

2020-2021
Secondary Student Handbook

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Amite County School District is committed to educating all children to ensure their maximum potential is met and they're prepared to function in a multicultural and global society.

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FOREWORD

The purpose of this book is to acquaint students, parents, and teachers with necessary information concerning the organization and administration of the Amite County School District schools.

The handbook should be of special help to all students. In it, students will find the requirements for graduation, student organizations, school regulations, absentees, tardiness, and other information. We all students, teachers, and parents to read carefully the information herein provided, with the realization that such a booklet at its best has its limitations. The Amite County Superintendent of Education and the Amite County Board of Education has approved all the contents printed in this book.

We hope that the handbook may contribute to a better understanding and appreciation of our educational program.

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

As Superintendent of the Amite County School District, I personally would like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year.

With high expectations and quality educators we are going to move this school district to a higher level.

I know the students of this district deserve our very best each day, and we will give it!

Sincerely,

Don Cuevas
Superintendent of Education

ADMINISTRATION

Don Cuevas.....Superintendent of Education

DIRECTORS

- Robert McDaniel.....Curriculum Director
- Mary Russ..... Federal Programs Director
- Lyndsey Latham.....Business Director
- Rebecca Roberts.....Special Services Director
- Brandon Gordon.....Technology Director
- Dr. Thaddeus Peters.....Athletic Director
- Ross Thomas.....Transportation Director
- Benita McKey.....Food Service Manager
- Stacy Bass.....Custodial Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

The members of the Amite County School Board welcomes all new and returning teachers and assistant teachers. We are very excited to have each of you on our team. To the staff, students and community we look forward to the 2020-2021 school year with great excitement. Under the guidance and leadership of our new Superintendent (Don Cuevas) we are expecting and anticipating tremendous strides academically during this upcoming school year.

The School Board stands ready to support our staff and students as we strive to provide all students with the opportunity to receive an excellent education in an environment that's conducive to success. Together we can make 2021 the best year ever.

James Copeland
School Board President

All procedures, Mississippi Codes, Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for enactment of policy and procedures are available online through links provided on the Amite County School District web-site.

AMITE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

- District I Board Member Diane Cook
- District II Board Member Monica Johnson
- District III Board Member Bettye Fenn
- District IV Board Member Cindy Newman
- District V Board Member James Copeland

The Amite County School District offers educational and employment opportunities to all persons without discrimination and without regard to sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or handicap.

**AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR
2020-2021**

2020

August	Students 18 days	Teachers 21 days
03-Monday	Professional Development	
04-Tuesday	Professional Development	
05-Wednesday	Professional Development	
06-Thursday	Registration, full day of school, lunch served	

September	Students 21 days	Teachers 21 days
07- Monday	Labor Day Holiday	
10- Thursday	Progress Reports	

October	Students 21 days	Teachers 21 days
02-Friday	60% Day of students (Homecoming)	
05-09- Friday	1 st 9 weeks' test	
12- Monday	Columbus Day Holiday	
19- Monday	Report cards	

November	Students 16 days
Teachers 16 days	
12- Thursday	Progress Reports
Monday- Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays
23-27	

December	Students 14 days	Teachers 14
Days		
Monday-Friday		
14-18-	2 nd 9 weeks' test	
Mon-Friday	Christmas Holidays	
21-25		
Mon -Tuesday	Christmas Holidays	
28-31		

**AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR
2020-2021 continued**

January 2021	Students 18 days	Teachers 19 Days
01-Friday	New Year's Holiday	
04-Monday	Professional Development	
05-Tuesday	Students return to school	
07- Thursday	Report cards	
18- Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	

February-2021 Days	Students 19 days	Teachers 19
09- Tuesday	Progress Reports	
15- Monday	President's Day Holiday	

March- 2021 Days	Students 18 days	Teachers 18
Monday-Friday		
01-05	3 rd 9 weeks' test	
Monday-Friday		
08-12	Spring Break Holidays	
17- Wednesday	Report Cards	

April-2021 Days	Students 20 days	Teacher 20
02- Friday	Good Friday Holiday	
05- Monday	Easter Holiday	
14- Wednesday	Progress Reports	

May-2021 Days	Students 15 days	Teachers 18
Monday-Thursday		
17-20	4 th 9 Weeks' Test	
18-Tuesday	Graduation	
21-Friday	Last day for Students-End of the 4th 9 weeks/60% day/PD	
Monday-Wed		
24-26	Professional Development/No students/Last day for teachers	

Total Days for Students 180	Total Days for Teachers 187
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1 st Semester	Students 90 ----- Teachers 93
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2 nd Semester	Students 90 ----- Teachers 94
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AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

GRADING PERIODS

FIRST TERM	August 6-October 9, 2020 (46 days)
SECOND TERM	October 13-December 18,2020 (44 days)
THIRD TERM	January 5-March 5, 2021 (42 days)
FOURTH TERM	March 15-May 21, 2021 (44 days)

TERM TESTS

FIRST TERM (SECONDARY)	October 5-9, 2020
SECOND TERM (SECONDARY)	December 14-18, 2020
THIRD TERM (SECONDARY)	March 1-15, 2021
FOURTH TERM (SECONDARY)	May 17-20, 2021

PROGRESS REPORTS

September 10, 2020
November 12, 2020
February 9, 2021
April 14, 2021

REPORT CARD DATES

October 19, 2020
January 7, 2021
March 17, 2021
June 3, 2021

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day – September 7, 2020
60% Day for Students – October 2,, 2020 (Homecoming)
Columbus Day Holiday – October 12, 2020
Thanksgiving Holiday – Nov 23-27, 2020
Christmas Holidays-Dec. 21-Jan 4, 2021
Martin Luther King Day-January 18,2021
President’s Day-February 15, 2021
Spring Break-March 8-12, 2021
Good Friday Holiday-April 2, 2021
Easter Holiday-April 5,2021

Amite County High School Information

Amite County High School

600 Irene Street

Liberty, Ms. 39645

Principal: Neal Smith

Assistant Principal: Ricky Powell

Phone: 601-657-8920 Fax: 601-657-4044

Office hours: 7:30-4:00

School hours: 7:40-3:15

Amite County Career & Technical Center

1501 Irene Street

Liberty, Ms. 39645

Director: Augustus Russ

Counselor: Tonya Bates

Phone: 601-657-8081

Office Hours: 7:30-4:00

School Hours: 7:40-3:15

Amite County High School's classes begin at 7:40 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m.

Bus dismissal is from 3:15 p.m. to 3:23 p.m.

Student drivers & car riders will be allowed to leave immediately after the buses leave campus.

VISITORS

Any parent wishing to visit the school is welcome. Parents must report to the principal's office upon arriving on the campus. Student visitors will not be allowed in the school.

TOBACCO USE POLICY

As per Mississippi law, no person shall use any tobacco product on any school property. Violators shall be subject to a warning the first conviction, \$75 for a second conviction, and a fine not to exceed \$ 150 shall be imposed for subsequent violations.

School property means any public-school building or bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local school board, school, or directors for administration of any public educational institution or during a school related activity. Sixteenth section land or lieu land without school facilities or school related activities are exempt from this Act.

Anyone convicted under this Act shall be recorded as being fined for a civil violation and not for a criminal violation. Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act 2000 HOUSE BILL 641

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FROM PARENTS

It is important for the school to have emergency contact information on file for each student. When this information changes, it is the parent's responsibility to notify and update their child's school emergency contact records. The notification forms are available at the school.

CONFERENCE WITH TEACHERS

In order for your child to receive maximum educational benefits, a close parent-teacher relationship is encouraged. Please contact the school's office to arrange a conference time for you, allowing at least one day's notice prior to the desired conference. For the safety of all students, parents are required to check in at the office to receive a visitor's pass upon arriving at school. Parent/Teacher conferences will be during planning or before/after school.

ASSIGNMENT TO SCHOOLS

The school board shall determine the attendance area, and each pupil whose parents or guardians reside in the area served by the Amite County School District must attend the school to which he/she is assigned. This assignment includes but is not limited to the students assigned high school within the ACSD inside the district's school boundaries. The Amite County School District accepts only students, who physically reside full-time, weekdays/nights and weekends, within the limits of the school district with the following exception: the child of an out-of-district school employee is eligible to attend school in the district, based on the mutual consent of the school boards.

Each student must have on file at his/her assigned school a verification of residency form as required by state law. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide the school district with at least two (2) proofs of residency documents as verification of their current and physical address at which their parent or legal guardian resides, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted. If the residence of a student changes during the school year, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to provide the school with at least two (2) proofs of residency documents of verification of the new address.

INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Requests for a student to attend a district school, other than the school the student is zoned to attend, must be submitted by the parent or legal guardian. The request must

be in writing, on a form supplied by the district, to the principal or designee of the receiving school. Requests will be considered on a space-available basis. Students must pre-register and complete final registration for the school in their assigned attendance area pending approval of a transfer request. Should the request be approved, the parents/guardians will be responsible for the student's transportation to and from school. If discipline, tardiness, or attendance becomes an issue, the student may be transferred back to the school he/she is zoned to attend. If building capacity is reached with attendance area residents, transfer students will be asked to return to their school of origin. No transfers will be allowed between Amite Central High School and West Amite High School.

Eligibility of Enrollment of Expelled/Suspended Students

A student who is expelled or suspended by another school district and who subsequently applies for admission to the Amite County Schools may not be eligible to enroll in any Amite County School until he/ she is provided proof of eligibility for readmission to and has physically attended classes in his/her previous school following suspension or expulsion.

ADDRESS CHANGE

It is a parent's responsibility to report any change of address or telephone number to the school office immediately. Failure to do so may result in a delay of emergency contact or important information being disseminated. A change form may be requested in the school office. Two proofs of residency must be submitted upon the change.

ASBESTOS POLICY

This is to inform all parents, students, and employees of the Amite County School District that all school buildings owned by the Amite County School District have been inspected for asbestos. A management plan has been developed and sent to the Mississippi Department of Education for its approval.

A copy of the results of the inspection, along with a copy of the management plan, can be found in the office of the Superintendent of Education, located at 533 Maggie Street Liberty, Ms. 39645.

SAFETY

The objective of the ACSD is to conduct all operations safely and efficiently. The district shall provide a safe and healthful school environment, free of recognized hazards that may endanger the health or safety of any student.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Activities may be monitored by video surveillance on campus and buses.

SCHOOL SAFETY ACT/STUDENT BEHAVIOR

This school district shall meet requirements established under the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001, which provides for the establishment of a School Safety Center by the Department of Education; a Safety Grant Program, available to eligible public-school districts; and a School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of Education.

The School Board of this district, with the assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis. (§37-3-83 (2), MS Code of 1972, amended)

The school district may annually apply for school safety grant funds subject to appropriations by the legislature. In order to be eligible for such program, the school board, if it desires to participate, shall apply to the State Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the

department and shall be required to establish a local School Safety Task Force to involve members of the community in the school safety effort.

This school district may use audio-visual-monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways, buildings, grounds and buses for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems on §37-3-83 (6), MS Code 1972, amended). Because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and confidentiality, only authorized personnel or law enforcement officials shall be permitted to view surveillance records. Due to this act, parents shall not have the right to view surveillance records.

In order to access the services of a response team established under the School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of Education, a request must be made by the school principal or the superintendent, who shall make the request to the State Department of Education or its contact designee. A response team shall enter a school to work with students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days, unless otherwise requested by the school district. The request made by the school district to access the services of a response team following a school safety incident may seek a review of the school district's safety plan, and the results of this evaluation may be published by the school board in a newspaper with wide circulation in the district.

