The purpose of Bowring School is to ensure that your child will receive a quality education in a safe, respectful, and orderly atmosphere that is conductive to learning. You should read this handbook with your child. Necessary steps will be taken to make sure that your child does follow the rules, while he/she is under our jurisdiction. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Principal. Our school is special and so are you. Let’s work together to have a great year.

**ABSENCES**

 Regular and prompt attendance is the responsibility of the students and parents. School attendance of the child is compulsory. The classroom teacher or principal must okay any absenteeism. A student is allowed 2 days for every day absent to make up assignments. 100% credit is given for an excused absence and 50% credit is given for any unexcused absence. Excused absence will be decided by the Principal or the School Board. Any exceptions to the above will be decided by the Principal on an individual basis. The maximum number of absentees during a nine week period shall be required, along with the student’s parent or guardian, to work out an improvement plan with the Principal. Students are allowed 10 activity absences. Compulsive absence may result in truancy court.

**BUT I WAS BY THE DOOR**

 Tardy is when you arrive to class after the bell rings. This is not acceptable. Get to class on time and be IN your seat when the bell rings. Unexcused tardiness will be handled by individual teachers. They will not be allowed to continue. Three unexcused tardys will be considered a half day absence.

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**

 Tops must have straps that are at least two finger width wide. Holes in jeans must not reveal undergarments. Shorts shall be thigh length and not revealing. Undergarments shall not reveal at any time. No hats are allowed in the school building. Shoes must be worn at all times.

**ONCE YOU ARE HERE, YOU’RE HERE**

Students will not be allowed to leave the school at lunch time or any time during the school day. Any student wishing to go home for lunch must have a note from the parent and the okay from the Principal. Any student that leaves the school without permission and returns may be subject to search on reasonable suspicion.

**VISITORS, GUEST, RELATIVES, AND EXTRA TERRESTRIALS**

 All visitors and non-school personnel must check in at the Principal’s office before visiting any classroom or teacher. Appointments must be made through the office.

**REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE**

 Telephone use will be restricted to school personnel only. The principal must authorize any student calls. Cell phones are to be turned to silent and are not to be used during school hours. Students may use their phones if given permission by the adult in charge at that time. Any student bringing an electronic device may be subject to search and seizure if there is reasonable suspicion to believe the device is being used to threaten, harass, bully, to further a criminal act such as illegal drug transactions, has information about weapons on the property or threat to use weapon, has pornography, or is being used for cheating. Refusing to surrender the electronic device upon request may result in discipline including suspension from school.

**THE INDY 500**

 P.E. teachers appreciate your attempt to stay in top racing form all year, but the halls or classrooms are not the places to practice. Students caught running in the halls face the risk of consequences.

**FUTURE RAMBOS**

 Do not bring knives or any weapon to school. Violations will constitute suspension from school. All knives or weapons will be confiscated. Discussion of guns, knives, or weapons in a violent way is prohibited.

**MUNCHIES**

 NO GUM OR CANDY DURING SCHOOL HOURS. All food should be eaten in the cafeteria. Only food allowed to be taken outside the cafeteria are the grab and go breakfasts. You are responsible for cleaning up your own mess.

**SMOKIN’, SPITTIN’, CHEWIN’, DRINKIN’, DRUGIN’**

 Profanity, obscenities, or cussing will not be tolerated. Tobacco, alcohol, or drugs are prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, on student trips, or on the bus. Help do your part to keep us a drug-free school.

**I’D RATHER BE CRUSIN’**

 Students will not be permitted to ride bikes during school hours and violations will mean forfeiture of bike privileges.

**“BUSTED”**

 Discipline notices will be sent out to the parents if their child misbehaves or does not do the required work. After the third major notice (per semester) a parent teacher conference will be called, and an intervention will be put into place. The result from breaking any school rules can result in corporal punishment, which is a Bowring School Board Policy.

