

DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2020 – 2021 Student Handbook

DeSoto Central High School
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DCHS 2020-2021 STUDENT HANDBOOK

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DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 3rd	Teachers' 1st Day
August 10th	Students' 1st Day
September 7th	Labor Day Holiday
October 12th	Fall Break
November 3rd	Distance Learning Day
November 23- 27	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 21st – January 1st	Christmas Holidays
January 4th	Students Return
January 18th	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 12th	Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
February 15th	Presidents' Day
March 15th- 19th	Spring Break
April 2nd	Good Friday Holiday
April 5th	Easter Holiday
May 25th	Students' Last Day
May 26th	Teachers' Last Day

Tentative Make-up Days: February 12, February 15 April 5, May 26, and May 27
State law requires a student schedule of 180 days. This is subject to change due to emergency conditions.

ACADEMICS

MISSION STATEMENT OF DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Desoto County Schools is dedicated to ensuring world-class academic excellence within a safe learning environment, while providing a variety of exceptional extracurricular programs that foster the physical, social, and emotional growth of all students.

CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Freshmen	Grade 9	Has earned fewer than 6 Carnegie Units.
Sophomores	Grade 10	Has earned at least 6 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English I and 2 additional Core Carnegie Units.
Juniors	Grade 11	Has earned at least 13 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English II, Algebra I, and 3 additional Core Carnegie Units.
Seniors	Grade 12	Has earned at least 20 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English III and on track to graduate.

*****In order to graduate, students must pass the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History from 1877, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I. These students must pass all four Subject Area Tests even if they take the course(s) prior to their 9th Grade year.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public institution that will also count as credit toward a high school diploma.

In order to be eligible for a dual enrollment course at a community college, students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units.
- Students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor.
- Students must meet minimum ACT requirement in some courses. For example, to take College Algebra, a student must have a 19 math sub score.
- Any dual credit classes are subject to change.

EXEMPTIONS

The absence requirement in the DeSoto County Schools exemption policy has been removed for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are encouraged to stay at home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

For the 2020-2021 school year in order for a student to be exempt from a final exam, he/she must

- have an eighty-five (85) or above average.
- have not been assigned to an Alternative Learning Class (ALC) for more than five (5) days, have not been suspended and/or placed in DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) or the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) at any time during the semester. (August - December or January – May)

GRADING SCALE

A	–	90	-	100
B	–	80	-	89
C	–	70	-	79
D	–	60	-	69
F	–	0	-	59

Each term grade is computed by averaging the grades for that term. Eighty percent of the grade will be a compilation of the grades that the teacher has for the student in his/her gradebook including but not limited to formative assessments, quizzes, homework, classwork, unit tests, mid-term tests, etc. Twenty percent of the grade will be the grade received on the end of course final exam for half credit courses and end of term exams for full credit courses. In full credit courses, the final grade will be the average of the two term grades. English, Math, Science and Social Studies assessments may be generated by district test or through the development of common assessments.

High schools on the block schedule will test at the end of each nine-week grading period for full credit courses. Students who are enrolled in the ½ (one-half) credit courses will take an assessment at the end of the course. Students may not be exempt from the district assessments. The district assessments will count as a major test grade – at a minimum. Most district assessments count at two test grades.

GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION AND SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Graduates of Distinction: A “Graduate of Distinction” must have an overall weighted numerical average of 90.00 - 94.99 for the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The student must meet the twenty-six (26) credit graduation requirements.

Graduates of Special Distinction: A “Graduate of Special Distinction” must have an overall weighted numerical average of 95.00 or higher for the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The student must meet the twenty-six (26) credit graduation requirements.

- If a student chooses to opt out of the twenty-six (26) credit graduation requirements, the student will not be able to graduate as a “Graduate of Distinction” or “Graduate of Special Distinction.”

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As a proactive measure, graduation requirements were revised for the Class of 2021. These adjustments were made to benefit the seniors in case there are closures throughout the school year. Graduation requirements will be consistent with the Mississippi Department of Education graduation requirements.

Graduating Class of 2022 and 2023

See the following link for MS Diploma Endorsement Options.

¹Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 7 ½ general electives required for graduation.

²Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I and II. At least 2 of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus. Students can take Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

³Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agri science I and II, Allied Health I and II, Technology Applications I and II. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, and Physics.

⁴The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies. If the transfer student took a State / Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after their junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

⁵Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding or Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).

⁶Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

GRADUATION TESTS

As a proactive measure, graduation requirements were revised for the Class of 2021. These adjustments were made to benefit the seniors in case there are closures throughout the school year. Graduation requirements will be consistent with the Mississippi Department of Education graduation requirements.

HALL OF FAME

The process for the Hall of Fame selection for graduating seniors is outlined below.

- A student must have a GPA of 90.00 or above.
- A student must have attended DCHS for a minimum of 3 semesters.
- A student must be participating in at least two extracurricular school activities.
- No disciplinary infractions, with the exception of: no more than 6 tardies during junior year and first semester of senior year; no more than 2 dress code violations; no more than 2 cell phone infractions
- Fourteen to sixteen students are selected by a point system based on school involvement, leadership roles, honors, awards, community service, discipline, and grades.
- A Hall of Fame Committee consisting of teachers, an administrator, and a counselor will review nominees' information and tally points.

INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL) REQUIREMENTS

The table below shows the total number of Carnegie Units required for admission at a public university and the required subjects. These are NOT graduation requirements. Students must not rely on this information alone, and students are strongly encouraged to meet with their counselor about college requirements.

IHL REQUIREMENTS

CURRICULUM AREA	UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
English	4	
Mathematics	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algebra I or its equivalent• Math higher than Algebra I (2 units)

Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology I or its equivalent • Science higher than Biology I (2 units)
Social Studies	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History • World History • U.S. Government (1/2 unit) • Economics (1/2 unit) or Intro to World Geography (1/2 unit)
Arts	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 of any visual and/or performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.
Advanced Electives	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II • Option 2: Foreign Language I and Advanced World Geography • Option 3: Any combination of English, Mathematics higher than Algebra I, science higher than Biology I, Advanced Elective category, any AP course, any IB course
Computer Applications	1/2	
Pre-High School Units		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain courses taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

LATE ENROLLMENT

Any student who enrolls after the first day of the school year and has not been attending school must make up all work missed because of late enrollment. If a student enrolls after the beginning date of the school year and he/she has not been attending school, the days missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences.

Failure to make up work missed will be cause for withholding credit for the term's work. All make-up work due to late enrollment must be completed by the end of the current nine-week term.

MAKE-UP WORK

When a student is absent from school (excused or unexcused), the number of days allowed to complete any required make-up work is commensurate with the number of days missed to a maximum of five (5) days.

For example, if a student is absent from school for one (1) day, the student has one (1) day to complete the required make-up assignments. If the student is absent for five (5) days, he/she will have five (5) days to complete his/her make-up work. If the student is absent for twelve (12) days, the student has five (5) days to complete the missed work.