The superintendent or school principals may request and utilize the services of quick response teams provided under the School Safety Law; however, school officials are not required to request the services of quick response teams.

Ref: §37-3-81, §37-3-83, §37-11, 54 MS Code of 1972, amended

BALLOONS, FLOWERS, GIFTS AND FOOD DELIVERY

Balloons, flowers, gifts and food delivered by restaurant delivery services sent to students will not be allowed in the classrooms or on the bus. These items will not be accepted in the office.

ATTENDANCE

Students' regular and punctual attendance to all classes is necessary for successful schoolwork and award of course credit. Even one instance of tardiness or one absence in a class may be detrimental to good schoolwork. Certainly, repeated tardiness and frequent absences cause students to become discouraged and often cause failure. It is, therefore, important that parents have their children in school on time every day that school is in session and only in unavoidable cases should a student be taken out of school before the close of the school day. Regular attendance will pay good dividends in the course of a school year. Amite County truancy officer will have access to all student attendance records.

Attendance Policy

To receive credit in a course, Mississippi law requires not only a passing grade in the course, but also a minimum amount of seat time. To receive credit, a student must attend each class a minimum of 41 class days during a one-half-credit course, 82 class days during a one-credit course, and 164 class days in two-credit course. On this basis, any student who is absent more than 4 absences in a one-half credit course, more than 8 absences in a one-credit course, and more than 16 absences in a two-credit course will be denied course credit, and the student will receive a grade of 50/No Credit.

- Allowed four (4) absences in a one-half credit class, excused or unexcused.
- Allowed eight (8) absences in a one-credit class, excused or unexcused.
- Allowed sixteen (16) absences in a two-credit class.

1. With block schedule now in effect, school attendance becomes an extremely important responsibility of the students and parents.

2. When a student misses his/her 2nd day in a one-half credit course or the 4th day in a one-credit course, students and parents will be notified in writing that they may not miss more than 4 days in a one-half credit course or 8 days in a one credit course. If a student misses more than the allotted days, the student may be dropped from the class, and 50/ No Credit (NC) will be given.
3. After loss of credit due to attendance, credit may be reinstated by a School-Level Attendance Committee after a review of documentation and/or after Credit Recovery is successfully completed. There will be a minimum of four hearing meetings during the school year to include one in each month in October, January, March, and May. The School-Level Attendance Committee will be composed of district and/or school-level, certified staff members. It is the student's and parent's responsibility to keep all documentation for their own records and to turn in original documentation to the school for any official documented absence(s). Parent notes that constitute a valid excuse for absence (see page 12, School Attendance Law) will be accepted. If the student and parents are not satisfied with the determination made by the School-Level Attendance Committee, they may file an appeal with the Amite County School Board. It will be at the discretion of the school board as to whether or not the appeal will be heard.
4. In order to be marked present in a class instead of a tardy, a student MUST NOT be more than five (5) minutes late to any class or checked out more than five (5) minutes before the end of any class.
5. It is the student's responsibility to initiate making up all work with his/her teacher. A student will receive a zero (0) on work not made up. Zeroes shall not be given to students who have been suspended or are awaiting Alternative School Placement/Behavior Modification.
6. Current documentation of chronic illness must be placed on file annually. With the permission of the principal, the homebound policy will be used in these documented cases.
7. Missing classes due to school trips will be governed as follows:
 - a. Students may miss classes a maximum of five (5) days per year.
 - b. Students must be passing all classes.
 - c. Students may not have more than sixteen (16) demerits.

Notifying the School of Absence(s)

When a student is absent from school, the parent/legal guardian is required to contact the school before 8:00 a.m. each day the student is absent. In order for the absence to be excused, a note from the parent/ guardian or a doctor's excuse must be submitted to the office within two days of the absence. In case of five (5) unexcused absences, the school will attempt to contact the parent. For this reason, it is imperative that the parent provides the school with a correct phone number.

CHECK OUT POLICY

Only the legal guardian or other person designated by the legal guardian may check a student out of school during school hours. A photo ID is required to verify identification. The person checking a student out is to report to the school office. Under no circumstances is a student to be taken out of school without official clearance. It is important that parents comply with the school's policy of preventing unauthorized removal of a student from school. The student's safety may well depend upon strict adherence to this policy.

According to the Mississippi Department of Education, a child must attend school a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction per day; **therefore, it is imperative that early**

checkouts be limited to emergency situations only. A calendar is provided in the front of this book to assist parents in making timely appointments. Students will not be allowed to check out 30 minutes prior to the end of school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

For the purposes of this subsection, a legitimate nonpublic school or legitimate home instruction program shall be those not operated or instituted for the purpose of avoiding or circumventing the compulsory attendance law.

An unlawful absence occurs when a compulsory-school-age child is absent from school without a valid excuse or without approval of temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an excused absence.

Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent of the school district or his designee:

- a. An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory-school-age child's attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his designee. These activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical competitions, and any similar activity.
- b. An absence is excused when it results from illness or injury that prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- c. The State Board of Health or appropriate school official excuses an absence when the county health officer orders isolation of a compulsory-school-age child.
- d. An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family members of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
- e. An absence is excused for a compulsory-school-age child's medical or dental appointment.
- f. An absence is excused when a compulsory-school-age child is required to attend the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- g. An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory-school-age child or the child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of the absence is within the discretion of the superintendent of the school district or his designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
- h. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or his designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel.
- i. Approval of the absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district or his designee before the absence, but the approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- j. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or his designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance. However, the school district superintendent or his designee shall not excuse absences when any student's suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her or who intentionally falsifies any information required to be contained in a certificate of enrollment, shall be

guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with §97-5-39.

Upon prosecution of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child for violation of this section, the presentation of evidence by the prosecutor that shows that the child has not been enrolled in school within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the public school which the child is eligible to attend, or that the child has accumulated twelve (12) unlawful absences during the school year at the public school in which the child has been enrolled, shall establish a prima facie case that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences and has refused or willfully failed to perform the duties imposed upon him or her. However, no proceeding under this section shall be brought against a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child unless the school attendance officer has promptly contacted the home of the child and has provided written notice to the parent, guardian or custodian of the requirement for the child's enrollment or attendance.

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the school that the child is eligible to attend or if the child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year of the public school in which the child is enrolled, the school district superintendent shall report the absences to the school attendance office within two (2) school days or within five (5) calendar days, whichever is fewer. The State Department of Education shall prescribe a uniform method for reporting the unlawful absences to the school attendance officer. The superintendent, or his designee, also shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur.

When a school attendance officer has made all attempts to secure enrollment and/or attendance of a compulsory-school-age child and is unable to affect the enrollment and/or attendance, the attendance officer shall file a petition with the youth court under §43-21-451 or shall file a petition in a court of competent jurisdiction as it pertains to parent or child. The youth court shall expedite a hearing to make an appropriate adjudication and a disposition to ensure compliance with the Compulsory School Attendance Law and may order the child to enroll or reenroll in school. The superintendent of the school district to which the child is ordered may assign in his or her discretion the child to the alternative school program of the school established pursuant to §37-13-92.

Any student absent for twenty (20) consecutive days will be dropped from the roll unless the legal guardian advises the principal that the student has a legitimate reason for extended absence. The principal will determine the course of action to be followed concerning a student's progress and placement following an extended absence.

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES OF CHILDREN:

Law enforcement officers shall be authorized to investigate all cases of nonattendance and unlawful absences of children. They shall file a petition with the youth court under MS Code §37-13-91, against a parent or child under the provisions of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Homeless students in the district will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that they have the opportunity to meet the same achievement standards to which all students are held. The district will provide written notification to parents concerning placement decisions. Parents have the right to appeal the decision at the school and district levels. The district will designate a liaison for students in homeless situations to carry out duties as

required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Any child, who is homeless, is eligible for free lunch/breakfast.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Students may be enrolled in the homebound program following the sixth consecutive day of absence that is a result of an illness, injury, or condition diagnosed by a physician, provided that all requirements for homebound enrollment are met. Parents are asked to contact the school principal to arrange for up to fifteen (15) days of homebound instruction. School board approval is needed for each period of fifteen (15) days of homebound instruction thereafter.

FOSTER CARE

The district will ensure that children in foster care remain in their schools of origin unless it is determined to be in the student's best interest to change schools. Should a school transfer become necessary, the district will coordinate with the receiving school to ensure enrollment without delay.

TARDINESS

An adequate amount of time has been allotted for students to get to class on time. Getting to class on time is the responsibility of each student.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER

If a student is to withdraw from school or transfer to another school, the student's legal guardian must come to the school and complete withdrawal documents. All fees to the school be cleared, and textbooks returned before the student is withdrawn. The student's cumulative record will be forwarded to the next school upon receipt of a request from the new school. Students wishing to participate in sporting events or related activities must meet the requirements of the Mississippi High School Activity Association.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Students transferring from another district into the Amite County School District must obtain a release form from the school district in which they reside. Approval must then be secured by the Amite County School District Superintendent with final approval by the Amite County School District School Board. Transfers are subject to tuition charge and availability of space.

TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM HOME SCHOOLS OR NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Pupils from non-accredited schools will not be accepted without examinations administered.

A non-accredited school shall be defined as a school that is not recognized by any of the following accreditation processes:

- a. A state accrediting agency
- b. Mississippi Independent School Association, or
- c. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or any sister affiliation of SACS.

The procedure for enrolling transfer students who were enrolled in a non-accredited school or in a correspondence school or who were receiving home schooling will be as follows:

- A. The student will be temporarily assigned during registration to grade level or subject indicated on report card, transfer papers, or written documentation from correspondence school, home school, or private tutor.
- B. Credit will be awarded according to the following criteria:
 - a. A student scoring between 85-100 on the End of Course Assessment will receive an 85/B for the course and will be awarded the credit.

- b. A student scoring between 65-84 on the End of Course Assessment will receive that numerical grade for the course and will be awarded credit.
- C. Students coming from non-accredited or home schools are required by district policy to enroll in the four (4) state tested classes and to be administered the corresponding state exams.

**TRADITIONAL PATHWAY DIPLOMA
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
24 CREDITS MINIMUM**

For students entering 9th grade from 2011-2012 SY

- 4 Credits of English (English 1 and English 2, plus 2 other English courses)
- 4 Credits of Math (Algebra I, plus 2 math credits higher than Algebra I)
- 4 Credits Science (One of these courses must be Biology. One course must be a Physical Science lab-based-type course; the allowable lab-based physical science courses are: Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, and AP Physics),
- 4 Credits of Social Studies (½ Credit Mississippi Studies and ½ Credit World Geography,
- 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit United States History, ½ Credit United States Government,
- ½ Credit Economics)
- ½ Credit Physical Education
- ½ Credit Health
- 1 Credit Business/Technology (Ex: STEM, ICT2, etc.)
- 1 Unit Fine Arts (Ex. Art, Band, Choir, etc.)
- 5 Elective Credits (Plus Electives)

**TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA
24 Credits**

For students entering 9th grade 2018-2020 and thereafter

- 4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
- 4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I)
- 3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I)
- 4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
- ½ Credit Physical Education
- ½ Credit Health
- 1 Credit Arts
- 1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
- 1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
- 5 Credits Electives

**TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA – CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT
26 Credits**

- 4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
- 4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I)
- 3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I)
- 4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
- ½ Credit Physical Education

- ½ Credit Health
- 1 Credit Arts
- 1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
- 1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
- 4 Credits CTE Electives-Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
- 3 Credits Electives

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
- Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
- Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA – ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
26 Credits

- 4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
- 4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I)
- 3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I)
- 4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
- ½ Credit Physical Education
- ½ Credit Health
- 1 Credit Arts
- 1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
- 1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
- 7 Credits Electives-Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHL's

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 in English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
- One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
- One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA – DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
28 Credits

- 4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
- 4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I)
- 4 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I)
- 4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
- ½ Credit Physical Education
- ½ Credit Health
- 1 Credit Arts
- 1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
- 1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
- 8 Credits Electives-Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHL's

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency sub-score.

