

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



a tradition of excellence

**PARENT ORIENTATION
INFORMATION AND ANSWERS
2020-21**

BARRET TRADITIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
2561 GRINSTEAD DRIVE
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40206

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WHAT IS A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL?

The school is exactly what the name suggests--a school dedicated to the concept of scholarship, patriotism, courtesy, respect, responsibility, and citizenship. It strives to develop in its students:

- the highest possible competence in fundamental skills;
- growth in citizenship and in moral and spiritual values;
- responsibility for personal behavior;
- a spirit of individual achievement and competition.

We expect each student to strive for the highest standards of honesty and personal integrity.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that each student is a unique individual worthy of and entitled to respect. We believe that in order to develop to his/her full potential, each student must be afforded the opportunity to develop self-esteem, self-reliance, self-confidence, and self-discipline. We believe that in order to develop these "self" concepts, our particular students will thrive when experiencing the curriculum in the structured environment of the traditional school. We believe that in addition to the regular subjects that comprise the curriculum students will profit from an emphasis on citizenship, patriotism, and leadership skills. We believe that an understanding of and respect for the various ethnic, religious, social, economic, and political backgrounds of the members of our society is integral to good citizenship. We believe that the educational process is most complete when the venture is a joint effort among the student, home, and school. We believe that the middle school student is an emerging adolescent experiencing a most difficult period of his/her development. As such, this student needs a learning environment that will assist his/her transition from an elementary child to a high school young adult through his/her interaction with a sensitive, understanding, and caring faculty. We believe in and promote a family atmosphere at school.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

We believe at Barret Traditional Middle School the best of the past is blended with the needs of the future. At Barret, a structured, orderly environment, a quality academic program, and extensive parental involvement provide opportunity for exceptional student performance. Barret is unique among Jefferson County Middle Schools in its dedication to the concepts of scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, respect and responsibility. While upholding high traditional standards, we take pride in our daily appearance, dress, and conduct. Students are expected to uphold these worthy concepts.

REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

The school day is from 7:40 a. m. to 2:20 p.m.

7:20 - 7:35 a.m.	Preparations for the day should be completed. Visits to the bookstore, office, and lockers should be done before 7:35 a.m.
7:35 - 7:40 a.m.	Students should move to their first class, be seated and ready to begin by 7:40 a.m.
7:40-8:40 a.m.	First Class
8:45- 9:40 a.m.	Second Class
9:45-10:40 a.m.	Third Class
10:45-12:15 p.m.	Fourth Class (includes lunch)
12:20-1:15 p.m.	Fifth Class
1:20-2:20 p.m.	Sixth Class

OPENING EXERCISES

Each day begins with an opening exercise consisting of a time for silent meditation and the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. Each student will participate enthusiastically in this ceremony. The only students to be excused are those whose religious beliefs prohibit compliance (a letter from the student's church must be on file). Homeroom is a time when daily attendance is taken, and announcements for the day are given.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The comprehensive Traditional Middle School Program strives to provide academics built upon a foundation of a structured, orderly environment and parental involvement. The academic program continues and extends those skills introduced in the elementary grades. **Increased emphasis is placed on skills such as inferring, generalizing, hypothesizing, and on other higher-level critical thinking processes.** Lessons are designed to prepare students for future educational challenges and for life as citizens of the twenty-first century.

The personal development area addresses personal and social needs that are important to the middle school student. Experiences in this area include health and physical education activities. Opportunities also are provided for students to participate in a wide range of personal interests in such areas as art, music, physical education, and computer education.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

GRADE SIX

- Social Studies: World Cultures – Prehistoric to Renaissance
- Language Arts/Literature
- Science
- Mathematics
- World Language (Spanish)
- Physical Education
- Art
- Band, Orchestra

GRADE SEVEN

- Language Arts/Literature
- Social Studies: World Cultures – Renaissance to present day
- Science
- Mathematics
- World Language (Latin)
- Arts & Humanities/Practical Living
- Vocal Music
- Band, Orchestra

GRADE EIGHT

- Language Arts/Literature
- Social Studies: U. S. History to 1865
- Science
- Mathematics or Algebra
- Health
- Physical Education
- Art
- Band, Orchestra, Chorus

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Students receive letter grades based on test scores, homework, and class participation. The day-to-day grades are recorded numerically, and then the numbers are averaged. All students are graded on the following scale:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
U	59 or below

Progress reports are issued at the end of each grading period, and report cards are issued at the end of each of the semester. Students receive letter grades based on test scores, homework, and class participation.

