BR policy, regulation, or law.

In all cases, BR disciplinary policies shall afford students due process. To this end, the BR Charter Board shall develop rules and regulations governing the procedures by which students may be suspended or expelled.

In the event of an expulsion, a student will be entitled to written notice of the grounds for their proposed removal and will be given a full due-process hearing in regard to the proposed expulsion. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will also be given written notice in advance of said hearing so that they may attend. BR will maintain a record of the notice and of the hearing. The student will also be entitled to appeal a decision to expel said student, pursuant to the appeal procedures established by the BR Charter Board.

Grievance Policy and Procedure

BR is committed to achieving student/family satisfaction. The following procedure was developed to ensure that student, family and Blue Ridge Academy staff grievances are addressed fairly by the appropriate persons in a timely manner. BR prohibits discrimination against students/families on the basis of ethnicity, sex, ancestry, physical or mental disability, race, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or religion.

The parent/guardian will address in writing any concern or grievance initially with the student's Homeschool Teacher and supervisor. Both Homeschool Teacher and supervisor will respond within ten (10) school days.

If the concern or grievance is not resolved, the parent/guardian may, within ten (10) school days, request a meeting with school leadership to discuss the concern or grievance. The Sr. Director will investigate and respond within ten (10) school days.

A written email and letter will be sent to the family that will address the concern and outcome.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day Blue Ridge Academy receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask BR to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

1. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor,

instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

2. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by BR to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland
Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student –

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State (SEA). Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them

as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)

- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to §99.38. (§99.31(a)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))

Signature of Receipt & Acknowledgement

By signing, you are agreeing to the policies and procedures of the Parent Student Handbook including, but not limited to:

- Enrollment Requirements
- Academic Expectations
- Report Cards & Grading
- Attendance
- Non-Compliance
- Work Samples
- Technology Usage
- Testing & Assessments
- Behavioral Expectations
- Instructional Funding
- Academic Integrity

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____