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
- One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
- One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA
24 Credits

The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma. Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

- 4 Credits English (Alternate English Elements I-IV)
- 4 Credits Mathematics (Alternate Math Elements I-III and Alternate Algebra Elements)
- 2 Credits Science (Alternate Biology Elements and Alternate Science Elements)
- 2 Credits Social Studies (Alternate History Elements (Strands: US History and World History) and Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and US Government))
- ½ Credit Physical Education
- ½ Credit Health (Alternate Health Elements)
- 1 Credit Arts
- 4 Credits Career Readiness (Career Readiness I-IV)
- 4 Credits Life Skills Development (Life Skills Development I-IV)
- 2 Credits Electives

Additional Requirements:

- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, MAAP-A, and achieve a minimum score or higher to be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Changes to Endorsement

Changes to a diploma endorsement selection can be made by making an appointment with the student's counselor. Changes require the parent signature.

Early Exit Diploma (for students entering 9th grade prior to 2018-2020)

The Amite County School Districts strives to meet the needs of all students. College and Career Ready is the utmost importance. In accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's Accountability Standards, students may elect to exercise the option of "Early Exit." Students must successfully complete one of the approved graduation tracks and meet the College and Career Readiness Standards. These standards require an ACT sub score of the following:

Mathematics-22 English-18 Reading-22 Science-23

Those students who choose the Early Exit Diploma track and wish to exit in December will be awarded their diploma and forgo their opportunity to participate in graduation exercises.

Students are responsible for providing documentation from ACT containing these scores by the end of the 3rd term of the desired graduation year. ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET. (Please see Honor Graduate Requirements)

Early Release Eligibility

For students entering high school in 2018-19 and later to be eligible for early release during the student's senior year, students must have met the following:

- Mississippi IHL College Readiness Benchmarks⁸ (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math OR
- Silver level on the ACT Work Keys.
- SAT equivalency sub scores

Alternatively, a student must meet ALL the following:

- 2.5 GPA AND
- Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation AND
- Be on track to meet diploma requirements AND
- Be concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

GRADUATION REGALIA

Stoles that may be worn are high school issued with cap and gown, honors/high honors and National Honor Society. Medals that may be worn are high school issued with cap and gown, Tech Master Scholars, Mississippi Scholars, perfect ACT score, and valedictorian/salutatorian. Other national honor societies will wear cords. Clubs may wear pins or medals.

In addition, a student winning a State Championship for any varsity sport governed by MHSAA, or achieving first place in Skills USA, Career Technical organizations, or any other approved clubs/organizations while representing a high school in the Amite County School District, may wear their medal at the graduation ceremony. The student may wear only one medal per sport, club, and/or organizations. Caps may not be decorated.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Grade classification will be updated only at the beginning of the school year.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Grade classification will be updated only at the beginning of the school year.

Freshman-	Successfully complete 8 th grade
Sophomore-	Six (6) Credits
Junior-	Twelve (12) Credits*
Senior-	Eighteen (18) Credits**

*Entering 11th year of school (excluding Kindergarten)

**Entering 12th year of school (excluding Kindergarten)

STUDENT COURSE LOAD

Twelve (12) units should be in the areas of English, Math, Science, Business Education, Social Studies or Languages. All students in the Amite County School District will adhere to the following minimum student load and attend high school for a minimum of 4 years:

9th graders will take at least eight (8) credits

10th graders will take at least eight (8) credits*

11th graders will take at least eight (8) credits

12th graders will take at least two (2) academic credits per semester

* With the exception of Career Pathway Exp. students

Regardless of the number of credits taken, only seniors are allowed early dismissal. Credit at the end of the first term will not be awarded for a full credit course. The entire course must be satisfactorily completed to receive credit.

Students may not enroll for credit after the 8th day of school or after the 8th absence during transfer from another school. Students enrolling for a term class must enroll before the end of the 4th day of the term in order to receive credit. Students may not add a one-credit course after the 4th day of school or add term courses after the 4th day of the term. These restrictions do not apply to students who are transferring into the school from another public-school system.

Seniors who complete graduation requirements at the end of the summer school will be awarded a diploma at that time.

COURSES MAY NOT BE RETAKEN TO IMPROVE QUALITY POINT AVERAGE.

To reap the most from their work, student must plan their programs of study. Counselors are available to assist with this planning.

A **term** is a 9-week period. There are 4 terms in a school year. A **semester** is an 18-week period. There are 2 semesters in a school year. One semester consists of two terms.

GRADING SCALE

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
65 - 69	D
0 - 64	F

There will be no reassignment or reassessment of letter grades issued before the implementation date (8/1/2008) of this grading scale.

Report cards are issued each nine (9) weeks and will be sent home on the second Monday of the week after the nine weeks tests. Report cards at each school possess

unique watermarks that cannot be duplicated. Please look for the watermark to verify that you have received an original report card. If you have questions about the authenticity of your child's report card, please call the school. (Refer to school calendar for exact dates.) A child must be enrolled at least seven (7) days during a nine weeks period in order to receive a progress report or report card.

On the Wednesday following the 3rd Friday of the term, a failure notice will be issued to all students who are failing. The progress report will be sent to the parent in order to provide ample time for the parent to contact the teacher about the situation.

GRADING

A student's nine-week average will be determined using the following criteria:

1. Daily work, including homework, recitations, reports, etc. will represent 2/5 of the total average.
2. Weekly or chapter tests will represent 2/5 of the total average.
3. The nine weeks exam will represent 1/5 of the total average.

50/NC (No Credit) or less will be placed on permanent records and grade sheets for the courses where a student has lost credit due to:

- a. Excessive absences
- b. Dropping out
- c. Dropping a class after the 5 days allowed
- d. Expulsion

ONLINE GRADING SYSTEM

The Amite County School District has converted to the web-based student package SAMs Active Resources; each school will send parent letters with instructions on how to log in to the website to view student's grades.

Standard - GPA

The **Standard** Grade Point averages will be based on a **Standard** 4.0 and will be unaffected by Quality Points. The **Standard** Grade Point averages will continue to be recorded as academic achievement on a student's high school transcript. This change will align with the scale used by colleges and universities.

Class Rank-QPA

The Quality-Point Average shall be used to determine **rank-in-class** of graduating seniors. The student's rank shall be recorded on the student's permanent record. Class rank is computed on the basis of Quality Points, rather than on Grade-Point average and projects a more accurate profile of academic performance. It is also designed to encourage more students to enroll in challenging courses. Students in advanced courses earn additional Quality Points directly proportionate to regular courses. In this way, those students in courses of average academic difficulty set the 4.0 norms. In the event of a tie using Quality Points in the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian, the average will be carried out to three places. The student's rank shall be recorded on the student's permanent record. **COURSES MAY NOT BE RETAKEN TO IMPROVE QUALITY POINT AVERAGE.**

A student's **Standard** Grade Point Average (GPA) and Quality Point Average (QPA) shall be computed at the end of the fourth nine-week grading period of the student's senior year. In computing Grade-Point Average and Quality Point Average, drop all but the highest grade if a course is failed and repeated. All courses, even those that are failed, will be recorded on the grade sheets and permanent record.

HONOR GRADUATES

High Honors.....3.5 QPA or above

Entering 9th graders 2014-2015 and thereafter must acquire 5 E-2 credits plus 28 credits to meet high honors graduate requirements or complete Collegiate Academy.

Honors..... 3.0 - 3.4999 QPA

Entering 9th graders 2014-2015 and thereafter must acquire 4 E-2 credits to meet honors graduate requirements or complete Collegiate Academy.

CoreRequired credits plus electives totaling 24 units

HONOR GRADUATES

Entering 9th graders 2018-2020 and thereafter

High Honors

Must meet all Distinguished Academic Endorsement requirements

Minimum GPA 3.0 and minimum QPA 3.5

Earn 5 E-2 credits or complete Collegiate Academy (Must meet IHL College Preparatory Curriculum, CPC, requirements)

Honors

Must meet all Distinguished Academic Endorsement requirements

Minimum GPA 3.0 and Minimum QPA 3.0

Earn 4 E-2 credits or complete Collegiate Academy (Must meet IHL College Preparatory Curriculum, CPC, requirements)

Students seeking valedictorian or salutatorian must meet the requirements of High Honors.

Please Note: The designation of High Honor Students and Honor Students is officially determined after the Final Rank-QPA is calculated.

Students seeking valedictorian, salutatorian, or high honors status at graduation must meet the requirements of the high honors. Students who wish to graduate with honors must meet the requirements of the honors.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian: Highest scholastic average through the progress report grade of the last nine (9) weeks of the school year.

Salutatorian: Second highest scholastic average through the progress report grade of the last nine (9) weeks of the school year. The principal or his designee will determine the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. To qualify as Valedictorian or Salutatorian, the student must have been enrolled at this school the last three (3) semesters. Grades/credits earned through home schooling and non-accredited schools will not count towards Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Students, who transfer from an accredited high school with AP, Accelerated, or Honors courses, will be issued the weighted value as listed in the E1 or E2 course and be used in calculation for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

REGULAR COURSES

If a course is not classified as either an E1 or an E2 class, then it shall be weighted as a regular course. Courses scheduled outside of the Amite County School District curriculum (correspondence courses, MVPS classes, etc.) shall be awarded regular course status. This does not apply to Dual Credit, please see Dual Credit listings.

WEIGHTED COURSES:

E1 COURSES

Accelerated Biology	
Accelerated Geometry	English I Accelerated
Accounting II	English II Accelerated
Algebra I Accelerated (9-12)	Foreign Language II
Algebra II Accelerated	Genetics
Computer Engineering II	Human A & P
Chemistry	IT Essentials II
Marine and Aquatic Science	
Zoology	

E2 COURSES

Advanced Math Plus	Foreign Language III
Algebra III	Foreign Language IV
Calculus	Physics
Engineering/Robotics II	* Dual-Credit Courses offered on campus
All AP (Advanced Placement courses)	

All Field Experience courses will be weighted the same as the course it accompanies

***Dual Credit courses offered on campus will be offered as E-2 courses when taken on the high school campus or off campus. Dual Credit courses not offered on our campus and taken off the high school campus will be regularly weighted.**

AP and Dual Credit fees will be paid the first week of class. The student will be rescheduled into another course if failure to pay fees.

Career/Technical Education Programs:

Students who complete a two-year career/technical program and have a Y1 and Y2 exam average in the 80th percentile or higher on the Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System (MS-CPAS) exam or score in the 70th percentile average or higher on the National NCCER exam will be awarded two (2) E2 credits for their Year 2 program.