Achievement that falls below grade expectations is brought to the attention of parents/guardians as well as noted on the report card. If the teacher observes a decline in the student's work or a negative change in attitude or behavior, the parent/guardian will be contacted. This intervention provides an opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian and teacher together to take positive action before a serious problem develops

HOMEWORK

The amount and kind of homework is planned in accordance with each course. Homework is assigned on a regular basis. If a student does not study at home, this is an indication that he/she is not fulfilling course requirements.

Parents are expected to encourage regular, organized study; to show interest in assignments; to expect satisfactory performance; and to provide the proper conditions for home study.

Meaningful homework is assigned to reinforce skills previously taught, to help students become independent workers, and to allow student's time to complete assigned projects.

Students are responsible for coming to class each day on time with books, paper, pencils, their Agendas, and other required materials. Students are expected to follow the teacher's directions and to participate in class. Failure of students to comply with these reasonable expectations may result in disciplinary action being taken for defiance and insubordination.

Students absent from school more than one day shall request homework assignments through the office. **Calls must be received by 7:30 a.m. to receive work the same day.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO TEACHERS/STAFF

Teachers must be provided with a calm, serene, and well-disciplined environment in which to teach. All of the instructor's time and energy must be directed toward the educational process.

Students will not be permitted to indulge in discourteous behavior to anyone in the building. Replies to teachers and all staff members shall be courteous and prompt. Tardiness, failure to do work, disturbances of routine, and refusal to obey instructions of the teacher are all bases for firm teacher reaction. Professional educators and other staff members are fully supported in their effort to provide a quality education.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

Students new to the Traditional Program need a stabilizing period in which to adjust to the climate of the program. The Traditional Program is a graded structure, and the students who fall behind may be indicating that the program does not adequately meet their educational needs.

Students assigned to the program will remain there for a period of one school year, unless action is initiated by the principal after consultation with the parents. If a parent feels that the program is not beneficial to the student and the school has not yet suggested withdrawal, the parent may contact the school to discuss considerations for withdrawal.

The following occurrences may lead to dismissal from the traditional program:

1. Continued breaches of accepted discipline (parent/guardian will be contacted when these occur).
2. Overall lack of student academic progress. Students must remain on grade level to retain their placement at Barret. Students who fail one or more core subjects (math, social studies, science or language arts) will not pass to the next grade.
3. Parent/guardian unwillingness to accept program options/constraints.
4. Lack of parental/guardian responsibility for implementation of the Traditional Program's philosophy.

When it is necessary to place a student in his/her home school, the principal of the Traditional School will contact the principal of the receiving school, and they will mutually agree upon the date that the student will be transferred. No student will be transferred in the middle of a grading period unless the receiving principal agrees.

BARRET TMS

APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

At Barret Traditional Middle School, we consider appropriate attire and appearance to be strongly correlated with academic success. The SBDM Council has adopted the following uniform guidelines as the standard dress for all students at all times while under school supervision.

