



## A Message from Mr. Keidel, BHS Principal re Participation in BHS Clubs

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One thing we stress to students when they enter Brentwood High School is to get involved in school. This could be through sports, band, choir, drama, curricular clubs, or non-curricular clubs.

The reason that we place such an emphasis on getting involved is that there is a direct correlation between academic success and extra-curricular participation. Students that participate in extra-curricular activities experience greater academic success than those students that just attend school. Since we are encouraging this participation, it is important that we all understand the policies, procedures, and rights that relate to student organizations. There are two Williamson County Board policies that relate to club activities. The policies are 6.702 Student Organizations and 4.802 Student Equal Access.

### **Policy 6.702 Student Organizations**

The principals may encourage students to broaden their knowledge and citizenship by permitting the formation of school sponsored clubs or other groups organized to promote or pursue specialized activities outside the classroom, provided membership is open to all interested and/or eligible students, approval of the building principal is obtained, and a member of the faculty, approved by the principal, attends the meeting or activity as an official sponsor and advisor.

Clubs which do not qualify as school sponsored clubs are considered to be non-school clubs and normally beyond the jurisdiction of school authorities. Any club or organization not directly under control of school authorities shall be deemed to be a non-school club. The formation of such clubs shall be initiated by students. A student who wishes to organize a non-school club must obtain prior written consent from the school principal and recruit a teacher to serve as a monitor of the group's activity. The student organizer is, further, responsible for annually obtaining the written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students who wish to participate in the student-led organization. Non-school clubs may not conduct their activities on campus during the instructional day.

### **Policy 4.802 Student Equal Access**

Before the beginning or after the end of an instructional day, students in grades 9 through 12 may initiate noncurriculum-related meetings regardless of the religious or political nature of the meetings or clubs.

No funds shall be expended by the school for any such meeting beyond the incidental cost associated with providing meeting space.

No student may be compelled to attend or participate in a meeting under this policy.

A student or a group of students who wish to conduct a meeting under this policy must file an application with the principal annually or at least three days prior to the proposed date.

The principal shall approve the meeting if, from the application, he determines that:

1. The meeting is voluntary, student-initiated, and student-led.
2. Parent consent has been obtained for each participating student.
3. There is no endorsement of the meeting or its content by the school, the government, or its agents or employees.
4. An employee of the district is to be present in a non-participatory monitoring capacity; however, no employee shall be required to attend in this capacity if the content of the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee.
5. Non-school persons may occasionally attend club meetings if invited by the students. Non-school persons will not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.
6. Permission will not be given to any meeting that conflicts with previously scheduled meetings; any meeting that materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school (§4071(d)(5)); any meeting at which unlawful conduct is likely to occur (§4071(d)(5)); any meeting that threatens order and discipline on school premises (§4071(f)); any meeting that threatens the well-being of students and faculty (§4071(f)); or, any meeting at which attendance of the students is not completely voluntary (§4071(f)).

School sponsored clubs are clubs that have a direct tie to the curriculum (Art, Spanish, DECA, etc.) or are supported by supplemented positions (Destination Imagination, Swim Team, Model UN, etc.). All other clubs are considered to be non-school sponsored clubs. If you have a question about the designation of your club, please let me know.

As you can see the two policies have some similar content and outline a couple of procedures that we need to follow for clubs that are not sponsored by the school.

1. Students that want to have a club need to make a written request for approval of the club. This must be done annually.
2. Parent consent forms must be obtained for each participating student. This is the responsibility of the student organizer. The student organizer cannot allow participation from any student who has not submitted their permission form.
3. An employee of the district is to be present in a non-participatory monitoring capacity.
4. The student organizer should submit copies of the forms to the monitor so that the school can maintain a file on which students have permission to participate in each non-curricular club. The monitor shall double-check that only students who have submitted their permission forms are participating.