RANK- QUALITY POINT EQUIVALENCY SCALE (RANK-QPA)

4.0 A	E2 Weight	E1 Weight	Regular Weight
100	5.0	4.5	4.0
99	4.9	4.4	3.9
98	4.8	4.3	3.8
97	4.7	4.2	3.7
96	4.6	4.1	3.6
95	4.5	4.0	3.5
94	4.4	3.9	3.4
93	4.3	3.8	3.3
92	4.2	3.7	3.2
91	4.1	3.6	3.1
90	4.0	3.5	3.0
3.0 B	E2 Weight	E1 Weight	Regular Weight
89	3.9	3.4	2.9
88	3.8	3.3	2.8
87	3.7	3.2	2.7
86	3.6	3.1	2.6
85	3.5	3.0	2.5

84	3.4	2.9	2.4
83	3.3	2.8	2.3
82	3.2	2.7	2.2
81	3.1	2.6	2.1
80	3.0	2.5	2.0
2.0 C	E2 Weight	E1 Weight	Regular Weight
79	2.9	2.4	1.9
78	2.8	2.3	1.8
77	2.7	2.2	1.7
76	2.6	2.1	1.6
75	2.5	2.0	1.5
74	2.4	1.9	1.4
73	2.3	1.8	1.3
72	2.2	1.7	1.2
71	2.1	1.6	1.1
70	2.0	1.5	1.0
1.0 D	E2 Weight	E1 Weight	Regular Weight
69	1.9	1.4	.9
68	1.8	1.3	.8
67	1.7	1.2	.7
66	1.6	1.1	.6
65	1.5	1.0	.5
*DC64	1.4		
*DC63	1.3		
*DC62	1.2		
*DC61	1.1		
*DC60	1.0		

All Dual Credit Courses:

Dual credit course QPA (Rank-QPA) for scores not listed in the rank-quality point equivalency scale chart below will be the same as those in place at the host institution.

STANDARD-GRADE POINT EQUIVALENCY SCALE (STANDARD-GPA)

A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0

HONOR ROLL

Students meeting the following requirements will be listed as an Honor Roll student.

Grades must be made in all subjects taken.

High Honor Roll – 90 and above

Honor Roll – 80 and above.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions from end of course exams will be granted to all students on the following basis. Students with grades ranging from 65-79 must have perfect attendance to be exempt. Students with grades ranging from 80-89 are allowed one (1) excused absence. Students with grades ranging from 90-100 are allowed two (2) excused absences. Students who qualify for the exemption may take the exam, and the grade

received on the exam will be computed only if it improves the students' final average. Exemptions are not applicable to dual credit classes.

To be counted present, a student must NOT be more than 5 minutes late or check out more than 5 minutes before the end of class. Students will not be penalized for school-related absences. All others will NOT be considered.

In order to receive exemption status, the student must be in attendance the day of the exam for each class in which he/she is enrolled. No excused or unexcused absences will be allowed on exam days. **An exemption is an exam exemption, not an attendance exemption.** Exempt students who are absent on exam day will be required to take the exam when he/she returns to school or receive a zero for the exam. The only exception to this is for seniors during term 4 (T4) exemptions in May.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/DROPPING CLASSES

During registration, students are carefully counseled on their schedule for each year. Students are encouraged to discuss their schedule with their parents. This is done to prevent conflicts in the needs of each student. Therefore, students will not be allowed to change their schedules except in extreme emergencies. Schedule changes will be determined and made by the principal's office.

Students have a maximum time of five (5) days to drop a class without receiving a 50N/C. No classes will be changed after the first five (5) days of a course. When a student registers for a class, he/she will remain in that class. Students will not be allowed to drop a class just because they are failing. Seniors will not be allowed to drop classes to come to school late or leave early.

Students are responsible for notifying teachers of any schedule change(s).

CREDIT RECOVERY

The purpose of Credit Recovery is to permit those students in grades 9 -12 enrolled in a school within the Amite County School District who are significantly behind in their accumulation of credits the opportunity to recover credits through on-line instruction. Credit recovery is defined as the successful completion of coursework not completed during the school year, for which the student received a failing grade offered through on-line instruction. Students must be enrolled in and have at least five (5) credits before they will be permitted to recover credit. More than one course (semester) may be taken during the school year, but only one course may be taken at a time; that is, before the student may enroll for a second credit recovery course, the first credit recovery course must be completed. A minimum of ten (10) hours must be completed in the online course and not to exceed twenty (20) for a half-credit course and a minimum of twenty (20) hours must be completed and not to exceed forty (40) for a whole credit class. Since summer school is an extension of the school year, expelled students are not eligible for credit recovery courses.

All testing associated with on-line instruction is conducted in the presence of instructional personnel designated by the school principal. Courses taken for the purpose of credit recovery must be successfully completed by April 30 of the current year. The failing grade that a student receives for the class being recovered will be replaced with a 65.

There is a fee of 240.00 charged per Carnegie unit of instruction for credit recovery classes (\$120.00 for half-credit courses). Refunds are not permitted once the student begins on-line instruction.

Students are limited to three (3) credit recovery classes during their high school career. Students are allowed two (2) absences in a half-credit class and four (4) absences in a whole credit class. Students are not allowed to enroll in the credit recovery class if

he/she has exceeded the attendance policy in a class, e.g., more than eight (8) absences in a one half-credit class and sixteen (16) absences in a whole credit class. The principal has the discretion to waive these restrictions.

SUMMER SCHOOL/EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

Students will be allowed to enroll annually in one course offered for credit. **No student will be allowed to take a required course early.** A maximum of four (4) units earned in summer school may be counted toward graduation requirements.

Course Extension Program (CEP) is available for students who have completed a course but did not receive credit. English II, Algebra I, Biology I and US History may be taken in CEP only if the state required exam has been passed. CEP may be used to recover a maximum of three (3) Carnegie units.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The dual-enrollment program allows high school students to earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public institution of higher learning while still in high school. Dually enrolled classes do not count toward the high school diploma. Eligibility requirements are available in the school counselor's office.

DUAL CREDIT

The Dual Credit program allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a regionally accredited college or university that will also count as a credit toward a high school diploma. No Dual Credit courses will be offered that are tied to a required End of Course Test (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History). Seniors taking a Dual Credit course for graduation must have the grade in at least one (1) week before graduation. Eligibility requirements are available in the school counselor's office. Dual Credit courses offered on campus will be offered as E-2 courses when taken on the high school campus or off campus. Dual Credit courses not offered on our campus and taken off the high school campus will be regularly weighted.

MISSISSIPPI VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (MVPS) and Mississippi Department of Education approved online courses

MVPS is a web-based educational service offered by the Mississippi Department of Education to provide Mississippi students and educators with access to a wider range of course work, more flexibility in scheduling, and the opportunity to develop their capacities as independent learners. Students in grades 9-12 have access to the program, but priority is given to juniors and seniors. No online courses will be offered that are tied to a Subject Area Test (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, or U.S. History).

In the Amite County School District, students may take only:

- Three (3) Carnegie units from MVPS or MDE approved online courses
- Two (2) MVPS units when combined with one (1) correspondence Carnegie unit.

The Amite County School District guidelines for enrolling in a Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS) Course and/or MDE approved online course

1. Students must have GPA of 2.5 or higher to enroll in a regular online course.
2. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to enroll in an AP online course.
3. Students must follow all policies and guidelines as set forth for each course by MVPS and/or district policy for MDE approved online courses.
4. Students must have a working computer and the appropriate software at home before signing up for a course; specifications for each course may be accessed online at www.mvps.mde.k12.ms.us. Students who do not have adequate technology will not be successful in an MVPS course or online course.
5. Students are solely responsible for arranging to take the supervised examinations with the Career Center or the site coordinator.

6. Seniors taking a MVPS course or online course for graduation must have the grade in five (5) weeks before graduation.
7. MVPS and online courses are weighted as regular courses.
8. The school counselor must approve all MVPS and online courses.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Principal's permission is required to take a correspondence course. Students may earn only one Carnegie unit by correspondence toward their diplomas. **No student will be allowed to take a required course early.** All correspondence courses are weighted as regular courses. No correspondence courses will be offered that are tied to a Subject Area Test (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, or U.S. History). Seniors taking a correspondence course for graduation must have the grade in five (5) weeks before graduation. Consult the counselor for details.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students must acquaint themselves with the deadlines for the ACT or SAT. Colleges have deadlines for applying for admission and financial aid. It is essential that college-bound seniors test early enough to meet these deadlines. The counselors will make every effort to furnish students with all information. However, it is the students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with each school's admissions policies and procedures.

Some out-of-state colleges and universities require the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Counselors have information and application for these tests. It is the responsibility of the student to register for the test.

The American College Test (ACT) is required of all students who will attend a state-supported institution. The ACT is given in October, December, February, April, and June for a fee.

The P.S.A.T. National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is given and is available to first semester juniors for a fee.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

1. Special Education – The Amite County School District offers Special Education Services to those students who qualify. If you feel your child qualifies for these services, contact the principal at your child's school.
2. Health Services – District nurses provide school-based clinics at each of the schools on a regular basis.
3. Counseling Service – Counseling services are available through the district elementary guidance counselor/social worker. The counselor/social worker is available to students with special problems.
4. Title IV – Title IV addresses various issues of well-rounded education, safe and secure schools and the use of technology. Title IV is subject to appropriation and is not guaranteed each year.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study guides, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel he/she would like to discuss with the counselor. School counselors are concerned with helping students adjust to conditions and to plan for the future with regard for special interests, abilities, and needs. This will include selecting courses of study, improving traits of personality, and suggestions on how best to study.

Students are urged to seek assistance from the teachers and the counselor with any problem. It is especially important for students to feel free to approach the principal or assistant principal at any time.

Each university and scholarship have a different deadline for submission of information. Students should begin early with the paperwork so they will meet all deadlines. Seniors will receive two (2) transcripts free of charge. Subsequent transcripts are \$1.00 each.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM (EL)

Philosophy

The Amite County School District recognizes the need and the requirement to provide EL (English Learner) students with linguistic and academic instruction and support services to develop English language proficiency such that, over time, they progress through school at a rate commensurate with their native-English speaking peers. To ensure educational efforts are consistent district-wide, the following requirements will be met:

- Language minority children are entitled to attend school, regardless of their ability to produce a birth certificate, social security number, or immigration documents. (Enrollment in Amite County schools is dependent upon two kinds of information: proof of residency in the district and proof of the required vaccinations.)
- Language minority children will be placed within one year of their age–appropriate grade level.
- Language minority children will not fail a subject or be retained in a grade because they do not speak English.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The ESSA builds upon the critical work States and local educational agencies (LEAs) have implemented over the last few years. The reauthorized law sets high standards and contains policies that will help prepare all students for success in college and future careers. It prioritizes excellence and equity and recognizes the importance of supporting great educators in our nation's schools.

MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT CARD

The Mississippi State Report Cards contain the accountability grades and information about school and district performance on statewide assessments, the graduation rate (for high schools and districts) and teacher qualifications. These report cards are made for the state, district and individual schools. They are located on the Mississippi Department of Education's Website and will be linked to Amite County School District's website when they are available.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports integrates Response to Intervention (RtI) for academics and RtI for behavior into a unified model that recognizes the reciprocal influence academic performance and social/emotional/behavior have on each other. The goals of the MTSS are to be prevention oriented by knowing which students need support and implementing supports as early as possible each school year. Interventions will be evidence-based and targeted to the student's needs. Progress monitoring data will be used to know when to make changes in instruction.

The Mississippi Department of Education shall require every school district to follow the instructional model which consists of three tiers of instruction.

Tier I: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi College and Career

- Readiness State Standards and Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks.
- Tier II: Focused supplemental instruction
 - Tier III: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

If strategies at Tier I and Tier II are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Multi-Tiered System of Support. On those occasions that the Multi-Tiered System of Support interventions are not successful, the procedures for assisting students considered at-risk of academic failure will be followed. This committee will recommend improvements and/or forward the referral to the Multi-Disciplinary Evaluation Team (MET). This Board of Education approved procedure is provided to principals, who chair the Multi-Tiered System of Support and is published in the *District Policies and Procedures Manual*.