If a student misses school because of school business (activity, athletics, field trips, etc.), he/she is responsible for all make-up work. If a teacher gives an assignment before that school activity, the student is responsible for turning in that assignment upon returning from the activity.

PROGRESSION OF CLASSES

In order to be prepared for advanced classes, students must have the proper foundation in the particular subject area. The teachers and administration of Desoto Central High School have determined that the following standards should be met before our students are enrolled in certain classes. These standards will serve as a guide for our students as they prepare to take upper-level courses. All dual credit courses require a 3.0 and at least 14 credits.

BUSINESS, COMPUTER, AND VOCATIONAL CLASSES

Business Finance (Accounting II) Prerequisite: Accounting Fundamentals (Accounting I)

ENGLISH

Accelerated English

Prerequisite: An average of 90 or higher in the previous year's regular English class or an average of 85 or higher in the previous year's accelerated English class.

Composition I

Prerequisite: ACT English sub score of 17 or higher

DC Speech

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

Composition II

Prerequisite: ACT English sub score of 17 or above AND earned credit for Composition I

MATHEMATICS

Algebra II

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Algebra III

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II

Recommended: 75 or higher in Algebra II

Calculus

Prerequisites: Algebra III

AP Calculus

Prerequisite: Algebra III

Recommended: Calculus

College Algebra

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Student must have a 19 or higher on the math section of ACT.

College Trigonometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Student must have an ACT Math sub score of 20 or higher OR completion of College Algebra with a grade of "C" or higher

SCIENCE

Chemistry I

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Biology I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra II, he/she must be enrolled in Algebra II while taking this course.

AP Chemistry

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Physics

Prerequisites: Algebra II and an average of 80 or higher in Chemistry I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra III, he/she must be enrolled in Algebra III while taking this course.

AP Physics I

Prerequisite: Algebra II and an average of 80 or higher in Chemistry I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra III, he or she must be enrolled in Algebra III while taking this course.

AP Physics II

Prerequisite: Physics or AP Physics I

Human Anatomy and Physiology

Prerequisite: An average of 80 or higher in Biology I

DC Biology

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

Zoology II

Prerequisite: Zoology I

Marine II

Prerequisite: Marine I

SOCIAL STUDIES

AP World History

Prerequisite: An average of 85 or higher in English I

DC Psychology

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Economics

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Government

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC U.S. History

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Latin II

Prerequisite: Latin I

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I

DC Spanish I

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Spanish II

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian of each DeSoto County High School must be enrolled in the school on or before September 1 of the student's junior year and attend the school for both the junior and senior school years. The student must meet the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning entry requirements. The Valedictorian must have the highest overall weighted numerical average based on grades from the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The Salutatorian must have the second highest overall weighted numerical average based on grades from the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year.

DISCIPLINE

CODE OF DISCIPLINE

Student Conduct – Acts of Misconduct

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including the following:

LEVEL I

- 1-1 Tardiness
- 1-2 Running and/or making excessive noise in the hall or building
- 1-3 Inappropriate personal contact including but not limited to pushing and shoving, inappropriate gestures and public display of affection, recklessness, or any inappropriate contact which does not result in physical harm, or any additional contact which the principal determines to be in this level.
- 1-4 In unauthorized area without a pass (halls, etc.)
- 1-5 Dress Code violation
- 1-6 Displaying any behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First Violation

Minimum: Teacher-Student Conference

Maximum: Teacher-Student-Parent Conference

Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: Mandatory Student-Parent-Administrator Conference (Home Suspension)

Maximum: Corporal Punishment, ALC, detention, and/or school suspension

*Students, who after having teacher-student conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, home suspension, Teacher Support Team interventions, continue displaying behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education, can be suspended from school, pending a disciplinary hearing.

LEVEL II

- 2-1 Leaving the school grounds without permission
- 2-2 Skipping class
- 2-3 Insubordination
- 2-4 Possession and/or use of tobacco products (smokeless tobacco included)
- 2-5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions
- 2-6 Unauthorized and/or inappropriate use of electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA)
- 2-7 Cheating on tests or exams (The grade "0" will be assigned regardless of other punishment.)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First Violation:

Minimum: Administrator-Conference, ALC, mandatory student-parent-administrator conference, corporal punishment

Maximum: School suspension (one to three days)

Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: School suspension (three days)

Maximum: School suspension (three days) and/or ALC for up to ten (10) days and/or Teacher Support Team interventions

*Students, who after having teacher-student conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, a mandatory student-parent-administrator conference, and Teacher Support Team interventions, continue displaying behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education, can be suspended from school, pending a disciplinary hearing.

** Inappropriate use of electronic devices will be handled as insubordination, but we will not collect student phones.

LEVEL III

- 3-1 Fighting
- 3-2 Gambling
- 3-3 Theft or possession of stolen property
- 3-4 Acts which threaten the safety and well-being of student and/or staff
- 3-5 Extortion – use of intimidation, coercion or force
- 3-6 Vandalism of personal and/or school property
- 3-7 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures, and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials
- 3-8 Inappropriate sexual contact
- 3-9 Bullying (as defined in Board Policy JDDA)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First Violation:

Minimum: School suspension from one to three days, ALC, corporal punishment
Maximum: School suspension (three days), report made to authorities when applicable

Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: School suspension (three days), ALC (ten days) and/or Levels 3-4 and 3-8 Teacher Support Team interventions
Maximum: School suspension (three days) and possible assignment to DeSoto County Alternative Center pending the results of a disciplinary hearing

* For theft or vandalism restitution shall be made regardless of other punishment

LEVEL IV

- 4-1 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, synthetic drugs, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance(s) or paraphernalia
- 4-2 Assault on a student
- 4-3 Assault on a school employee
- 4-4 Directing profanity, vulgar or threatening language, and/or obscene gestures toward a staff member

Any student in violation of the above shall be suspended by the principal for a period of three days and ordered to appear for a disciplinary hearing before a District Hearing Officer.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Minimum: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
Maximum: Expulsion

LEVEL V

- 5-1 Possession and/or use of a weapon

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Possession other than gun will result in assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
Maximum: Possession of fire arm/gun or use of other weapon will result in expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year (under certain circumstances expulsion can be from the student's assigned school to the DeSoto County Alternative Center)

- 5-2 Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell counterfeit drugs, synthetic drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics or controlled substance(s)

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities

Maximum: Expulsion

5-3 Students are prohibited from wearing, displaying, or possessing in any manner on school property or at school-sponsored events clothing, apparel, accessories, drawings, or messages associated with any gang or social club that is associated with criminal activity, as defined by law enforcement agencies.

