

Benton Harbor Area Schools



1995 Union Avenue, Benton Harbor MI 49023

www.bhas.org | (269)-605-1000 |

September 28, 2018

Dear Benton Harbor Area Schools families,

Benton Harbor Area Schools is committed to the safety and security of all students. Without a safe and secure educational environment students are unable to learn. While most students arrive seeking to excel, it has become apparent that a minority of students at Benton Harbor High School are not committed to the educational process, and their behavior has resulted in a significant disruption to the learning environment.

In order to protect those student willing and eager to learn, Benton Harbor Area Schools will take the following measures:

1. Beginning Monday, October 1, 2018, the District will implement a new Student Code of Conduct with specific behavior expectations and corresponding consequences for non-compliance. These expectations and consequences will be communicated to students in their first hour classes on Monday. Copies of the materials will be mailed to parents, and will be made available to the community upon request.
2. The District's behavioral expectations will be strictly enforced in a fair and unbiased manner. Students will be held accountable for their actions. The District respectfully requests that parents emphasize the serious consequences that will result from disruptive behavior.
3. Starting immediately, the District will strengthen security measures at the high school. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be removed from the learning environment, pending the outcome of a due process hearing. The District will implement alternative pathways to learning for students who cannot meet the behavior expectations of the high school.

The District does not take these steps lightly. The District is solely focused on providing a safe and non-disruptive learning environment for students. Student safety is always the number one concern. Disruptions that effect student achievement will not be tolerated.

We have listened to the parents in the community who have asked for a safe and supportive environment. We will do everything in our power to make that happen. The District's Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff are committed to you and your children. All we ask is that you support our efforts to keep your students safe.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Herrera'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Robert Herrera
Superintendent/CEO
Benton Harbor Area Schools