**ROLLIN’, ROLLIN’, ROLLIN’**

 Bus riding is a privilege. If rules are not followed you will not be allowed to ride. For a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school, it is your responsibility to follow these rules:

1. Leave home early enough to arrive at your bus stop on time.
2. Wait for your bus in a safe place-well off the roadway.
3. Enter the bus in an orderly manner and take your seat.
4. Follow the instructions of your school bus driver.
5. Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
6. Keep your head and arms in the bus at all times.
7. Keep aisles clear at all times.
8. Remain quiet and orderly.
9. Be courteous to your school bus driver and fellow passengers.
10. Be alert to traffic when leaving the bus.
11. Wear seatbelts at all times.

**I THINK I BROKE MY LEG**

 If you are injured while participating in any school activities, notify your instructor immediately. The teacher will send you to the office. Any first aid which is necessary to meet the immediate emergency will be done. After this has been done, your parents will be contacted in regard to further medical treatment. Parents must understand that the school is not liable for doctor or hospital bills resulting from accidents of any kind.

**I THINK I NEED AN ASPRIN**

 Regular medications must be checked in at the office. Medication should be brought in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician with the name of the student, medication, dosage, and time to be administered.

**ASBESTOS**

 The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) requires the inspection of all buildings in the school district for asbestos. The district has complied with this act. A management plan documenting these inspections is in file for public review. Upon request, you may view the plan which is located at the superintendent’s office.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your school district has a policy regarding the confidentiality of all personally identifiable information and education records. This policy meets the requirements of IDEA (Special Education) and is called FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) policy.

 This Policy contains the following rights foe parents and eligible students (18 yrs. and older):

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education record.
2. The right to exercise a limited control over other people’s access to education records.
3. The right to seek to correct the student’s education record; in a hearing if necessary.
4. The right to report violations of the FERPA to the department of Health, Education and Welfare.
5. The right to be informed about FERPA rights.

**NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA BOWRING PUBLIC SCHOOL**

 The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or appropriate school official a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents 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 or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the Bowring School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If Bowring School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent of eligible student of the decision and advise them of their rights 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.
3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health and medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel): a person serving on the School Board: a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist): or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in preforming his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, Bowring School discloses educational records without consent to an official of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the District 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**

**600 Independence Avenue, SW**

**Washington, D.C. 20202-4605**

**PRIVACY ACT PROTECTS STUDENTS**

 Parents should be aware of their rights concerning access to educational records, limitation of record information, the opportunity to challenge the contents of educational records and provisions for filing complaints with Bowring Public School.

 The Privacy Rights Act and regulations published by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, require educational institutions to provide students the opportunity to inspect the student educational records. This can be done by contacting the school’s superintendent. The Act also provides parents opportunities for a hearing to challenge the content of the student’s educational record when they believe it contains information that is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s right to privacy. However, grades are not subject to challenge.

 In addition, the law requires educational institutions to limit disclosures of information from the student’s record to those who have consent of parent or eligible student, 18 years of age or older, or to officials specifically permitted within the law such as school officials; those of other schools for which the student seek to enroll; and under certain conditions and for specific purposes, local, state, and federal officials.

 Parents of dependent students will have access to the educational records. Bowring Public School will assume that the student is dependent on his/her parents unless otherwise notified.

**STUDENT RETENTION**

 In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, the following criteria for the selection of students to be retained in their current grade will be used in this school district.

 Students shall be promoted or receive credit for a course if a grade average of 60 percent has been achieved for an entire course of study as determined by the teacher.

 Students in grades one through eight must achieve a grade of 60 percent or higher in at least three major courses of study to be promoted to the next higher grade. The major courses for study are math, language arts, science, reading, and social studies.

 In the elementary and middle schools, a placement committee consisting of the principal, counselor, and teacher(s) shall determine if a student is to be assigned to the next higher grade. The committee shall consider standardized test scores and the student’s age.