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Mandatory student/parent /resource officer/administrator meeting to investigate situation and determine proper discipline consequence

Repeated: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center

Maximum: Expulsion for repeated violations and/or gang activity that includes but is not limited to:

- Acts which disrupt the process of orderly education
- Recruitment with use of intimidation
- Tagging or marking
- Assault
- Battery

5-4 Threats of violence or harm: Any spoken, written, gestures, or electronically communicated threat that disrupts the educational environment of the school and/or suggest a student intends to cause bodily harm or carry out an act of violence against district property, students, employees, or others (e.g. bomb threats, school shooting threats, etc...)

Students found to have made threats of violence or harm against district property, students, employees or others will be subject to expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year (under certain circumstances expulsion can be from the student's assigned school to the DeSoto County Alternative Center)

In addition to these penalties, provisions of the Mississippi Criminal Code are applicable to illegal behavior. Principals are required to report illegal activities to the police. Students committing any crime or involved with any criminal behavior are subject to arrest by local law enforcement.

The DeSoto County Board of Education permits individual schools to adopt additional regulations governing actions not covered by Conduct Code. However, such additional regulations may neither substitute for nor negate any of the provisions, in spirit or intent of the Conduct Code, and must be approved in writing by the School Superintendent.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION: Students may be assigned detention as a result of violating certain rules and regulations as set forth by school authorities. Students are expected to make the necessary arrangements to be present at the assigned time. Students will report to the designated location for after-school detention. Students are to remain quiet, and detention work materials must be brought to detention hall.

- Students must be on time. Students are expected to be in their seats by 3:50.
- Students should be prepared to stay until 4:50.
- The principal and assistant principals can assign after-school detention.
- Students must remember that after they enter the detention room they are not to leave. Students are to take care of their personal needs before reporting. Do not ask to leave detention to work on projects, go to the band hall, go to the gym, etc.
- No Visitors – Students will not be allowed to wait inside the school building for students assigned to after-school detention.
- Failure to meet detention time during the designated time will result in a maximum penalty of 3 days of ALC or suspension for each day that is missed.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: The Desoto County School Board of Education recognizes corporal punishment as a method that may be used in controlling student behavior. Even though parental permission is not required, parents may request in writing that this punishment is prohibited for their child.

LUNCH DETENTION: If a student is assigned to lunch detention, he/she must report immediately to the assigned lunch detention location after entering the cafeteria. Students will remain at the lunch detention table unless given permission to leave the table by a school official. Lunch detention students may get in the lunch line when the line is at its shortest point. No talking is allowed at lunch detention. If a student does not follow the rules of lunch detention, he/she can be assigned after-school detention, in-school suspension, or an out-of-school suspension. Students in lunch detention are not being denied a lunch. Students in lunch detention are allowed to eat.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ALC): Students may be placed in in-school suspension (ALC) for disciplinary reasons. While in ALC, all school rules still apply regarding the school's discipline code and dress code policy. The ALC teacher will send for student's assignments, and students are expected to complete all assignments while in ALC. If a student does not receive his / her assignments while in ALC, the student should resolve the problem by meeting with the ALC teacher and / or an administrator. When ALC students return to regular classes, they are responsible for meeting with all of their teachers to ensure that all assignments are completed properly and no additional assignments are required (for example, projects or classwork that would have been impossible to complete while in ALC). If a student does not follow the rules of ALC, he / she may be suspended from school or have additional days added in ALC. Students who are suspended while in ALC must return and complete any remaining ALC days.

HOME SUSPENSION (REQUIRED PARENT CONFERENCE): School administrators may issue a home suspension (a required parent conference) as a form of discipline. In this situation, the student is not allowed to return to school until his / her parent brings the student to school for a required conference with an administrator. This type of conference may be required at the end of some out-of-school suspensions. In certain situations, students may not receive any type of out-of-school suspension with this form of discipline. If no out-of-school suspension is issued, the parent can bring the student to school for the conference on the next school day. If a student is issued a school suspension and the student returns to school without being accompanied by a parent, the student will receive further punishment and may be considered trespassing. In this case, the student will receive a maximum of 5 days ALC, and the parent conference will still be required.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION: The principal or assistant principal can suspend any student for violation of any school rule or for any other act of misconduct or insubordination for a period not to exceed three (3) days. Students are required to complete all make-up work that results from a suspension. Failure to complete and turn in the make-up work within the allotted time or by the time specified by the teacher will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the work.

If a student is suspended from school, he / she is not allowed on any Desoto County Schools campus. A suspended student is not allowed to attend any extracurricular events during the suspension. Any suspended student who comes on campus during the suspension period will be considered trespassing.

DESOTO COUNTY ALTERNATIVE CENTER (DCAC): As the result of a disciplinary hearing, students may be assigned to the Desoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) for a minimum of six (6) weeks. The teachers and administrators at DCAC provide educational services to Desoto County students that are assigned to DCAC. While a student is assigned to DCAC, he/she is not allowed on any Desoto County school campus. If a student violates this policy, he/she will be subject to disciplinary consequences and be subject to arrest for trespassing. If a student is on the DCAC waiting list, he/she will not be allowed on any campus to attend extracurricular activities until his/her DCAC assignment is completed. Students may also be placed on probation after returning from DCAC for a maximum of one calendar year. If a senior has not completed his/her DCAC placement before senior exams are given, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Any student guilty of using or being in possession of alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia at school or at school-sponsored events will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. When violations involve controlled substances, the police will be notified. When available, drug dogs will be scheduled for school visits.

BULLYING

The Desoto County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a

school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole. The DeSoto County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. **Furthermore, the DeSoto County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.**

Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior

Students and employees in the DeSoto County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

Definition

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student, school employee, or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a

student, school employee, or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the name of the victim(s) of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties after the initial receipt of the complaint by the District.

CHEATING

Students at Desoto Central High School are expected to produce their own work except on projects designated by the teacher as cooperative efforts. Teachers will indicate which assignments are to be cooperative efforts and will establish guidelines for such projects. The teacher will also develop standards for the use of such aids as calculators, computers, word processors, and published study guides. If a student is in doubt about the ethical standards applicable to a particular situation, then the student is responsible for clarifying the matter with the teacher.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying, text messaging, faxing, emailing, or in any way duplicating assignments that are turned in, wholly or in part, as original work.
- Exchanging assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether you believe they will be copied or not.
- Using any form of memory aid during tests or quizzes without the expressed permission of the instructor.
- Giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes.

DRESS CODE

Proper attire and grooming are deemed important to scholastic achievement and orderliness. The responsibility for the appearance of the students begins with the parents and the students themselves. Students' clothing, make-up, and hairstyles should reflect neatness,

cleanliness, and self-respect so that the school is a desirable place in which to promote learning and character development. It is virtually impossible to formulate a set of regulations that adequately covers every detail of proper grooming. Violations of the Dress Code will be dealt with in accordance with the DeSoto County Schools Code of Discipline. It will be treated as insubordination and will be handled as stated in the Code of Discipline of the DeSoto County Schools. Insubordination is a Level II violation.

