

STUDENT SPARES AND FREE PERIODS

What is our objective as a body of learning? At BCA, we value each student as an individual and as part of a community; we seek to recognize and to develop all aspects of their personhood with excellence, according to God's highest purpose for their "heart, soul, and mind."

How will we enact our scripture-driven values and objectives?

"Love the Lord your God with all your soul...": As a community of believers, we create a spiritually nurturing environment for students and call them to explore and to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind...": As a community of learners, we challenge all students to develop an attitude of excellence towards their studies in order to prepare them to be lifelong learners in their sphere of influence.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart...Love your neighbor as yourself": As a community of citizens, we encourage students to participate in a variety of extra-curricular, intramural, and service activities designed to develop them as well-rounded citizens of our world.

DEVELOPING WELL-ROUNDED CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

At BCA, we believe that students need a plethora of opportunities to be involved in a diversity of activities, both curricular and extracurricular.

- We have organized our school day to allow students to participate in both fine arts and athletic pursuits; in this way, our daily schedule promotes a more harmonious blend of mind, body, and soul.
- The varied timetable permits a more resourceful usage of our school facilities.
- One of the potential outcomes of this schedule is that a student may have a very full schedule one semester and a schedule with some free spaces in another semester, depending on their particular blend of extracurricular and curricular choices.
- We need to clearly communicate with parents and students surrounding our provisions for students with varied scheduling demands.

THE POLICY

We encourage students and their families to consider the child's needs and aspirations, in addition to mandatory graduation requirements, when making course and schedule selections. We may counsel students to leave breathing room in their schedules if they need downtime during the day in order to be successful; conversely, we may counsel students to get involved in additional opportunities if they

learn best in the context of a full and active daily routine. Knowing each child and recognizing his/her individual needs is crucial in building effective timetables.

In the event that a student has a free period or a spare during a semester, appropriate steps need to be taken to ensure the child's well-being in our educational context. Free periods are usually not true spares; this scenario may result when the student is enrolled in a full set of academic courses but is not a participant in one of the extracurricular activities offered within our daily timetable. Students are discouraged from taking spares, as we believe that young people benefit from availing themselves of as much coursework during their high school experience as they are able to manage.

THE LOGISTICS

With the permission of their parents and/or the BCA administration, students are invited to go to the following campus locations on their spares and/or free periods:

- The Archibald Library
- The BCA computer lab (with the permission of the supervisory teacher)
- The Bean
- The gymnasium (with the permission of the gymnasium staff and the supervisory teachers)
- The Point student center
- Worship Arts facility practice rooms (by permission of the Worship Arts facility coordinator)

With the permission of their parents and/or the BCA administration, students are encouraged to participate in the following activities during their spare and/or free periods:

- Catching up on homework and/or seeking extra help from teachers
- The pursuit of private lessons (music, dance, language, sports, etc.)
- Collaborating with other students on dramas, rehearsals, or worship bands
- Fellowshiping with other students in the context of sharing times, prayer meetings, Bible studies, discussion groups, book clubs, sports games, playing board games, etc.
- Performing "random acts of kindness" in service to needy members of our community: raking leaves, visiting with older folks, baking for fundraisers, etc.
- Participating in the fostering of school spirit: assisting the SRC with their preparations for Spirit Days, making banners, decorating for special events, etc.

Children aged 16 and older: These students are legally free to leave BCA during their spares and free periods; although they are accountable to us for their behavior during these blocks of time, it is our understanding that we are not legally responsible for their whereabouts.

Children below the age of 16: Children below the age of 16 are not allowed to leave campus during their free periods and spares. At BCA, we value working in partnership with our stakeholders and our community to provide for the learning needs of our students. We would like to offer you the opportunity, as parents and/or guardians, to provide supervision for your child if he/she has either a free period or a spare during the course of his/her academic year. We will assume that you are able to provide this supervision unless you indicate otherwise to us by filling out and returning to our office the request form below:

REQUEST FOR SUPERVISION OF STUDENT DURING FREE PERIODS OR SPARES

If you are either unwilling and/or unable to provide for the supervisory needs of your child during these blocks of time, we request that you communicate with us in a timely manner so that we can develop a satisfactory plan. In this situation, we will make an arrangement for a homeroom for your child during his/her free periods. Your child may be assigned to a specific teacher or classroom for the general supervision and/or extra help. Details will be agreed upon and documented accordingly.

Student Names: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Given that students' schedules change with each semester, please renew your request and the related arrangements accordingly.