It is the policy of the Amite County School District that the referral of a student to the MET begins the state of Mississippi's process for determining the eligibility of a student for special services. Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students should be considered only after appropriate instructional variations and interventions have been implemented in the regular classroom and if the student continues to be "at risk," or if the student is obviously disabled.

PHOTO VIDEO RELEASE

Amite County School District reserves the right to film or photograph students, unless otherwise directed by parent. News media must obtain permission from the superintendent before interviewing, photographing or filming students or personnel.

TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS

Amite County School District provides textbooks free of charge to students. It is the duty of each student to care for the textbooks to the best of his/her ability. Students who lose or damage textbooks are required to pay for them. Students should take pride in the upkeep of their textbooks. Teachers are instructed to assess fines for amounts up to the current value of a book when it is obvious that the student has damaged or defaced the book.

Workbooks approved by the principal and teachers, as supplements to the textbooks, are to be furnished by the parent or guardian.

1. Only students who pay or whose parents sign an agreement to pay for workbooks will be issued workbooks.
2. Teachers will be expected to pay for workbooks issued for which the student has not paid.
3. The school will order no workbooks until teachers have turned in the money for the number of books ordered.

LIBRARY

The school library contains many volumes of books carefully selected by teachers and the librarian for general reading and reference work. The library also receives daily newspapers, current magazines, and other periodicals that are helpful to students in successfully preparing for daily lessons, and in keeping abreast of current news and information. Students are encouraged to confer with the librarian regarding books and materials available and supplies needed to supplement the textbooks to use in preparing daily assignments. Certain rules and regulations are set by the librarian relative to checking books out, care of books, book fines, conduct, etc.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Programs: All schools within The Amite County School District (ACSD) participate in the USDA School Breakfast Program and The National School Lunch Program. Eligible schools also participate in optional programs such as the After-School Snack

Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and Summer Feeding Programs. Contact your school office for optional program participation.

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits:

All students receive free breakfast and lunch.

Meal Prices for Adults & Visitors

Breakfast \$2.25

Lunch \$3.75

WELLNESS POLICY: The ACSD Board of Trustees has enacted a Wellness Policy to meet the health needs of our students and to comply with guidelines determined by the Mississippi Department of Education and the State Legislature. Restrictions are set on food and beverage items that may be brought onto campus. Parents that would like to offer suggestions are encouraged to join a School Wellness Council. For more information on this School Board Policy, please visit the ACSD website or request a copy from your school office.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DISCIPLINE

STUDENT CONDUCT-DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001, this school district shall adhere to requirements governing student conduct.

1) For the purpose of this section:

a) The term "disruptive behavior" refers to such actions of a student that is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles, or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees, defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher, and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.

b) The term "habitually disruptive" refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willfully and overtly, on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. However, no student shall be considered to be habitually disruptive before a behavior modification plan is developed for the student in accordance with the code of conduct and discipline plans if the school district.

2) Every behavior modification plan written pursuant to this section must be developed by utilizing evidence-based practices and positive behavioral intervention supports. The plan must be implemented no later than two weeks after the occurrence of the disruptive behavior.

3) Any student, thirteen (13) years of age or older, who does not comply with a behavior modification plan developed for him/her by the school principal, reporting teacher, and student's parent shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year. After the second act of disruptive behavior during a school year, by a student who is younger than thirteen (13) years of age, a psychological evaluation shall be performed upon the child. Ref: MS Code §37-11-181 (2015)

CODE OF CONDUCT-STUDENTS

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001 (Section 37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended), this School Board shall adopt and make available to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians at the beginning of each school year, a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians. The code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school board and shall be made available at the school level in the student handbook or similar publication.

The code shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Specific grounds for disciplinary action under the school district's discipline plan, procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including suspension and expulsion, which comply with due process requirements
- (b) An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities
- (c) Policies and procedures recognizing the teacher as the authority in classroom matters and supporting that teacher in any decision in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct; such recognition shall include the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, and send the student to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind has been held with the parent, guardian, or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed, and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the student may not be removed from the classroom, and the principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his/her disapproval.
- (d) Policies and procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at a school-related activity
- (e) Procedures for the development of behavior modification plans by the school principal, reporting teacher, and student's parent for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year
- (f) Policies and procedures specifically concerning gang-related activities in the school, on school property or vehicles; or at school-related activities.

Ref: §37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PLAN

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001 MS Code §37-11-53 (1972), amended, the following requirements shall be met by this school district:

1) A copy of the school district's discipline plan shall be distributed to each student enrolled in the district, and the parents, guardian, or custodian of each student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of the district. The school board shall have its official discipline and code of student conduct legally audited on an annual basis to ensure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law, and state and federal constitutional provisions. As part of the first legal audit occurring after July 1, 2001, the provisions of §37-11-55 and 37-11-18.1, 2001 Regular Session, shall be fully incorporated into the school district's discipline plan and code of student conduct.

2) The discipline plan of the schools of this district shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public-school district shall be responsible financially for his/her minor child's disruptive acts against school property or persons;
- (b) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in public school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child;
- (c) any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference; and
- (d) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public-school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses or at any school-related activity.

3) Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be charged a fine not to exceed \$250.00.

4) The school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6) years who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to the school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of school child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall be in addition to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

5) The School District's discipline plan may provide that as an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the reporting teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian, or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline policies of the school district.

The Mississippi School Safety Act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001. Ref: MS Code §37-3-81;§37-3-83;§37-11-54; §37-11-55; §37-11-53, (1972), amended.

In the education process, good discipline must be maintained. The school that fails to recognize the problem fails to meet the responsibility of this important phase of the education process. There is little or no learning when pupils are permitted to waste their own time and that of other pupils. Discipline should have the qualities of understanding, consistency, fairness, and firmness. Consideration should be given to the cause, nature, condition and frequency of misconduct. The small routine instances of misconduct inherent in every classroom are the responsibility of the teacher. Their

cause and treatment should be fully investigated through faculty meetings and workshops where ideas may be freely exchanged to reach the best solutions for correction and prevention.

When unacceptable behavior becomes chronic and cannot be corrected by using lesser punishments or resources available to the schools, school board approved disciplinary options may be used as final efforts to influence the student's behavior.

INTIMIDATIONS/THREATS/HARASSMENT

Intimidation, threatening or coercion of students, is prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten or coerce, whether by illegal threats of force or by the distribution of intimidating, threatening or coercive material, any person enrolled in any school for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to attend school classes or causing him not to attend such classes.

Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00, imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) years who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court. Ref: MS Code §37-11—20 (1972)

BULLYING

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written communication, electronic or verbal, or any physical act of any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus that:

- Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

No student or school employee shall be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by school employees or students. No person shall engage in an act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying. A student who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying should report the incident to the appropriate school official. Bullying should be reported as soon as possible.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of harassment or bullying shall be unique to the individual incident. The consequences will vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. They must be consistent with the Board of Education's approved code of student conduct. Ref: MS Code §37-11-67 (1972).

GANG/GROUP ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION

Gangs or groups that initiate, advocate, or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or that disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. Students who wear, carry, or display gang/group paraphernalia or exhibit behavior or gestures that symbolize gang membership and/or participate in activities that intimidate or affect the attendance of another person will not be tolerated and shall be subject to appropriate action. This behavior includes but is not limited to the use of hand signals, graffiti on clothes, person, and notebooks, grooming (including hair and eyebrows), which by virtue of its color arrangement, trademark, or symbol, implies an affiliation with such a group.

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

As directed by MS Code, §37-11-29 (2001), the following policy is enacted in the Amite County School District.

Any principal who has knowledge of any unlawful activity that occurred on educational property on or during a school related activity or that may have occurred shall report such activity to the superintendent of the school district or his designee, who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials as required by this section. In the event that the superintendent or his designee is unavailable, any principal may make a report required under this subsection.

The superintendent will notify youth courts and local law enforcement agencies of expulsions and crimes committed on school property or during school related events. Further, school officials and employees are required by law to report criminal activity of students to a law enforcement agency. Students may be subject to school discipline policies as well as arrest by law enforcement officials.

1. Any teacher or other school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity or violent acts which occurred or may have occurred on an educational property during a school-related activity is required by law to report such activity or acts to the principal or the school who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement official.
2. The superintendent shall notify, in writing, the parent, guardian, or custodian, the youth court, and local law enforcement of any expulsion of a student for unlawful activity as defined in MS Code §37-11-29. §37-11-29, which defines unlawful activity as any crime other than ordinary traffic violations involving a penalty of less than \$50.00 and costs.
3. The superintendent shall notify the youth court and local law enforcement agencies, by affidavit, of the occurrence of any unlawful activity as defined by Section 37-11-29.
4. When the principal has a reasonable belief that an act has occurred on educational property or during a school related activity involving assault resulting in serious physical injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law, the principal shall immediately report the act to the appropriate local enforcement agency. School property shall include any public-school building, bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, or athletic field in the charge of the principal.
5. Any superintendent, principal, teacher, or other school personnel participating in making a report as a result of this policy or participating in any judicial proceeding resulting from this policy shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and as a result shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

“UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY” SHALL MEAN:

- a. Aggravated assault, including but not limited to:
 - Assault resulting in serious physical injury or
 - Assault involving use of a weapon
- b. Assault on a school employee, simple or aggravated
- c. Indecent liberties with a minor
- d. Possession of a firearm or other weapon
- e. Possession, use or sale of any controlled substance
- f. Rape
- g. Sexual battery
- h. Other sexual offenses
- i. Murder or other homicide
- j. Kidnapping

- k. Other violent acts, such as fighting

WEAPONS

The Amite County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors, and guests. Because of such dangers, the board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, explosive devices (including fireworks) or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms, or weapons.

EXPLOSIVES/FALSE REPORTING

It shall be unlawful for any person to report to another by any means, including telephone, mail, e-mail, mobile phone, fax or any means of communication, that a bomb or other explosive or chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction has been, or is to be, placed or secreted in any public or private place, knowing that such report is false. Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or shall be committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than ten years, or both. MS Code §97-37-21 (1972).

NON SCHOOL RELATED CONDUCT

The school district shall have the authority to suspend, expel, or change the placement of students for misconduct that occurs off school property or at activities other than school-sponsored events.

The local school board shall have the authority to expel a pupil or to change placement to an alternative school or a home bound program for misconduct in the school, on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event, or for misconduct on property other than school property or other than at a school related event when such conduct, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders the pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the education environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Disciplinary actions and procedures are to be conducted in accordance with applicable statutes and in accordance with memoranda, bulletins, or notices published and distributed by the Superintendent and are subject, in particular, to the following controlling principles:

1. An accumulation of twelve (12) or more demerits shall result in a letter, phone, or personal conference between the parent(s) and principal.
2. An accumulation of sixteen (16) or more demerits shall result in the student being assigned one (1) day of suspension.
3. An accumulation of 24 demerits shall result in the student being assigned two (2) days of suspension.
4. An accumulation of 36 demerits may result in the student being assigned three days of out-of-school suspension or an administrative hearing before a discipline committee. The committee will consist of three teachers, one guidance counselor, and the principal or an assistant principal. A county office administrative director or his/her representative may be substituted for a teacher. The committee will make a recommendation of probation or a district disciplinary hearing.

The principal may, at his/her discretion, with just cause, suspend or recommend expulsion of a student with or without an accumulation of demerits.