First Violation: Administrator-Parent conference, home suspension, or ALC

Second Violation: School suspension (three days)

Repeated Times: Suspension from school pending a disciplinary hearing.

1. Masks are highly encouraged but must be ear loop style and not have inappropriate wording or design. Bandannas will **NOT** be allowed to be worn as a mask
2. Hair must be neat, clean and worn in a manner that does not interfere with vision or cause a disruption in the classroom. No combs, picks, rollers or extreme coloring will be allowed.
3. T-shirts with sleeves, white or colored, are acceptable. Shirts must be properly closed, zipped or buttoned.
4. No article of clothing that pertains to or depicts the following will be acceptable:
 - Substances or activities illegal by law for minors, such as, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling
 - Profane, suggestive or violent language
 - Derogatory symbols; remarks directed to any ethnic group
5. Sufficient underclothes must be worn appropriately and must not be exposed.
6. Tank tops, tube tops, transparent tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, thin straps, or tops that expose the midriff, any part of the bust, excessive part of the back, are excessively tight or are distracting in class are not permitted. No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline of pants or skirts. Blouses/tops made to be worn outside should be at least three (3) inches below the waistline and no longer than five (5) inches below the waistline.
7. Students in grades K thru 5 are allowed to wear shorts as part of their daily attire. Shorts should be walking shorts or Bermuda shorts. Students in grades 6 thru 12 may wear walking shorts or Bermuda shorts that are knee length. They should not be excessively tight or baggy. Athletic shorts are not permitted unless they are a part of an approved gym class or athletic class/activity.
8. Knee length dresses and skirts are allowed. No slits in these skirts or dresses above the knee caps are allowed, and transparent skirts are not allowed.
9. No spandex articles of clothing are allowed.
10. Shoes must be worn at all times, and no house shoes are allowed. Shoes with laces should be laced and tied.
11. No visible tattoos will be allowed. Neither male nor female students will be permitted to wear rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, or any exposed body parts other than the ear and appropriate rings on fingers.
12. Coaches, physical education classes or any organized athletics have the option to ban all jewelry due to safety reasons and/or violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulations.
13. Sunglasses, other than prescription, must be removed when inside the building.
14. All pants must be worn fitted to the waist, at the waist, with or without a belt. Belts must be worn and buckled appropriately for pants that have belt loops. Pants should fit appropriately. No baggy pants are allowed. No writing is to be on the seat of the pants, even the cheerleader's uniform and dance team.
15. Leggings and jeggings are allowed when worn with a top/skirt/dress that meets the dress length guidelines specified in #7.
16. Pants must have no exposed skin above the knee.
17. Hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings or on the grounds of the school except for medical reasons as prescribed by a physician. Head coverings as part of a religious belief will be allowed if there is sufficient proof the student is a practicing member of the religious sect. Head coverings may be worn if authorized by the faculty and/or administration, if it is part of a uniform (i.e., wearing a full baseball uniform during games or practice) or as deemed necessary.
18. Specific outfits designated for extracurricular activities and decisions concerning any questionable clothing will be left to the discretion of the principal.
19. Local principals or their designee have the power and discretion to make all decisions on their campus.
20. Hoods are not to be worn at any time during the school day in the building.
21. Students are not allowed to wear any clothing, jewelry, etc. that may be considered gang-related. This is a Level 5-3 conduct violation and carries harsher consequences than a regular dress code violation.
22. Students are not allowed to wear transparent clothing.
23. Pajamas and/or any sleep wear are not allowed to be worn as daily attire.
24. Students will be sent to ALC for a minimum of one day for dress code violations that cannot be corrected. This includes, but is not limited to short skirts, revealing clothing, inappropriate designs or language on clothing, shorts that do not meet the dress code policy, etc.
25. Students are not allowed to wear hats and/or caps in school building.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

All electronic equipment must be stored, turned off, and “out of sight” in all areas of DeSoto Central High School during the school day (8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.). Electronic equipment can only be used in the classroom when the teacher gives students permission to use their electronic equipment for instructional purposes.

Acceptable electronic equipment includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, notebooks, netbooks, and E-Readers.

Unacceptable electronic equipment includes, but is not limited to, gaming devices, modems, routers, televisions, or other accessories.

Authorized use of electronic equipment:

- In the classroom for instructional purposes with the permission of the classroom teacher.

Unauthorized use of electronic equipment:

1. Use in the classroom **without** the permission of the classroom teacher.
2. Use in any non-classroom area of DeSoto Central High School. This includes, but is not limited to, the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, library, and gymnasium.
3. Use while under the supervision of a substitute teacher or while in ALC.
4. Use during lunch detention.
5. Use during school assemblies.
6. Possessing, viewing, sending, or sharing information having sexual, violent, or threatening content.
7. Connection to the Internet through a 3G, 4G, or any other content service provider. Access to the Internet must be through the school district’s content-filtered wireless network.

*** Inappropriate use of electronic devices will be handled as insubordination, but we will not collect student phones. ***

FIGHTING

Any student who starts or participates in a disturbance may be suspended from school immediately and possible placement at the DeSoto County Alternative School. The student will be readmitted only after his/her parents or guardians have contacted the school or met personally with the supervising principal. Students involved in fighting can be referred to the Southaven Police Department. Also, students that are involved in fighting at school or at a DeSoto Central extracurricular activity will not be allowed to attend extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

GANG POLICY

The DeSoto County School District prohibits gang activity, defined hereinafter. Students who engage in gang activity will be subject to discipline pursuant to the District’s Code of Discipline, up to and including possible expulsion. A “gang” is defined as a group that initiates, advocates, or promotes illegal activities, activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or at supervised school functions, or activities that are harmful to the education process.

Prohibited “gang activity” includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Soliciting students to become gang members;
- (2) Participating in gang initiation or other gang ceremonies;
- (3) Deliberately wearing, displaying, or possessing prohibited gang symbols;
- (4) Engaging in gang-related violence or threats of violence;
- (5) Threatening others, including threats by brandishing a weapon or a replica of a weapon on school campuses, or at supervised school functions; or
- (6) Engaging in any behavior undertaken in such a manner as to be reasonably likely to incite violence or endanger persons or property.