 Whenever a teacher or placement committee recommends that a student be retained at the present grade level or not passed in a course, the parent or guardian, is dissatisfied with the recommendation, may appeal the decision by complying with the district’s appeal process. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final. The parent may prepare a written statement to be placed in and become part of the permanent record of the student stating the reason(s) for disagreeing with the decision of the Board. **REFERENCE: O.S. 70 24-114.1**

**PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW**

 The Bowring School Board of Education adopts the following policy regarding parent rights to know as stated in the No Child Left Behind guidelines.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS-** At the beginning of each school year, Bowring School, so long that receives federal funds, shall notify the parents of each student that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:
2. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject area in which the teacher provides instruction.
3. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria has been waived.
4. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
5. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so their qualifications.
6. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**- In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph A, Bowring School shall provide each individual parent:
7. Information on the level of achievement of the parent’s child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part and
8. Timely notice that the parent’s child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.
9. **FORMAT-** The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the exact practicable, provided in a language that parents can understand.
10. **PRIVACY-** Information collected under this section shall be collected and disseminated in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.
11. **CONSTRUCTION-** Nothing in this part shall be construed to prescribe the use of the academic assessments described in this part for promotion or graduating purposes.

**AR POLICY FOR BOWRING SCHOOL**

**AR POINTS-25% of total reading grade**

1. Prior authorization by teacher is required in order to read any book that is also a movie.
2. Prior authorization by teacher is required in order to read any books that are:

**~Grades 3 & 4:** one level below a student’s current grade level. Students are expected to read at their current grade level. (3rd grade students read level three and 4th grade students read level four)

**~Grades 5 & 6:** two levels below a student’s current grade level. Students are encouraged to read at or no more than one grade level below their grade level.

**~Grades 7 & 8**: three levels below a student’s current grade level. Because of the lack of availability in 7th and 8th grade books, students are permitted to read any book that is two levels below their current grade level.

1. No ½ point books are permitted. (1/2 point books=an average of 1000 words; whereas, 1 point books=an average of 6000 words)
2. Prior authorization by teacher is required in order to take a test on any book within one week of another student taking the test on the same book. Exemptions would be books read orally in a group or class setting. On books read orally, no student is ever permitted to take an AR test sitting next to someone taking the same test or at the same time without direct adult supervision in the AR testing area.
3. Prior authorization by teacher is required in order to read any book that is not checked out in student’s name (i.e. you cannot take a test on a book you have not checked out in your name unless teacher has written proof and/or observes you reading the book.)
4. Any student caught sharing or receiving answers to AR test questions will not only lose the AR points from the particular book, but also receive penalty points deducted from their AR grade. No paper or pens/pencils are permitted in the AR testing area. Teacher has option of requiring the AR test to be taken again if suspected cheating is involved.
5. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain all necessary authorizations from the teacher.

**MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

**WHAT IS IT?** Infections caused by this bacterium range from mild to very serious. Serious illness usually occurs in children and young adults.

**HOW CAN IT BE RECOGNIZED?** Serious illness caused by this bacteria appears suddenly. High fever, excessive high pitched crying, intense headache, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck and frequently a rash.

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FROM EXPOSURE TO DEVELOPMENT?** 2-10 days

**WHEN IS IT CONTAGIOUS?** From a week prior to onset of symptoms until 24-48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.

**HOW IS IT SPREAD?** By direct contact, saliva and discharges from the nose and throat of an infected person. Many healthy people carry bacteria in the nose and throat.

**WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?** Isolate the child. Notify the parents and insist parent seek immediate medical attention. Staff and children should wash hands thoroughly after handling ill child’s belongings. Observe other children for signs of illness.

**WHO SHOULD BE NOTIFIED?** Notify the local or state health department. They will provide you with further instructions.