Demerits will be assigned as follows:

OFFENSE	DEMERITS
1. Behavior unbecoming of a student	
• Breaking lunch line	4
• Cheating/plagiarism	8
• Any student discovered receiving or giving aid on an examination will be subject to the following policy: 1) parent notified 2) a zero will be posted for that work, and 3) eight demerits will be issued.	
• Dress code violation	2-6
• Gambling	6-12
• Improper gesture	2-16
• Improper physical contact	6-16
• Improper physical contact of a sexual nature	24-36
• Inciting	4-24
• Indecent exposure	6-36
• Misconduct and/or disruption	2-16
• Technology violation	6-36
2. Harassment (verbal/written)	12-36
3. Bullying	36*
4. Disobedience to teacher and/or staff	4-16
5. Displaying obscene statements/decals on campus or at school events	6-12
6. Disrespectful to other students	1-4
7. Disrespectful to teacher and/or staff	4-12
8. Drugs: Illegal, prescription, and/or alcohol (possession, sale/distribution, and/or use)	36*
9. Drugs: Possession of unauthorized chemicals (over-the-counter drugs and/or paraphernalia)	6-36
10. Electronic equipment use during school hours, all personal electronic equipment will be turned off and put away, not to be visible in anyway. The only exception will be when meeting the BYOD policy agreement. Students violating the policy will receive a referral to the office and receive 12 demerits for each violation. However, if an electronic device disrupts class the students will receive 14 demerits.	6-14
11. Fighting (more than one on one)	12-36
12. Fighting (one on one)	12-36
13. Fighting on school bus (see student transportation)	
14. Fighting with physical injury	36*
15. Gang-related activity (displays, gestures, etc.)	4-36
16. Illegal check-out/check-in	4
17. Illegal use of lunch number (cost of meal and demerits)	6
18. Improper driving on campus	1-8
19. Intimidations/threats	6-36
20. Leaving campus without permission	8-16
21. Misconduct on school bus (see student transportation)	
22. Off-limits	4
23. On campus, but not in class	8
24. Pornographic content (possession)	6-36

25. Profanity directed to student	2-6
26. Profanity directed to teacher and/or staff	4-18
27. Profanity- use of	2-6
28. Sexual Harassment	6-36
29. Skipping school	12
30. State testing violation (disruption or misconduct of any kind during state testing)	36*
31. Striking/threatening a teacher and/or staff – intentional	36*
32. Striking/threatening a teacher and/or staff - unintentional	6-16
33. Strong-arm tactics (monies and other valuables)	16-24
34. Tardy to class (1-5 minutes)	3
35. Theft, breaking and entering, or possession of stolen goods	6-36
36. Tobacco (possession/use of tobacco and related paraphernalia), including e-cigarettes, e-liquid, e-juice, vaping, lighters, matches.	10-36 demerits
37. Vandalism- major (\$15 or more)	16-36
38. Vandalism- minor (\$14.99 or less)	4-12
39. Weapon possession/use (no fireworks, knives, mace/pepper spray, guns, realistic toy weapons, ammunition)	36*
*Students will receive the indicated number of demerits and a referral for a district disciplinary committee hearing.	
Principal may make alternate school decisions.	

VANDALISM

The school district will not tolerate students' writing on or otherwise defacing school buildings, furniture, or other school property. Students guilty of this offense will be disciplined according to school policy and restitution will be required from the parents/guardians.

POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHY

A student may not possess, view, send, or share pictures or texts that have sexual content while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school buses. This policy strictly prohibits sexual material in electronic or any other form and includes but is not limited to the sexual material contained in a cellular telephone, camera phone, or personal digital assistant and sexual material transmitted by text message, e-mail, or any electronic communication device.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

School bus drivers are required to observe numerous laws and regulations safeguarding the lives of the students they transport. The driver is in charge of those riding on the bus. The law instructs drivers to keep order and holds the driver responsible. Drivers, with the approval of the principal, have the right to refuse to transport those guilty of misconduct. The bus schedule should be as regular as possible. Without prior permission, students are not permitted to get off the bus in any location other than their official stop.

To avoid keeping others from waiting, no school bus should be expected to wait for any student. Buses will leave the school grounds each afternoon as soon as all have come aboard or not later than five minutes after dismissal.

At the driver's discretion, students will be permitted to use portable media players (with headphones) while riding on the school bus. However, the device must be turned off and put away once the student arrives on campus. Please keep in mind that the school and the school district assume no responsibility for lost or stolen valuables.

BUS REGULATIONS

Pupils Shall:

1. Be ready in the morning at the scheduled time and place for the bus to arrive.
2. Always look in both directions and pass in front of bus, if necessary to cross road and street, to mount bus, or after dismounting bus.
3. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
4. Be quiet when bus is nearing and crossing a railroad or highway.

Pupils Shall Not:

1. Play on the road while waiting for the bus.
2. Put head or hands out of windows.
3. Stand or change seats while bus is in motion.
4. Ride outside of bus.
5. Mar or deface bus.
6. Smoke or use intoxicants.
7. Fight or tussle.
8. Strike or threaten the bus driver.
9. Use profane language or make vulgar gestures.
10. Carry deadly weapons.
11. Make excessive noise.
12. Throw objects.
13. Commit any other act of improper conduct.
14. Carry items larger than a school book bag.

Note: The driver is empowered to enforce the regulations by reporting all violations to the principal or teacher. If any pupil persists in disobeying any of the regulations and rules of good conduct, school officials may suspend or expel the disobedient pupil.

Safety on school buses is of utmost importance in transporting students to and from school in the Amite County School District. With this goal in mind, discipline on school buses will be handled according to the following rules:

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

- 1st offense - Parent contact – minimum.
- 2nd offense - Suspension from all buses – One (1) to three (3) days minimum.
- 3rd offense - Suspension from all buses – Three (3) to five (5) days minimum.
- 4th offense - Suspension from all buses – Ten (10) to fifteen (15) days minimum.
- 5th offense - Suspension from all buses – Thirty (30) school days.
- 6th offense – Suspension from all buses – Remainder of the year.

Demerits may also be given for any offense on a school bus. Principal discretion will determine severity of the punishment.

FIGHTING OR OTHER MAJOR INFRACTIONS:

- 1st offense-----Suspension from all buses – Three (3) days minimum
- 2nd offense----- Suspension from all buses – Five (5) days minimum: Students will be subject to removal from all buses for the rest of the school year.
- 3rd offense-----Suspension from all buses the rest of the school year: If the fight or major infraction occurs toward the end of the school year, the suspension could carry over into the following school year.

Students involved in a major school bus infraction including fighting may, at the discretion of the administrator administering the discipline, be subject to out-of-school suspension along with bus suspension.

PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT WHILE BUSES ARE MOVING ANY INCIDENT THAT DISTRACTS THE DRIVER WILL BE CONSIDERED A MAJOR INFRACTION.

The punishment listed is a minimum that may occur for each offense. Administrators may administer more severe punishment if they feel the situation or infraction requires such action.

Students suspended from the bus will not be permitted to ride the bus on the day the suspension occurred. The parent is responsible for transportation arrangements when the student is suspended from the bus.

STUDENTS SUSPENDED FROM THE BUS MUST BE PICKED UP BY CHECK OUT TIME.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND STATEMENT POLICY

All persons concerned are hereby placed on notice that the disciplinary actions and procedures herein established and authorized are to be conducted in accordance with applicable statutes and in accordance with any memoranda, bulletins, or notices published and distributed by the superintendent and are subject, in particular, to the following controlling principles:

1. The severity of the punishment must vary directly with the gravity of the offense.
2. The punishment inflicted against any particular student should be consistent with the punishment inflicted in other cases involving similar or identical circumstances. Uniformity of decisions and disposition among the various principals of the school district should prevail to the extent reasonably possible.
3. Discrimination based upon race, color, creed and sex, handicap, and national origin and arbitrariness in the administration of the discipline is strictly prohibited, and charge of such discrimination or arbitrariness advanced by student, parent or guardian shall be carefully examined under these regulations.
4. Great care shall be taken to avoid any suggestion or implication that the race, sex or creed of a student will have any impact on the disciplinary measures ultimately taken.
5. As a general rule, no student shall be expelled without clear proof that:
 - a. He or she posed a threat to the orderly operation of school programs or activities or was a danger to the physical well-being of other students or faculty, or to school property.
 - b. The parent or guardian of the student has been notified of the student's misconduct and the possibility of expulsion and has been offered opportunities to confer with the principal or other relevant faculty members regarding the student's misconduct. It is the firm policy of the school district to enforce expulsion only as a last resort.

B. Suspension

1. A short-term suspension is defined as denial of school for three (3) or fewer days. A short-term suspension may be imposed upon any student by the principal or assistant principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. A conference with the student's parent or guardian is required prior to the student's reinstatement.
2. A long-term suspension is defined as any denial of school attendance for five (5) days. A long-term suspension may be imposed upon any student by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.
3. Both long-term and short-term suspensions shall be governed by the following procedures:
 - a. A student may be suspended only one (1) time for each offense.
 - b. Students suspended during a term examination period shall be offered an opportunity to take any examination missed as a result at such time and under such conditions as may be determined by the principal of the school.

- c. The principal of each school shall keep record of suspensions imposed during each school year. Such record shall contain the name, race, and sex of each student suspended, the dates of such suspensions, and a brief description of the incident or misconduct requiring the suspension.
- d. A student may be suspended by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled for any reason for which a student may be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the Board of Education.
- e. No student shall be suspended without affording each student the opportunity to express his or her version of the incident to the principal of the school after being fully advised of the charges lodged against the student unless there are reasons which make it inadvisable to do so, which reasons must be put in the record of the incident by the principal.
- f. The principal of the school may, after completing the investigation as set forth above, suspend a student without further notice or proceeding. Promptly upon the suspension of a student, the principal of the school shall forthwith send to the parent/guardian of each student a "Notice of Suspension" and shall state the name of the student, the nature of the incident resulting in suspension, the length of the suspension, and the exact date the student should return to school. Such principal of the school and/or teacher(s) can be arranged to discuss the incident and disciplinary measures taken if the parent or guardian addresses the desire for it. A parent or guardian conference with the principal is required for reinstatement of students on short-term suspension. A conference with the assistant superintendent or his designee is required prior to reinstatement of students on long-term suspensions.
- g. Concurrent with the mailing of the "Notice of Long-Term Suspension", the principal shall forward the name of the student, a statement of the infraction at issue, and the student's disciplinary record to the Assistant Superintendent of Education.
- h. While not a requisite, it is desirable that the principal of the school afford the parent or guardian of the student an opportunity to confer with such principal concerning the student's behavior before suspending each student. The record maintained by the principal of the school shall show whether such conference was held with the parent or guardian of the student.

C. Corporal Punishment

1. The principal or assistant principal may administer corporal punishment in accordance with the law. In all cases, the principal or assistant principal must be present along with a second certified person. One will administer the punishment; the second will serve as a witness. Corporal punishment is to be administered to the buttocks only and must not be excessive. Corporal punishment will not be administered in anger. Corporal punishment will not be administered in the presence of other students and will be administered only in the principal's office or in another private area designated by him. All paddles used in the Amite County School District must be approved by the building principal, must be initialed by him/her, and must be kept in the office.
2. In all cases where the demerit system or corporal punishment is administered, a discipline form containing the following information must be completed:
 - a. Student's name
 - b. Date
 - c. Details of specific incident for which punishment was assigned
 - d. Number of licks administered/number of demerits assigned
 - e. Signature of person administering punishment
 - f. Name of witness in the event corporal punishment is administered.

- 3 The office copy of the discipline form is to be filed in the principal's office. The parent's copy is to be brought home by the student. The teacher's copy is to be retained by the teacher.
4. Parent permission must be given prior to administration of corporal punishment.