Prohibited “gang symbols” may include, any type of clothing decoration, jewelry, patches, bandanas, gang names, depiction of gang signs or symbols, and/or body signal/movement which is recognized as denoting a gang or is a sign, signal or movement utilized in connection with gang communications, including, but not limited to those appearing with the DeSoto County Schools “Gang Awareness” pamphlet as well as the additions thereto in the future. School officials will keep a booklet containing known “gang symbols” in each school office. Students and parents who may have questions regarding this policy should contact the school principal for further clarification of any part of the policy. Students may be disciplined for engaging in any activity prohibited by this policy including the prohibited “gang activity” enumerated in the third paragraph hereof. District officials will cooperate with local law enforcement to provide the school with gang information to aid in the prevention of violence, gangs, and drugs in our schools. This information shall include, but is not limited to: gang names, colors, symbols, signals, and gestures associated with gangs (all of which are prohibited gang activity). School officials will publish notice of these prohibited names, signals, gestures, colors and symbols in the school office as made available by local police department and government authorities or otherwise made known to school officials. The school will continually update the information posted in the school office relating to prohibited gang symbols and gang activity. Notice of updated

prohibited gang activity and/or gang symbols will be sent home with each student, said notice shall advise students that the prohibited gang activity and gang symbols has been updated with updates maintained in the school office and the District website. Each school shall make regular announcements to the student body advising that gang activity and gang symbols are strictly prohibited. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, nothing herein prohibits the display of recognized religious symbols such as the Star of David or the Crescent or the Cross unless these or other religious symbols are altered or augmented in some way. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, wearing of clothing or particular colors in and of itself is not prohibited unless the clothing (color or otherwise) is worn in combination with other prohibited gang signs or symbols. The wearing or displaying in any manner of gang names however, is prohibited.

HALLWAYS

Reasonable conduct and good common sense govern the movement of students through the hallways. Moving traffic should keep to the right, and some doors will be noted as “Enter” and “Exit” points. Students grouping and standing in classroom doorways or in the middle of the hall will not be tolerated during class change. We expect students to move as directed and to be considerate of others, and unacceptable conduct in the hallways can lead to disciplinary action. Students may also be disciplined for entering classrooms without permission.

LEAVING THE CAMPUS

After arrival on campus, no one is to leave school at an unauthorized time without permission of the principal. Any student who leaves the campus without permission will be subject to disciplinary consequences such as in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and loss of driving privileges.

Since dismissal constitutes an absence, it should be requested only in case of an extreme emergency. Any pupil dismissed because of an emergency will be sent home immediately or to a doctor only after the parents have been notified. Except in cases of illness, a student will be allowed to leave only upon request made in person to the school office by a parent or guardian. No pupil is to leave the school grounds for any reason during the school day without permission from the principal.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

The following items are not allowed on the Desoto Central High School campus. Students will face disciplinary actions if they bring any of these items to school. This list is not all-inclusive.

Look-a-like drugs	Bandannas	Fireworks	Stink bombs, sprays, etc.
Electronic equipment	Laser lights	Pillows	Fast food (food & drinks)
Cigarette lighters	Water Pistols	Matches	Look-a-like weapons
Noisemaking devices	Vape/Juuls	Blankets	Skateboards
Gang paraphernalia	Caps / hats	Stuffed Animals	

SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

In an attempt to keep DeSoto County Schools safe for all students and staff, the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- The use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity
- Any organized factions which threaten the safety of students and/or staff.
- Distribution of illegal drugs, prescriptions drugs, or any substance dangerous to students. (Distribution includes giving substances to students intentionally or accidentally.)

Students who openly defy this warning(s) will be considered a threat to the safety of students and staff and suspended pending a disciplinary hearing. The student could be expelled from DeSoto County Schools.

TARDIES

There are two types of tardies: (1) arriving to school after the 8:25 tardy bell and (2) being late to any class after arriving at school. Both types of tardies are included in students’ total number of tardies.

- Any student who arrives at school after the 8:25 tardy bell must report to the designated area for admit/tardy slip before reporting to class.
- Bus students who are late due to bus problems must report to the attendance office for admit slips; however, these tardies are not recorded.
- Oversleeping, heavy traffic, weather, clock failure, missed rides, etc., will not be excusable reasons for being late.
- If a student misses over half of the class period, he / she will be marked as absent for the entire class period. The details of a student’s tardiness to school can be reported to the truancy officer.
- Teachers will send a written note when they detain a student. This note will include the time the student left, the student’s name, and the date. It will be signed by the teacher who detained the student.
- Tardies are recorded per nine-weeks.
- If a student has excessive tardies because of not arriving at school on time, his/her driving privileges can be revoked.

Disciplinary consequences for excessive tardiness:

- 4 Tardies - 3 days of lunch detention
- 8 Tardies – ASD (1 ALC with proof of work)
- 12 Tardies – 2 ASD or 1 ALC with mandatory parent conference
- 16 Tardies - 2 days of ALC
- 20 Tardies – 3 days of ALC and mandatory parent conference for behavior plan
- 24 Tardies – 1 day Suspension
- 28 Tardies – 2 days Suspension
- 32 Tardies –3 days Suspension with hearing
- The principals will make the decision regarding the choice of punishment.
- Every 4 tardies after 32 may result in 10 days ALC and/or a 3 day out of school suspension pending disciplinary hearing.

VOCATIONAL STUDENTS

Vocational students must ride the bus to and from the Vocational campus each day. In order to drive a personal vehicle, a student must have written permission from the Vocational principal or his/her designee.

WEAPONS

According to Mississippi State Law, any student who possesses a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property as defined in MS Code § 97-37-17, shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.

No student is permitted to bring a firearm on school property which includes any school building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by the DeSoto County School District. The school district may use video camera equipment in classrooms for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems.

The penalty for bringing a firearm on school property according to P. L. 107-110 (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) shall be expulsion from the school program and all of its activities for a minimum period of one calendar year. The punishment shall take effect immediately following the provision of initial due process and pending the conclusion of due process on the recommendation of expulsion, all in accordance with Policies adopted by the board.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no students in the DeSoto County School District shall be subject to sexual harassment. It is the intent of the School Board to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee to use sexual harassment toward any other student or employee. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. DeSoto County Schools will investigate all formal and informal, verbal and written complaints of sexual harassment.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Students are not allowed to enter the building until 8:00 each morning. Students will go directly to their 1st block class upon arriving to school.

ABSESTOS PLAN

The Desoto County School District has Asbestos management plans for each school in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The management plan can be reviewed in the main office of the school.

ASSEMBLIES

There will be no assemblies.

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

***Extracurricular activities will not be available to full-time distance learning (VIP) students. ***

Students must attend two academic blocks in order to attend a practice on a school day. Students must also attend two academic blocks in order to attend and/or participate in a game on a school day. This does not include absences that are considered a “school activity”. If a student provides a doctor’s note or there are unique circumstances, the coach can contact the athletic director or the principal for approval to override this policy.

When a student quits a sport, he/she often wants to move onto a new sport. However, depending on the circumstances, our coaches may or may not allow the student-athlete to participate in a new sport until the season has been completed for the former sport. Our athletic director will look at each situation on a case-by-case basis.

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students are not permitted to bring backpacks or outside drinks to athletic events.

