STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their views in speech, writing, or through any other medium or form, limited solely by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those specifically applicable to children and youth in a school setting.

The Board of Education (the Board) of the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) encourages student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating both within and beyond the school community.

All student publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenities, false statements, materials advocating prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school policies and/or regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

In addition, student newspapers and/or publications that are paid for by the District and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board or its designee reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech that it feels is inconsistent with the District’s basic educational mission.

Distribution of Literature

No person shall distribute any printed or written materials on school property without the prior permission of the principal. To obtain such permission, the person wishing to distribute the material shall provide a copy to the principal, with a written request that the principal give permission for its distribution. This written request shall contain a brief statement of when, where, and how the material is to be distributed. The principal shall decide whether or not to give permission within two working days of the date of submission, and shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision.

Trachtman v. Anker, et al., 563 F 2d 512 (1977)
Frasca v. Andrew et al., 463 F Supp 1043 (1979)
Matter of Beil and Scariati, 26 EDR 109(1986)

Adoption date:  June 19, 2002
Revised date:   May 22, 2019