MERIT SYSTEM

This system applies to students who have accumulated demerits. If the student is present for 20 school days at his/her home school without any discipline referrals, he/she may have four (4) demerits removed.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT

- I. **PURPOSE:** An administrative hearing is to be held to determine the placement status of the student. This committee is to have an option of two recommendations:
 1. Allow student to stay at his or her present school on probationary status.
 2. Recommend the student be brought before the Amite County School District Disciplinary Committee for a hearing.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

1. One principal or assistant principal
 2. One guidance counselor
 3. Three teachers
 - a. The teachers should reflect the diversity of the school, if possible.
 - b. The committee chairman is to be a teacher.
- II. **NOTIFICATION OF HEARING**
 1. Student is to be told verbally.
 2. Parents are to be told on phone if possible.
 3. Parents are to be notified by first class mail. (The telephone contact does not eliminate the letter being sent.)
 4. The time and date of the hearing are to be stated in the letter.
 5. The parent is to report to the office for the hearing.
 6. The recommendation of the committee is to be made to the principal within 24 hours.

DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Amite County School District Disciplinary Review Committee hearing is to be held at the Amite County School District Office to determine placement status of the student. The committee has the option to recommend no action, probation, and alternative placement, expulsion for the remainder of the school year, or expulsion for one calendar year. Federal and state regulations will be followed when disciplinary action is taken with students who have disabilities.

Note: Any student appearing before the District Disciplinary Review Committee in the last nine-week period of the school year will remain on probation for a period of one semester the following school year.

Note: If a student is suspended from school, it is the responsibility of the student or parent to request make-up work from the teacher.

DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURE

The Superintendent's Disciplinary Committee or other designee of the Superintendent will serve as convener and administrative officer for the committee. He/she shall have no vote and shall prepare a summary of the hearing to include conclusion and recommendations of the committee. He/she shall transmit other letters or documents to proper persons following each hearing to bring each case to its proper conclusion.

The committee will consist of three (3) district school administrators, one of who will be of the same race as the student appearing before the committee and excluding the principal of the student charged.

I. EXPULSION

- A. Expulsion is defined as any denial of school attendance beyond ten (10) days, which may be permanent or which may terminate at the beginning of the next school year provided sufficient rehabilitation can be demonstrated. The power to expel a student is vested in the Amite County School District Disciplinary Review Committee subject to the review of the Superintendent and Board of Education of the district.
- B. Any principal who determines that a student has committed infractions justifying expulsion shall send a letter recommending such expulsion to the superintendent or his/her designee. The letter or recommendation shall contain the student's disciplinary record, and the principal's recommendation. The principal shall give a "Notice of Recommendation for Expulsion" to the parent or guardian of the student.
- C. Upon receipt of the principal's recommendation, the superintendent or his/her designee shall notify by certified mail, return receipt requested, the parent or guardian of the student recommended for expulsion of the exact time and place for the hearing. This hearing shall be held within ten (10) school days of the principal's recommendation for expulsion.
- D. In case the student, his/her parent, legal guardian, or attorney request additional time, the student will remain out of school until the hearing occurs. School officials may exercise this same option with consent of student, parent, legal guardian, or their attorney.
- E. The Disciplinary Review Committee shall have the duty to review the evidence advanced by the principal in support of his/her recommendation and to hear and review any rebuttal advanced by the student, parent, or guardian. Although proceedings will be conducted informally and formal rules of evidence shall not apply, the student and the parent or guardian has the right to:
 - 1. Have counsel present at hearing.
 - 2. Cross-examine or otherwise pose questions to persons giving statements adverse to student.
 - 3. Offer statements by the student and parent or guardian and any other person who has information relevant to the charges advanced by the principal.
 - 4. Request that the hearing be held in executive session.

The decision of the committee will rest solely upon applicable school rules and law and only upon evidence admitted at the hearing. The Disciplinary Review Committee shall record all the facts considered before making a decision. If action of the board is required, the decision shall be rendered in writing (recorded) and presented at the next regular or recess meeting of the board with its recommendations. The principal or assistant principal shall advise the parent of the student and principal of the school of the committee's decision, verbally as soon as possible. The decision of the committee may be mailed within two (2) working days or otherwise transmitted in writing by the superintendent or his/her designee to the student and parent or guardian.

- F. Students who are expelled may apply for re-admission at the beginning of the next school year. Such students must show evidence of rehabilitation and must meet with the school principal for possible reinstatement.
- G. Students who have completed the Amite County Alternative School Program shall be subject to the following controlling policy: When a student returns from the Alternative School, he/she will be placed on eight (8) demerit probation, and misbehavior may result in the student being expelled. The principal shall notify the parents of the

recommendation and the appropriate procedures for appealing the decision to the school board via first class mail. The recommendation shall contain the student's disciplinary record and the principal's recommendation.

- H. Students who are placed on district probation will be allowed to accumulate no more than eight (8) demerits while on probation. Any student accumulating more than eight (8) demerits will be referred to the school principal. The school principal shall determine whether the infractions committed by the student justify expulsion or alternative placement. Once the determination has been made, the principal shall for approval. The parent or guardian will be notified of the recommendation and the appropriate procedures for appealing the decision to the school board via first class mail. The recommendation shall contain the student's disciplinary record and the principal's recommendations.
- I. A photocopy of all recommendations will be sent to the Superintendent or his designee.

The student review committee will evaluate the student's progress to determine his/her eligibility for returning to his/her home school. An exit packet will be produced and submitted to the Superintendent for approval.

STUDENT COMPLAINT/ GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A "grievance" under this procedure shall mean a complaint by persons who believe they have been treated unfairly or otherwise discriminated against in their educational program. The following steps shall be used in processing such grievances.

Step 1

- A. The aggrieved person shall present his/her grievance in writing to the pertinent teacher or school person.
- B. If the grievance is sexual in nature and is directed toward the aggrieved person's teacher or school personnel, the grievance shall be presented in writing to the immediate supervisor of the individual toward whom the grievance is directed. The grievance process will then follow the steps as outlined.
- C. The aggrieved person, teacher, or school personnel may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
- D. The teacher or school personnel shall render a written decision to the aggrieved within five (5) days after receipt of the grievance.

Step 2

- A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step one (1), he/she may within five (5) days, notify in writing, his/her teacher or school personnel of his/her intent to appeal to the appropriate authority.
- B. The aggrieved student shall appeal to the principal. The aggrieved shall include copies of all correspondence from Step One (1).
- C. The aggrieved person or principal may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
- D. The principal shall render a written decision to the aggrieved within five days after receipt of the appeal.

Step 3

- A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step Two (2), he/she may within five (5) days notify in writing the principal of his/her intent to appeal to the appropriate central office administrator.
- B. The aggrieved person shall present his/her appeal in writing to the central office administrator and shall include copies of all correspondence from Steps One (1) and Two (2).
- C. The aggrieved person or the central office administrator may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.

- D. The central office administrator shall render a written decision within ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal.

Step 4

- A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step Three (3), he/she may submit his/her appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Education and shall include copies of all correspondence from Steps One (1), Two (2), and Three (3).
- B. The aggrieved student or Superintendent may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
- C. The Superintendent shall render a decision to the aggrieved student within twenty (20) days after receipt of the appeal.

EMPLOYEE/STUDENT/or OTHER THIRD-PARTY INJURY

ACSD teachers or employees injured as a result of the actions of a student/parent or other third party under the state law workers compensation carrier can exercise their right to seek reimbursement. State Statute as it relates to MS Code §71-3-71 'Compensation for injuries where third parties are liable',

AMITE COUNTY Dress code/Uniform Policy

The Amite County School Board believes strongly in the value of our students wearing uniforms to school for several reasons. Wearing a uniform saves time and reduces stress by eliminating the difficult decision about what to wear each day. It has also been proven that uniforms help reduce distractions so students can focus on their schoolwork, which increases their academic performance. Therefore in conjunction with Administration and the Amite County School Board the following policy regarding uniforms will be:

1. Students are permitted to wear khaki, black pants or blue jeans.
2. Belts are required and is considered part of the daily uniform.
3. White, black, gold, or gray polo style shirts and t-shirts that display the schools logo are permitted.

DRESS CODE:

The Amite County School Boards objective is to see that students attending the schools in the Amite County School District are well groomed, particularly as to their physical appearance, and that their choice of dress and their style is not so different from the majority of the students so as to represent an individual or collective protest. The Amite County School Board, therefore, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Education and after consultation with parents, students and teachers within the system, presents the following policy regarding student dress:

- a. Student dress in the Amite County School District must conform to the principles of
 - (1) Good health and safety, (2) high moral standards, and (3) consistency with the instructional process.
- b. Students at the school and those representing the school away on trips or in the local community shall dress appropriately for the occasion and in keeping with the above stated principles.

Specifically:

1. None of the following will be allowed: trench coats, pajamas, half-shirts, low-cut/revealing shirts, house slippers, fish net stockings and shirts advertising alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or those with obscene, offensive or questionable printing on them.
2. Shorts must be fingertip length even when worn over leggings.
3. Sagging and/or see-through pants are prohibited. Pants or shorts must be worn at the hip with no undergarment visible.
4. Jeans/pants with holes above the knee are not allowed unless there is no skin showing.
5. Appropriate undergarments are to be worn and covered at all times.
6. No hats or head coverings will be allowed on campus.

7. Bandanas of any kind are not permitted, including being worn as hair accessory.
8. Sunshades of any kind are not permitted.
9. Dog collars or similar type ornaments shall not be worn about the neck.
10. Only cold weather gloves are permitted during inclement weather. Gloves cannot be worn in the school building.
11. Students will not be allowed to wear clothing, caps, or hats that advertise or promote groups, fraternities, sororities, outside clubs, or organizations not associated or approved by the Amite County School Board.
12. Extremely tight-fitting or short clothing will not be allowed.
13. Clothing must not expose the midriff with arms raised.
14. See-through clothing will not be allowed unless it covers clothing that is appropriate. (For example, a long sleeve sheer shirt worn over a short sleeve t-shirt.)
15. Chain(s) or other objects that may be used as a weapon (including wallet chains) are not permitted.
16. Earrings must be worn in earlobes only. For student safety, no other body piercing with rings or other jewelry is permitted. No tongue studs will be allowed.
17. Inappropriate/Unnatural application of make-up or hair color is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, designs in haircuts, and notched eyebrows.
18. Tattoos deemed to be inappropriate by the administration must be covered.

AMITE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY REGARDING THE USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF PROHIBITED CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Amite County Board of Education that the use, possession or sale of any narcotic drug or substance which is falsely represented to be a controlled substance or which is falsely represented to be a counterfeit substance as defined in §41-29-105 and as reflected in Schedules I through V of Controlled Substances outlined in §41-29-113 through §41-29-121 Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated and their amended supervision of the Amite County Board of Education or any of its schools, shall be considered sufficient misconduct on the part of such student or teacher for the expulsion of such student and suspension of such teacher from the school which said student is attending or in which school the teacher is teaching under contract.

In arriving at the decision of whether or not to expel said student or suspend said teacher, the Board of Education may consider the prior record of said student or teacher, his or her academic achievement, his or her general aptitude for learning or teaching, prior disciplinary problems and any other factors which the board may deem, in its judgment, to bear upon punishment or decisions to be reached in the particular case.

SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with §37-13-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, the school district will provide instruction implementing an abstinence-plus curriculum which will include the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity and the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining. According to Mississippi law:

- Sex education instruction must be age and grade appropriate.
- Students must be separated by gender when teaching the sex education curriculum.

- Parents have the right to request that their child(ren) be excused from such instruction.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This school district prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school-sponsored activities. Sexual harassment is inappropriate behavior and offensive. 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.