ATTENDANCE FORMS

Proof of attendance forms must be requested by students. Requests are to be submitted to the main office receptionist. Forms will be given to students within 48 hours of request.

AUTOMOBILES

Students driving a motorized vehicle on school grounds must hold a valid license and be covered by insurance. All students must park in the student parking lot and follow all posted speed limits and traffic regulations. Students must be registered with the school. No student is permitted to return to his / her vehicle until the end of the school day. Students shall not sit in or upon vehicles parked on the school campus. Failure to follow school rules governing vehicles could lead to fines and/or loss of privilege to drive on the school campus. Automobiles parked illegally on campus are subject to being towed at owner's expense. Students who use their automobiles to leave campus without permission are subject to losing driving/parking privileges for one school year. The DeSoto County School District is not responsible for damages done to automobiles because of vandalism, accidents, and the like. When students drive their vehicles on to school property, they agree to abide by campus rules, and they realize their cars may be searched to ensure the health and safety of the entire student body. Students can buy a parking permit to park in the front for \$5.00. These spaces will be limited and sold on a first come first served basis. Permits cannot be transferred between vehicles without notifying an administrator.

BREAK

DeSoto Central High School will have a short break on most days at the end of the 1st block. Students will have the opportunity to buy snacks and drinks during break, and the students are responsible for disposing of their trash at the end of break.

BUS POLICY

Transportation Department website is (<http://www.desoto.k12.ms.us/trans>)

- This website provides information such as stop locations, pickup and drop off times, etc.

If a student needs to ride home on a different bus, the student must give a parent note to the principal or the principal's designee before 10:15 a.m. on that morning. The principal will contact the parent, and the student will need to get verbal approval from the principal later in the day before trying to board another bus.

The DeSoto County School District Transportation Department operates as an extension of the school(s) and student conduct is governed accordingly. Students who do not conduct themselves properly are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the DeSoto County School District policies. Punishments may include but are not limited to suspension and expulsion from school or from the bus for misconduct on the bus. Riding the school bus is a privilege. DeSoto County Schools are not responsible for items left on bus.

1. Responsibilities:

- a. Bus drivers and aides are responsible and authorized to maintain student order and discipline at all times.
- b. Principals are responsible and authorized to administer any and all necessary student discipline. Principals shall also ensure that all bus rules are communicated to eligible riders.
- c. Students have the responsibility to obey all policies and procedures established by the DeSoto County Board of Education, their respective schools and the Transportation Department while waiting for, boarding, riding or off-loading a DeSoto County school bus.
- d. The Transportation Department shall post rules clearly on every school bus and shall include but not be limited by the rules listed below.

2. Rules of Conduct

- a. Be waiting at your stop 5 minutes early.
- b. If you need to cross the street, wait for traffic to stop; driver will motion to you when it is safe to pass in front of the bus to load or unload.
- c. Obey the bus driver.
- d. No unauthorized items on bus. (No weapons, tobacco, combustibles, pets, large items, etc.)
- e. Be nice and courteous.
- f. Keep the bus clean.
- g. No profanity and no fighting.
- h. Keep hands and head inside of bus.
- i. Do not throw anything, anywhere.

- j. Stay in your seat. Driver may assign seats.
- k. No eating or drinking.
- l. Damage to bus interior may result in student paying for damage.
- m. Emergency door/windows may only be opened in case of emergency.
- n. Do not distract or bother the driver through loud talking or misbehavior.
- o. Report any problems you may have to the bus driver as soon as possible.
- p. The school district and drivers are not responsible for articles left on the bus.
- q. Use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity of any kind may result in expulsion from school.

CAFETERIA

Please remember the following rules as you participate in our lunch program:

1. Enter and exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
2. Students are not allowed to cut in front of other students in line. Because our cafeteria staff prepares food based on the number of people in line, students who plan to eat must get in the lunch line upon entering the cafeteria. Students who do not follow this policy could be placed in lunch detention and possibly ALC for multiple violations.
3. Please have your cafeteria number ready for the cashier.
4. All students are required to take trays and silverware to the receiving window when they have finished their meal. Please do not leave trays or silverware on the table. Each student must return his/her own tray.
5. Please pick up the food, napkins, etc., and clean up around your tray. Place paper in the trash can.
6. Do not take any food outside the cafeteria.
7. If you have a complaint about the service in the cafeteria, please be courteous in reporting it to the manager, your teacher, or an administrator.
8. Students are not allowed to leave campus during lunch.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

Students may check out from school if a parent or guardian personally comes to the school and checks-out the student. Upon return to school, the student must personally sign-in.

Because of a high volume of student checkouts on exam days, additional restrictions or alternate procedures may be used regarding student check-outs on these dates. Students will be informed of these procedures in advance of the exam dates.

And because of traffic issues, checkouts are not allowed after 3:00 on all school days.

CLOTHING THAT REPRESENTS DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The principal must approve all clothing representing Desoto Central High School. Students and / or organizations must get prior approval before designing any clothing. This includes, but is not limited to, class t-shirts, homecoming shirts, and club shirts.

CLUBS / SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

All clubs and school organizations must have a faculty member as the sponsor, and all groups must be approved by the principal. And clubs and organizations could be combined if the purpose/mission is similar to those of another club and/or organization.

COLLEGE VISITS

Seniors are allowed two (2) college visits per semester. The visits must be pre-approved by the principal or his or her designee, and documentation of the visits must be provided. A college visit will be documented as a school activity for attendance purposes.

COMPUTER/INTERNET RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

A child enrolled in DeSoto County Schools will have the opportunity to use a computer for class activities, research, and internet functions. DeSoto County Schools' computers are equipped with filtering software in an effort to prevent contact with inappropriate sites. When your child uses the equipment, the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

1. The pirating of software
2. Damaging or abusing any equipment
3. Printing, accessing, or installing any obscene or dangerous materials on the computer
4. Exposing any DeSoto County computer to a virus
5. Changing any records or permanent operating system files
6. Bringing any personal software and using on school computers
7. Sending/receiving unauthorized e-mails

****Students who abuse computer privileges are subject to lose access to all school computers for one school year.**

DELIVERIES

Students are not allowed to receive deliveries (balloons, food, flowers, etc.) at school. Parents, friends, and family members should not send any types of deliveries to students. Also, our office staff does not make deliveries to students (homework, lunch money, etc.)

DISTANCE LEARNING (VIP)

- Distance learning opportunities are available for students on a full-time basis.
- If distance learning or a hybrid model must be implemented throughout the school year, students will be held accountable for assignments given during that time.

Parents and students MUST understand that students will be held accountable for assignments and will be given grades regardless if they choose VIP (full-time online) or if they choose to come to school, AND we are shut-down in part or whole due to COVID.

EARLY RELEASE

If a senior is released early based on grade classification and desires to return for extracurricular activities, he/she is allowed to do so. Any Senior desiring early release or late arrival must have a signed parental permission form on file. If a student is not on pace to graduate, the principal can deny a student early release. Early release students must leave campus immediately at the end of their last class.