- Dress slacks/pants – navy, khaki, or black; no logos over one inch in size.
All dress slacks/pants must have belt loops and belts must be worn.
All dress slacks/pants must be worn at the waist.
No cut-offs, form-fitting, oversized, or sagging pants may be worn.
No cuts or slashes will be allowed in pants or pant legs.
Slacks/Pants specifications:
 - No spandex (stretch) or form-fitting material
 - No Capri or cargo pants
 - No corduroy, stretch, or denim material
 - No draw strings; fly fronts must be zippered.
- Shorts – navy, khaki, or black
Uniform style shorts only; must come to the knee
- Skirts – No skirts will be allowed, unless administrator exemption is applied for and approved.
- Shirts/blouses – must be fully tucked at all times.
Oxford cloth buttoned-down collar - White or light blue.
All buttons, except the top one, are to be buttoned. Only plain, white undershirts may be worn under the Oxford cloth shirts.
Polo shirts - Solid navy, light blue, or purple.
Uniform style only. No logos except the Barret logo.
*Club/team shirts with logos can be worn only on Fridays.
- Sweatshirts – Official bookstore apparel only with the Barret school logo. Must have an undershirt.
- Sweaters – navy crew neck, v-neck and cardigan sweaters only. Must have a uniform undershirt.
- Socks - Students must wear socks or stockings that are visible above the shoe at all times.
- Shoes - Must be worn at all times. No flip-flops, shower shoes, house shoes, clogs, or sandals of any kind are allowed. Shoes must have full toes and heels. Shoes that would be unsafe or disturb others should not be worn. Shoes with laces must be properly tied, not tucked into shoes. Velcro fasteners must be closed.
- Earrings – Must be in the earlobes only.
- Hair – Must be clean and neat at all times. Hair must be a color that is found naturally.
- Outer garments - Coats, jackets, etc. and book bags must be left in lockers.
- Students should be neat and clean at all times.
- The Appearance Guidelines do not allow - hats/caps, sunglasses, gloves, or other non-specified items considered inappropriate by the local school administration.
- The Principal is the final authority in matters pertaining to appearance.

APPEARANCE GUIDELINE CONSEQUENCES:

- First Offense:** Teacher - **Verbal warning**
Office will accommodate student with change of clothes (if possible)
- Second Offense:** Assistant Principal – **Assignment of 1 after school detention**
Office will accommodate student with change of clothes (if possible)
- Third Offense:** Assistant Principal – **Assignment of 2 after school detention**
Office will accommodate student with change of clothes (if possible)
- Fourth Offense:** Assistant Principal – **Disciplinary Referral (ISAP)**
Office will accommodate student with change of clothes (if possible)

DISCIPLINE CODE

Students are to abide by the Jefferson County Public School District's *Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline*, except in cases where additional expectations have been established. Every student will receive a copy of the District's *Code* and is made aware of the additional expectations of the Traditional Program. Students are responsible for reading and complying with these codes.

Barret Traditional Middle School's objective is to help students improve by learning to live within established guidelines. Self-discipline is the goal; however, discipline from the school may be necessary.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Regular attendance is essential for promotion and success. If it becomes necessary for a student to miss school, **parents must call the school at 485-8575 by 9:00 a.m. In addition, a follow-up note explaining the absence must be sent to school when the student returns within three days.** The student shows each of his/her teachers the note so that if the absence is excused the student will be allowed to make up the missed work. Failure to provide a note will result in the absence being recorded as unexcused. Compulsory Attendance Kentucky School Law 159.50 states "Any child who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three or more day is truant."

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Students who are tardy or absent from school will be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness
- Death in the family
- Medical or dental appointment (these should be scheduled during non-school hours or on the Plan Days)
- Legal matters
- Other exceptional reasons as approved by the principal.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES AND ABSENCES

Unexcused tardies and absences will be dealt with as violations of the disciplinary code with the appropriate disciplinary measures being applied. Students reporting to school after the 7:40 a.m. tone or reporting to any class after the tardy tone will be marked tardy. After three unexcused tardies to school, a student is assigned to after school detention.

MAKE-UP WORK

Class work missed because of any absences, excused or unexcused, is to be made up. **It is the student's responsibility to request all work that can be made up.** A student returning to school after an excused absence or a suspension may request make-up work within three (3) school days of his/her return. The make-up work will include only written daily work, tests, and major projects.

Parents may request assignments from the school office after the second day absent. You may pick up the assignments between 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the office.

Some work or class activities cannot be made up, for example, films, class discussions, guest lecturer, and physical education participation; however, students are responsible for the information covered while absent. The deadline for make-up work will equal the number of days absent, plus one. Students representing the school may be excused from class work at the discretion of the teacher.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

To obtain permission to leave school during the school day, a student must present a note from his/her parent/guardian to the attendance clerk **prior to homeroom**. This note must contain the following information:

- Student's name and grade
- Date
- Reason for leaving school
- Time to be excused
- Parent/Guardian signature
- Telephone number where parent/guardian can be reached

Note: For early release, a parent/guardian must come to the office, sign the student release book and have office personnel call the student out of class. A student will only be released to a parent/guardian or person listed on the enrollment form.