

Dear Parents and Students of Ben Barber Innovation Academy,

It is with great honor and excitement that I introduce myself, Catherine Hudgins, as the Principal of Ben Barber Innovation Academy and Frontier High School. My passion for education and supporting the success of all students and teachers has been shaped over the past 20 years as a career tech teacher, assistant principal, academic principal and principal, all in Mansfield ISD. I have also served in the role as parent, with three sons graduating from Mansfield High School, all of which are college graduates and gainfully employed!

This campus is a project based learning environment that will encourage your student to take ownership of their education while developing their critical thinking, creativity, ability to collaborate and communication skills.

*We work extremely hard as a campus and a district to provide students an opportunity to experience real world applications on the latest software and equipment. We also offer over 70 industry certifications. These certifications allow students to market their skills and showcase their talents in the work environment and at trade schools/colleges/universities. **For the 2018-2019 school year, if a student passes the practice certification test administered by our teachers, Mansfield ISD will pay for the entire certification test.***

*Starting on Monday, August 20, 2018, we are enforcing tardies, IDs and dress code. Our ultimate goal is that all students are in class on time. Keep in mind that our first session starts at **7:00am** and second session at **11:30am**. Students must be in class before that time. IDs are required to be visible between the shoulders and waist at all times that students are in our facility. We follow the district guidelines for dress code. The dress code policy has changed so please check the student handbook for more information.*

***Campus security is a number one priority for all of us.** We have worked diligently to review all our procedures to make sure we have done everything we can do to keep us all safe. We encourage you to have conversations with your child to discuss following campus procedures, taking drills seriously and letting administration or teacher know of any concerns about our campus and the students that attend. We take all threats very seriously.*

All students that are staying at Ben Barber after 2:30pm, must be with a teacher or waiting in the vestibule at the front of the school. Students will not be allowed to wait in the Commons or any other areas in the building.

Outside Food at Ben Barber

- *Starting Monday, August 29, 2018, we will not allow outside food in the classrooms. All food brought in will have to remain in the Commons to be consumed.*
- *We are not saying you can't eat breakfast or lunch here, we are just saying you have to eat it in the Commons and make it to class on time.*
- *Students are not allowed to eat in the hallways or the Cube.*

- *For 2nd session all home campuses release students to come to Ben Barber at 10:30am. Students do not have to be in class for 2nd session at Ben Barber until 11:30am. This gives all students 1 hour to travel and eat lunch.*
- *Tardies will be strictly enforced. Finishing your breakfast or lunch is not an excuse to be late to class. Consequences will be given to students who are continually tardy. Students who are more than 20 minutes late will be marked absent from class.*
- *Students are allowed to have snacks from the school store or vending machines IF the teacher allows food in the classroom.*
- *An exception will be made for food in the classroom on review days at the end of each semester if the teacher allows.*

We are excited that the construction on Debbie Lane is complete. Entering and exiting our parking lot should run a lot smoother this year. On the flip side, our building is under construction again. You will notice a fenced in area on the east side of the building. This new construction is projected to be complete around the end of this first semester.

An excellent education is not possible without the great collaboration of students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have questions, concerns or ideas that you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Catherine Hudgins