EMERGENCY DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

All students should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the following procedures:

Fire Drill and School Evacuation Plan

At the beginning of the school year, students will become familiar with the school evacuation plan which is posted in each classroom. The signal to evacuate the school will be an announcement over the intercom and/or the fire alarm. When the announcement is made, all students should be silent immediately and follow the instructions of their teachers.

Tornado Alert

At the beginning of the school year, students will become familiar with the school's tornado alert plan, which is posted in all classrooms. The signal for a tornado drill or alert will be an announcement over the intercom.

Lockdown Drill

At the beginning of the school year, students will be instructed on lockdown procedures.

Earthquake Drill

At the beginning of the school year, students will be instructed on the procedures to follow in the event of an earthquake.

FACILITY GUIDELINES

Students do not have permission to be in the building or on campus unless under the direct supervision of a current faculty member. If a student is in the building or on campus without the direct supervision of a current faculty member, he/she could face disciplinary consequences and/or criminal prosecution. If a student does anything that could cause damage to school facilities or is offensive to students and/or employees, he/she could face disciplinary consequences and/or criminal prosecution.

FIELD TRIPS

Students that attend field trips are responsible for all school work that is missed during the field trip. If an assignment was given to the student prior to the field trip, he/she is responsible for turning in that assignment upon return from the field trip. If an assignment was given while the student was on a field trip, he/she will have one extra day to complete the assignment. The principal and/or sponsor have the authority to remove a student from the list of eligible students for a field trip and/or school activity. This decision could be based on the student's academic record and/or discipline record.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

School officials reserve the right to make any and all final decisions affecting student conduct, dress, attendance, eligibility, discipline, graduation, awards, grading, and any other areas where a difference of opinion has arisen from students, parents, or teachers.

GRADUATION

Seniors are required to participate in all practices for the graduation ceremony. If a graduating senior does not attend graduation practice, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. If a senior misbehaves prior to, during, or after the graduation ceremony, he/she is subject to discipline as outlined in the district's discipline policy. Because graduation is a school event, the discipline policy is in effect. In any instance of misbehavior, the student's diploma and/or transcript will be held until the student has completed his/her disciplinary obligations. Also, seniors that have not completed their DCAC placement prior to senior exams may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION DRESS CODE

At DeSoto Central High School, our graduation ceremony is a distinguished event. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony, seniors must comply with the following dress code. If a student does not have clothing that meets these standards, he/she needs to meet with an administrator prior to graduation day.

Female Graduates

1. Female graduates should wear black bottoms, i.e. capris, pants, gauchos, skirts.
2. Female graduates should wear a light top.
3. Female graduates should wear nice dress shoes (No flip flops, Crocs, casual sandals, cowboy boots, or combat boots).
4. Dresses may be worn, preferably following the color scheme, but as long as the dress doesn't show from under the gown, and it is dress code appropriate, it will be allowed.

Male Graduates

1. Male graduates should wear a white dress shirt and tie. **See the principal before graduation day if you do not have a tie.
2. Male graduates should wear navy blue or black pants (No shorts or capris)
3. Male graduates should wear nice dress shoes (No Crocs, flip flops, sandals, cowboy boots, or combat boots).

*All attire should follow the DeSoto County Schools dress code policy.

INTERVIEWS

Principals or his/her representative in the schools of the DeSoto County School District may question students regarding matters incident to school without limitation. The School Resource Officer (SRO) is an employee of either the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department or one of the city police departments. The SRO, present at the request of the school for the continued maintenance of safety and order, may assist with the interview as necessary regarding school-related issues as determined by the principal or his/her representative and parents will be contacted if the student is subsequently taken into custody or if the student is subject to disciplinary action.

LATE ARRIVAL

If a student has late arrival for 1st block, he/she does not have to arrive at school until 10:00 each school day. Late arrival students are not allowed to park in the front parking lot. Late arrival students must park in the student parking lot and enter through the front doors of the school. If a student is not on pace to graduate, the principal can deny a student's opportunity for late arrival.

LOCKERS

Lockers will not be assigned to students.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The DeSoto County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Student Intervention
Title VI, Title II and 504 Coordinator
DeSoto County Schools
5 East South Street
Hernando, MS 38632
662-429-5271

Director of Federal Programs
Title IX Coordinator
DeSoto County Schools
5 East South Street
Hernando, MS 38632
662-429-5271

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS / FORMS

In order for students to receive a recommendation letter, students are required to provide a current resume form. Students should allow seven business days for processing the request.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Student schedules will be available for review in Parent Portal. If parents need to request a schedule change, they submit a digital schedule change form found on our counselors' website (<https://dchscounselors4.wixsite.com/dchs>) by August 12th. If parents need Parent Portal information, they contact Whitney White (whitney.white@dcsms.org).

If parents have additional questions, they contact one of our school counselors.

9th Grade: Lauren Springer lauren.springer@dcsms.org

10th Grade: Blakely Dendy blakely.dendy@dcsms.org

11th Grade: Megan Vaughn megan.vaughn@dcsms.org

12th Grade: Adrian McNeil adrian.mcneil@dcsms.org

Schedule changes are requested through the counselor's office. Schedule changes can be requested during the first two school days of the fall semester. If a student would like to request a spring schedule change request, he/she must make the request before the completion of the first semester. Changes may be made if the counselor and the teachers feel it is in the best interest of the student. The counselor will inform the student as to the procedures involved in carrying out any change properly.

Please do not tell students to request to change into your classes or tell students they can be scheduled into a specific block.

SCHOOL DANCES

Students in grades 11 and 12 at DeSoto Central High School that are in good standing are allowed to attend the Prom. If DeSoto Central High School hosts any other school dances, restrictions on grade levels and guests could be put into place by the principal.

If guests are allowed to attend the DeSoto Central High School prom, the guest must meet the following criteria:

- Guests must attend the dance with a current Desoto Central High School 11th or 12th grade student. The guest's name must be registered in the main office by the deadline which will be announced in the weeks prior to the prom.
- An out-of-district prom date of a DeSoto Central High School junior or senior may attend the prom if he/she meet the following criteria and the following steps are taken:
 1. The prom date must still be a high school student without discipline issues reported from that school.
 2. A parent of the DeSoto Central High School student, who wants to bring the out-of-district date, must attend the prom as a chaperone. The parent must be listed in PowerSchool as the student's parent. The chaperone will assume the duty of student supervision and is expected to assist from 7:00 pm - 11:30 pm on the night of the prom. If the parent chaperone is not in attendance by 7:00 pm on the night of the prom, the out-of-district date will not be allowed to attend the prom and a refund of his/her ticket will be given in a timely manner. If the parent chaperone leaves before 11:30, the out-of-district prom date will be asked to leave, if he/she is still in attendance. Approved guests must bring photo identification (driver's license or government-issued ID) to the prom in order to be admitted.
- DeSoto County Students who have been given a DCAC assignment during the 2020-2021 school year are not allowed to attend the DeSoto Central prom
- Our students do not have to get permission to bring current Desoto Central High School 9th or 10th graders.
- Guests cannot be enrolled in any grade lower than 9th.
- Guests can be 2018, 2019 or 2020 graduates of high schools in Desoto County (Northpoint or DeSoto County Schools) if our principals are able to obtain a discipline report on that graduate. If the graduate had any discipline problems at his/her school, he/she will not be allowed to attend.
- Guests can be homeschooled students that live in DeSoto County.
- Guests can be students that have attended a middle school or high school in DeSoto County. If the student had any discipline problems at their school, he/she will not be allowed to attend.
- Approved guests must bring photo identification (driver's license or government-issued ID) to the prom in order to be admitted.