**WHEN CAN THE CHILD BE READMITTED?** After he/she is released by the doctor.

**\*GENERALLY IT IS NOT ADVISABLE TO TRANSFER OTHER CHILDREN TO OTHER CHILD CARE CENTERS, SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPOSED. IT IS USUALLY BETTER TO KEEP THEM IN THE CENTER WHERE STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE MORE ALERT TO RECOGNIZE EARLY SYMPTOMS.\***

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS**

 The policy of this school district forbids discrimination against or harassment of any student on the basis of sex. The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment by any of its employees or students. This policy applies to all students and employees including non-employee volunteers whose work is subject to the control of school personnel. Policy DA applies to sexual harassment of employees.

1. **Sexual Harassment**

For the purpose of this policy, sexual harassment includes:

1. Verbal or physical sexual advances, including subtle pressure for sexual activity; touching, pinching, patting, or brushing against; comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature; and sexually-oriented “kidding” “teasing” double meanings, and jokes.
2. Demeaning comments about a girl’s ability to excel in a class historically considered a “boys” subject, privately talking to a student about sexual matters, hugging, or touching a student inappropriately may constitute sexual harassment.
3. Writing graffiti which names a student or otherwise identifies a student is potentially slanderous and constitutes sexual harassment. Graffiti of any kind will not be tolerated on school property. The superintendent is directed to cause any graffiti or unauthorized writings to be removed immediately.
4. Any of the aforementioned conduct which is effectively deprives a student of access to educational opportunities or benefits provided by the school.
5. **Specific Prohibitions**

 **Administrators and Supervisors**

1. It is sexual harassment for an administrator, supervisor, support employee, or teacher to use his or her authority to solicit sexual favors or attention from students.
2. Administrators, supervisors, support personnel, or teachers who either engage in sexual harassment of students or tolerate such conduct by other employees shall be subject to sanctions as described below.
3. The school staff is not concerned with the off-duty conduct of school personnel unless the conduct has or will have a negative impact on the educational process of the school. Any romantic or sexual affiliation between school personnel and students, including students who have reached the age of majority (18), during school hours will have a negative impact on the educational process and shall constitute a violation of school policy. Such violations may result in suspension of the students and suspension or termination for the employee. Any sexual affiliation between teachers and students under the age of 18 may constitute a crime under state or federal law.

**3. Report, Investigation, and Sanctions**

1. It is the express policy of the board of education to encourage student victims of sexual harassment to come forward with such claims. This may be done through the Sexual Discrimination Grievance Policy. The Office of Civil Rights relies on school administrators’ judgment and common sense in meeting the requirements of the federal law.
2. Students who feel that administrators, supervisors, support personnel, teachers, or other students are subjecting them to sexual harassment are encouraged to report these conditions, or have their parents report these conditions to the appropriate administrator or teacher. If the student’s immediate administrator or teacher is the alleged offending person, the report will be made to the next higher level of administration or supervisor, or to any responsible adult person.
3. Every attempt will be made to maintain confidentiality; however, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because of due process concerns which arise in sexual harassment investigations. No reprisals or retaliation will be allowed to occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of sexual harassment.
4. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The superintendent has the responsibility of investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment.
5. Any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment of students shall be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to, warning, suspension, or termination subject to applicable procedural and due process requirements.
6. Any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment of other students shall be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to warning, suspension, or other appropriate punishment subject to applicable procedural and due process requirements.
7. A copy of this Sexual Harassment policy will be provided to students and parents each year.
8. Special effort will be made to apprise district administrators, teachers, and counselors of their obligations to receive student complaints of sexual harassment, document such complaints, and forward them to the grievance committee.

**REFERENCE: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

 **42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2**

 **29 C.F.R. §1604.1, et seq.**

**INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

1. **Purpose Statement:** Bowring Public School provides its students and employees with access to the District’s computer network system, including internet access, in an effort to expand informational and communication resources in furtherance of the District’s goal of promoting educational excellence. It is hoped that the expanded use of these resources will enhance students’ research capabilities, increase faculty and staff productivity and result in better communication between the District and its parents.

