

## Buxton Customs 2023-24

The Customs reflect some of the bedrock expectations for life at Buxton. They are designed to support the community as a whole, and every individual within that community. The Customs are not all-inclusive—there are always expectations we need to have for ourselves and each other that are not listed here. Nor do the Customs come with a rigid set of inevitable or predictable consequences. Instead, they are designed to communicate some of the important principles and values of our community—principles and values to which we are all accountable.

1. **Buxton students are meant to live mindfully, thoughtfully, and intentionally.** Being part of a multi-age community of learners, creators, doers, and helpers is central to being at Buxton. All members of Buxton should live their lives in mindful consideration of what's best for those around them.
2. **Respectful language and behavior:** It is essential that members of the Buxton community pay careful consideration to their language and behavior. Physical violence and harmful language (whether in person or online) are not acceptable. There is no place at Buxton for language or actions that target, demean, objectify, dehumanize, or delegitimize people based on their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or any other element of a person's background or identity.
3. **Intoxicants:** Alcohol, cannabis, non-medication drugs, and cigarettes and other nicotine-based substances are not allowed at Buxton, whether a student is on or off campus. Buxton is meant to be a place that fosters personal and community health, and intellectual and ethical growth. Using intoxicants at Buxton runs contrary to those goals, pulls people away from our shared community, and reduces the possibility of honest, transparent relationships between students and between students and faculty.
4. **Consent:** Consent is essential in all aspects of life in community, and especially important in sexual or intimate interactions. Consent is deeply interwoven with the ever-present need to listen to and communicate with each other; to respect each other and build deeper relationships; and to support each other's autonomy, agency, and dignity. True consent is freely given, explicit and clear, continuous and ongoing, affirmative and enthusiastic, and can always be withheld or revisited. Intoxication can make true consent difficult or even impossible. Sexual harms are completely unacceptable at Buxton.
5. **Meals:** Buxton meals are served family-style, with the expectation that everyone eats and interacts together twice a day. Students are expected to be at lunch and dinner (including weekends) through announcements, a crucial means of schoolwide communication.
6. **Social visits:** While acknowledging the importance of outside and home networks and contacts, students are also expected to build and foster social lives within the school community while at Buxton. Students' friends from home may visit with faculty/parental permission; visitors cannot stay in dorms. Boarding students can visit day student homes with faculty/parental permission; parents are expected to be present during those visits.
7. **Screens and screen time:** Electronic devices need to add to life at Buxton, not take away from it. Smartphones are not allowed at Buxton. In general, online games and entertainment should be an occasional recreational activity, and not the core of how someone spends their free time at Buxton. Buxton is what we—students and faculty—make of it and build with it every year. That

project requires face-to-face socializing, experiments, creation, recreation, activities, and learning. Using our devices to consume entertainment in isolation should be kept to a minimum.

8. **Leaving campus:** Town times are Tuesday afternoons after any outdoor activities and sports, and Saturday from Work Program until dinner. (Going back out until bedcheck for specific in-town activities like movies may be allowed with permission.) Faculty permission is required to leave Williamstown (including to North Adams) during town time, or to leave campus at all outside of regular town times. Except for cars driven by adult family visitors, students cannot ride in cars (including ride shares or taxis) without faculty permission. Hitchhiking is not allowed.
9. **Obligations and Health Days:** Students are expected at all their classes, activities, and meetings every day. If students need to miss a given class or obligation for any reason, they are responsible for any missed work or homework. If a student needs to miss obligations for health reasons, they need to first check in with the nurse (for physical health concerns) or their advisor or school counselor (for mental health concerns). In many cases, students will be expected and encouraged to rest and recover for the whole day; in some cases, students can re-enter the day as soon as they are able to. Parents or guardians will be notified if students need to miss school for any reason, particularly for support and guidance if recurring health issues are making participation especially difficult.
10. **Evening Work Time:** Students should work quietly on their own or in groups from 7-9PM on Sunday-Thursday nights, unless they are in scheduled activities.
11. **Bedcheck:** Students need to be in their dorm buildings by 10PM Sunday-Friday nights, and 11PM on Saturday nights. So that everyone can sleep, dorms need to be quiet spaces once bedcheck begins at 10PM, and students need to be in and remain in their own rooms by 11PM. Students need to stay in their dorm building throughout the night, from bedcheck until sunrise.
12. **Cleanliness:** Students need to keep their rooms clean, for themselves, their roommates, and the health and wellbeing of the entire community. Students are expected to deep-clean their rooms each Sunday.
13. **Visiting and Privacy:** Dorm residents are only permitted in their own dorm space (building or floor). Any couples within a dorm need to conduct themselves in ways that allow others to feel completely comfortable in their rooms and dorms at all times. This includes a baseline expectation that the dormitory is not a place for any sexual activity, for the privacy, comfort, and safety of all dorm residents.
14. **Fire safety:** Respect for fire safety equipment and rules is expected at all times. The use of open flames or unauthorized heat-producing appliances is dangerous and not allowed.
15. **Personal, Buxton, and Neighboring Property:** Respect each others' things and never take or borrow something without asking. Treat the campus well: do not climb onto buildings or roofs; do not deface or damage any of the buildings or structures. Treat the physical spaces of our neighbors and town well. Whenever you are in town, on the hiking trails, on College property, or at the Clark Art Museum, remember: you are representing not only yourself, but also the entire Buxton community.