Students will be notified prior to the prom if their guest will not be allowed to attend. If a student needs a decision to be made prior to the deadline, the student can ask his/her grade-level principal if a decision can be made earlier.

SEARCHES

Desoto Central High School must maintain an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of its educational goals, including the right to search students' personal belongings, cars, or lockers when it is in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or is necessary to preserve

the good order, health, safety, and discipline of the school. The Southaven Police Department and/or the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department may assist school authorities when searches are necessary.

School officials have the right to search and seize property, including school property temporarily assigned to students, when there is reason to believe that some material or matter detrimental to health, safety, and welfare of the student(s) exists. Items provided by the DeSoto County School District for storage (e.g., lockers, desks) or personal items are subject to its control and supervision. Students have no reasonable expectancy of privacy, and lockers desks, etc., may be inspected at any time with or without reason, or with or without notice, by school personnel.

SECTION 504

A parent, staff member, student, or personnel may request a Section 504 Plan. This request may be made, in writing, to the school's Section 504 Coordinator. A meeting will be scheduled, at the school, to discuss a student's possible substantial limitation to access the facility and/or educational benefit. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the DeSoto County School system.

SELLING / ADVERTISING ON CAMPUS

Students are not allowed to sell any items on campus unless the principal has given prior approval. If a student is selling items without permission, he/she will face disciplinary consequences. The principal must also approve all posters, signs, and announcements. If the principal does approve any signs or posters to be on display in the hallway, the responsible party should remove the signs or posters in a timely manner. Students are not allowed to advertise or distribute material for non-school activities (church functions, parties, etc.)

STUDENT SAFETY

Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible at DCHS. Social distancing recommendations and safest practices will be in place and reminders will be posted throughout the building and students will be reminded of these daily over the intercom. We will post signage throughout the school regarding good hygiene practices, and district guidance regarding staying at home when sick.

DCHS teachers and staff will reinforce procedures regarding daily health questions for students and follow guidelines for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms.

DCHS teachers and staff will follow contact tracing instructions from local and state health agencies.

We will isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces.

We will have a full-time school nurse who will be on campus all day. Sick students, regardless of illness, will not be sent to the office. Nurse Ellen Bickley will handle all sick students and medication and medical emergencies. She will be vital in tracking students for quarantine purposes.

- 1st block teachers will be required to evaluate their students' symptoms of COVID before they start class and communicate with the school nurse any issues.

SENIOR FIELD DAY

Seniors will be allowed to participate in Senior Field Day activities in May. On Senior Field Day, seniors will be excused from all of their classes if they attend the event. Senior Field Day will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and seniors will be allowed to leave campus at the conclusion of the event. In order to participate in the activities (inflatables, games, etc.), seniors must submit a permission slip with parental consent.

SENIOR PICTURES

Our seniors will have an opportunity to have their senior pictures made at Holland Studios in Germantown, Tennessee. Only pictures from Holland Studios will be included in the senior picture section of the yearbook and the school composite. Other senior pictures can be used in the senior ad portion of the yearbook.

STUDENT-TEACHER GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Teachers at Desoto Central High School have been employed to help students. Their assistance is available in both academic and non-academic areas. With a mutual attitude of respect and cooperation, teachers and students can achieve their goals. The school board and the administration want to make it perfectly clear that the teachers have the responsibility to maintain a classroom atmosphere that favors good learning situations. Students are to obey those in positions of responsibility inside the classrooms, throughout the school building, on school property, and at school-sponsored events. Teachers and administrators act *in loco parentis* (as a parent for the student) while the child is at school or involved in a school activity. There are times when the student does not agree with every occurrence in the classroom or in other areas. If a student has questions or concerns about a teacher's actions, the student should follow these measures:

- Students should follow all directions from a teacher.
- Disagreements with teachers should be handled in a respectful manner after class to preserve the dignity of the student and the teacher.
- If a student and teacher are unable to resolve the conflict, the student can request a conference with a counselor or an administrator.

Students are not permitted to leave the classroom without permission because of a dispute with a teacher, and students will not be allowed to confront a teacher in a disrespectful manner. Students who do not follow these guidelines can be given punishment. Students who leave the classroom can be considered as skipping and defiant, and students who confront a teacher can be punished based on the severity of the situation.

TEXTBOOKS

State-owned textbooks are issued at the beginning of the school year and returned at the close of the school year. Parents are required to sign a book-card assuming responsibility for the books and their proper care until they have been checked back to the school. Students should see that their books are not abused as a fine will be charged for any state-owned book that shows unnecessary wear. In case a new book is lost, the list price of the book must be paid. Charges for lost books will be adjusted on the basis of age and use.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Transcript request forms can be picked up in the counselor’s office. You will need to attach a stamped envelope addressed to the institution where you want the transcript mailed. The student should allow seven to ten business days for processing the request.

VISITORS

- No visitors are allowed to come have lunch with students.
- No assemblies... Including informational meetings or presentations such as class rings, etc.
- No “outside” lunches and/or fast food will be allowed to be dropped off for students.
- All visitors wishing to meet at DCHS face to face must be by appointment, unless an emergency.
- We will utilize curb-side services for parents and visitors who have to be on campus for various reasons, including checking out students. They will be directed to call the school once they are on campus, and we will assist them while they wait in their vehicle.

WEBSITE

The Desoto Central High School website is <http://www.desotocountyschools.org/dch/>. Parents and students should visit the website often for information and updates. Parents and students can view the “Daily Announcements” section of the website to keep up with current school events.

The Desoto County School District website is <http://www.desotocountyschools.org>. Parents and students are encouraged to check the district website regularly for updates to school board policy.

DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Hymn to the Purple and Gold

Here’s a hymn to the Purple and the Gold,
 Ringing to the sky.
 Here’s a song for the men and women bold,
 Sing with heads held high.
 Striving ere to seek, to know,
 Fight for victory,
 Alma Mater this song to you,
 Echoes D.C. Pride!