•Electronic mail (e-mail)

•Information and news, including the opportunity to correspond with scientists at research institutions in the public and private sector, including NASA

•Public domain software and shareware

•News groups, or discussion groups, covering a wide range of topics appropriate to the educational purposes of the District

•Access to university libraries, the Library of Congress and other repositories of information

•World Wide Web access to information containing text, graphics, photographs, and sound of millions of topics

With access to such vast storehouses of information and instant communication with millions of people from all over the world, material will be available that may not be considered to be educational value by the district or which is inappropriate for distribution to children. The district has taken reasonable precautions, including but not limited to, the use of filters that block access to obscenity, pornography, and other materials harmful to minors. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all material, and an industrious user may obtain access to inappropriate information or material. The District firmly believes that the value of the information and interaction available on the internet far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials which is not consistent with the District’s educational goals.

The guidelines provided in this policy are designed to promote efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of network resources. If a District user violates any of these provisions, his or her account could be denied. The user’s signature on the Internet Access Agreement is a legally binding obligation, affirming that the user has read the terms and conditions of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy, understands the policies and agrees to abide by all terms and conditions described in the policy or subsequently implemented by the District’s superintendent.

1. **Network and Internet Access-** **Terms and Conditions**
2. **Privilege of Use**- Use of the district’s computer network system and internet access though it is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in termination of those privileges, and future access and use may be denied. Inappropriate use is any use prohibited by the terms of this policy or use determined by the District’s system administrators to be inappropriate under particular facts and circumstances. Prior to receiving internet access, all users may be required to successfully complete an internet training program administered by the district.
3. **Acceptable Use-** The use of the District’s system must be in support of education and consistent with the educational objectives of the District. The system may only be used for educational, professional, and career development activities. The use of any non-District network or computing resource must comply with the rules and regulations appropriate for the network or resources. All internet use must comply with United States and state law and regulations including copyright laws.
4. **District Web Sites-** District web sites shall be maintained as limited open forums. This means that the District’s web sites are only open to school business, school sponsored organizations or any organizations that are student initiated and otherwise appropriate within the perimeters of this policy and the student handbook. Nothing in this policy is intended to create an open forum. District web sites are limited to subjects that are educationally related. The district will monitor all content on its web sites and promptly remove any inappropriate content upon discovery.
5. **Limitation of Liability-**The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the services provided and will not be responsible for any damages which a user may suffer through use of the District’s system or the internet, including but not limited to, the loss of information or files or the interruption of service. The District’ is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the use of the District’s system or the internet. The District does not endorse the contents of any third party web sites that have been linked to the District’s web site. The District is not responsible for any financial obligations which may be incurred through use of the District’s system.
6. **Employee Access-** An employee of the District will not be allowed to access the District system or internet, email, or web-message boards until the employee indicates his/her intent to abide by the terms of this policy by signing the Internet Access Agreement.
7. **Application and Enforceability**- The terms and conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to be incorporated in their entirety in the Internet Access Agreement executed by each system user. By executing the Employee Internet Agreement, the user agrees to abide by the terms and conditions contained in the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. The system user acknowledges that any violation of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action, including access and use privileges being revoked as well as any disciplinary action allowed by law, including termination of employment or suspension and/or expulsion as appropriate.

**POLICIES, POLICIES, POLICIES**

The following policies and information is available to parents for viewing in the office:

* EPA REGULATIONS ON ASBESTOS AND RADON
* CUMULATIVE TRANSCRIPT AND RECORD FOLDERS
* HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION RECORD
* STANDAR ACHIEVEMENT TESTS AND SCORES
* CONFIDENTIAL TESTING AND SPECIAL EDUCATION FILES (L.D. LAB)
* COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE
* F.E.R.P.A (FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT)
* #504 AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT POLICY
* CHILD IDENTIFICATION, LOCATION, SCREENING AND EVALUATION NOTICE