Grievance procedures for sexual harassment are found within the Grievance Procedures in the Amite County School District, published within the Teacher's Handbook, the Secondary School Handbook, and the Elementary School Handbook.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

When a principal or his/her designee has probable cause or reasonable suspicion that school official has a legal right and responsibility to search personal belongings, cell phones, desks, persons, and/or vehicles for any item specifically prohibited by school board policy. A witness should be present during any search. It is not necessary to give prior warning of a search.

The school official should seek cooperation from the student if a search is to be made of his person requesting, for instance, that the contents of a purse or pocket be placed on a table for inspection.

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a privilege not a right. The interior of a vehicle driven by a student on the school premises may be searched if the school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized contraband items are contained inside.

STUDENT AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

1. Students are to park in the designated student parking area.
2. A maximum speed of 10 mph will be observed while on campus.
3. Cars are to be parked in lined areas only.
4. Students may not go to their cars without a pass during the school day.
5. Students will leave their automobiles immediately after arriving on campus (no sitting in automobiles). Once students drive on campus, they can not drive off without administrative permission.
6. Students park at their own risk. The school is not responsible for theft or damages to your car.
7. The school reserves the right to search any student's car brought on campus. Searches will be conducted in the presence of the student.
8. Permits will be issued to licensed drivers only.
9. No obscene or questionable tags or decals may be displayed on automobiles.
10. Violations will result in the assigning of demerits and/or loss of privilege of bringing a car to school.

LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Students may lose driving privileges for a minimum of 5 - 10 days in the event of the following:

1. Accumulation of 24 or more demerits.
2. 6 tardies in any class during any nine weeks
3. 10 unexcused absences in a semester ½ credit course.
4. 18 unexcused absences in full credit course.

CONDUCT IN CLASS

- Enter quietly, be seated, and give teacher attention.
- Bring book and materials as required by the teacher.
- Talk only with permission.
- Do not write on desks.

- Do not litter floors.
- Leave windows alone except as directed by teacher.
- No gum chewing, food, or drinks.
- No sleeping in class.
- **DO NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLASS DISORDER.**

CONDUCT IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly in the gym is held for a purpose. Orderly conduct is expected, even at pep rallies. It is especially important that students extend courtesy to those conducting programs in the assemblies. Students may cause embarrassment to the school when discourteous to visitors in assemblies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students should secure their valuables and respect the property of fellow students. Athletic attire must be presentable. Students must wear gym or tennis shoes while participating in PE and may not participate while barefoot.

ACTIVITIES

The district offers football, baseball, basketball, track, volleyball, cross country, swimming, debate, archery, cheer, band, choral, and power lifting. Athletes and coaches will comply with the current rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

Upon entering the 9th grade for the first time, a student shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic/activity teams for four consecutive years if they meet MHSA eligibility requirements.

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CONCUSSION POLICY

An athlete who reports or displays any symptoms of a concussion in a practice or game setting should be removed immediately from the practice or game. The athlete should not be allowed to return to the practice or game for the remainder of the day regardless of whether the athlete appears or states that he/she is normal.

The athlete should be evaluated by a licensed, qualified medical professional working within their scope of practice as soon as can be practically arranged.

If an athlete has sustained a concussion, the athlete should be referred to a licensed physician preferably one with experience in managing sports concussion injuries.

The athlete who has been diagnosed with a concussion should be returned to play only after full recovery and clearance by a physician. Recovery from a concussion, regardless of loss of consciousness, usually take place 7-14 days after resolution of all symptoms.

Return to play after a concussion should be gradual and follow a progressive return to competition. An athlete should not return to a competitive game before demonstrating that he/she has no symptoms in a full supervised practice.

Athletes should not continue to practice or return to play while still having symptoms of a concussion. Sustaining an impact to the head while recovering from a concussion may cause Second Impact Syndrome, a catastrophic neurological brain injury.

ACTIVITIES SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

Each student athlete is required to make satisfactory progress toward graduation.

According to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or "C" average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the 1st semester using the semester averages of all courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or "C" average for the 1st semester will be ineligible for the 2nd semester.

At the end of the school year, each student's grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. A student who does not have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or "C" average will be ineligible for the fall semester.

High school eligibility begins when a student enters 9th grade. To be eligible for the fall semester a student must be promoted to 9th grade with at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average of all eighth-grade courses.

A student may become eligible for the 2nd semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year-end average the previous year, by achieving at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average at the end of the 1st semester.

Summer school credits earned by a student in an accredited summer school shall be considered in determining his/her scholastic eligibility. Only 1 credit per year may be used for eligibility. Course must be completed and recorded in counselors' office on or before the 1st day of the school year.

Credit recovery courses and accredited correspondence courses may be accepted in determining eligibility provided the course has been completed and recorded prior to the 1st day of the following year/semester.

A student who meets promotional requirements at the end of the school year but is retained in the same grade shall be ineligible for 1 year.

A student may not play in a game or practice with the team while in suspended status. A student must be in attendance 63% of their school day in order to participate in an athletic event scheduled the same day. After quitting or being expelled from a sport, a student may not practice or participate in another sport until the sport he/she has quit or has been expelled from has finished its season. Example: A girl basketball player will not be allowed to quit basketball and start softball practice until the basketball season ends. In order for an athlete to receive awards, he/she must be a member of the team the entire sport season. Questions may be referred to Dr. Thaddeus Peters Athletic Director at 601-657-8920.

ACTIVITY or EVENTS

Students attending a school sponsored activity or event conducted on school property, or a designated off-site location, are required to conduct themselves properly at such events. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, e-cigarettes, or illegal substances at school functions is strictly prohibited. Law enforcement officials will deal with violators. All school rules and policies will be enforced at all school activities and events conducted at the student's home school and away.

STUDENT COUNCIL/CLASS OFFICERS

The student council will consist of representatives of each class in school. The president of the student council will be president of the student body. The vice-president will be vice-president of the student body. The council with their sponsors will help promote the general welfare of the school. The principal will work closely with the president in the area of student government and affairs.

The student council will consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter. The president of the student body will be a senior. Nominees for all student body offices must have maintained a "C" average during their high school course of study.

ANNUAL STAFF

The annual staff is responsible for the publication of the yearbook. Staff members are selected during the spring semester of each school year. Financing the yearbook is the responsibility of the staff members. All staff members are required to sell advertising space in the yearbook. The annual staff also sponsors the annual Who's Who contest.

CHEERLEADERS

To be eligible to try-out for cheerleader, students will follow the same guidelines and grade requirements as other athletic teams operating under the auspices of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. The cheerleader squad should be selected from the entire student body rather than a selective grade level.

STUDENT VALUABLES

Students should make every attempt to keep up with their own belongings. Students should refrain from bringing high value items or large sums of money to school. All items brought to school should be clearly marked with the owner's name. **The school assumes no responsibility for lost valuables.** Students are encouraged to report the loss to the school resource officer, who will inform administration. Lost and Found items are kept in the office; unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of the school year.

INSURANCE

The school district does not provide insurance for students. Accident insurance is available at a nominal fee under two plans:

- a. A twenty-four-hour coverage
- b. Coverage during school hours.

Information is available in the school office. Packets will be handed out by your 1st period teacher the first week of school. All students participating in the band or any sports activity are required to be covered by insurance.

CARE OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Beauty and practical use of school property depends upon the care given them. Students should be taught responsibility for both private and public property. The care of furniture, books, playground equipment, school buses, and all other school properties must be considered a public responsibility.

Any student destroying, defacing, or marring school property will be expected to pay the cost of repairs or replacement. A student failing to pay these costs may be suspended or expelled until he or she does.

The custodial personnel strive to keep the grounds as nice as possible, but student cooperation is needed. After consuming soft drinks, milk, and other refreshments, students should place all trash in the trashcans.

Restrooms are prepared for student use. Paper towels and liquid soap are available. Experience has shown that loitering in restrooms leads to damage. Students should respect the rights of other students by following these rules:

- a. Do not put objects in lavatories.
- b. Put only toilet tissue in toilet bowls.
- c. Do not write on walls, dividers, or doors.
- d. Do not loiter, or push, in restrooms.

SCHOOL TELEPHONES

Student's use of the school's telephones is limited. Students may use the phone only for emergency purposes and only with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will only be made at the beginning and end of periods, except in emergencies. Announcements that need to be made should be submitted to the principal before 7:30 a.m.

EMERGENCY WEATHER PROCEDURES

It may become necessary for the Superintendent of Education to dismiss school early due to an emergency situation. It is highly recommended that parents have a plan of action formulated in case their child comes home to an empty house, making certain that the child knows what to do and where to go in the case that no one is at home. Announcements will be made over the local area radio stations should school be cancelled or released early due to weather or other emergencies.

FIRE AND SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS

The district has planned procedures to ensure the safety of each student in the event of a fire or severe weather. Drills are held periodically during the year to insure speed and efficiency in getting children to their assigned places of safety.

Teachers will explain fire evacuation procedures to each child. Pupils must leave the classroom in orderly lines and march to an assigned place outside the building. Pupils are to move rapidly as good order will permit. Monitors will inspect all sections of the building to ascertain that all pupils have safely vacated the building.

CHANGING PERIODS

No class is dismissed until the teacher gives students permission to leave the classroom. The bell is a reminder to the teacher that it is time to change classes. All students are expected to maintain orderly behavior and always move to the right in corridors.

LATE ARRIVAL/CHECK IN

All students that arrive late must report to the office and sign in before going to class. Students that report to school more than five (5) minutes late will be "marked absent" for the remainder of the period. All students that arrive late must report to the attendance office. Demerits will be issued for improper check in.

CLASS INTERRUPTIONS

Classes will not be interrupted except for important reasons as approved by the principal or assistant principal.

FUNDRAISING BY STUDENTS

Fund-raising projects in which students sell candy or other materials to the public must be sponsored by a school-sponsored organization. All fund-raising must have the approval of the principal and school board, and all funds shall be deposited and

disbursed through school activity accounts. Fund-raisers that provide food on the school campus during the school day must meet SMART SNACK STANDARDS. The sale of candy on the school campus as a fund-raiser is not permitted. **Fund-raising projects sponsored by parent organizations shall be governed by this policy when school district personnel coordinate student participation.**

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SELL ITEMS AT SCHOOL FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

All students entering the public school of Mississippi for the first time must present a certified copy of their birth certificate and two proofs of residency. A child must be six years of age (kindergarten-five years of age) on or before September 1, in order to enroll for the school year. The parents or legal guardian of a student must be present before the student will be registered.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students in grades kindergarten through twelve, who plan to enroll in the Amite County School District for the first time, will be required to present a Certificate of Compliance before the student will be allowed to attend school. The Certificate of Compliance, Mississippi Department of Health Form 121, may be obtained from the Amite County Health Department or a private physician.

The requirement that students present a Certificate of Compliance before they are allowed to attend school was mandated by the state legislature in 1978. School officials can neither make exceptions nor issue compliance certificates. The County Health Officer located at the Amite County Health Department can make exceptions for medical reasons.

- The following vaccines are required to attend school:
- A. DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough)
 - B. Polio
 - C. Hepatitis B
 - D. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
 - E. Varicella (Chickenpox)
 - F. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis) – 7th grade

Students entering a Amite County School from another public school in Mississippi are required to present proof of clearance from their former school prior to enrollment. Students will be placed in classes by the school principal. A standardized test will be administered as an aid in the proper placement of the students from non-accredited schools.

MEDICAL CARE:

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Any student who requires medication to be given at school must comply with the school district policy for the administration of medication. Students may not bring medication of any kind to school or take medications from school unless special arrangements have been made with the school nurse and principal.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE

School personnel will not administer prescription medicine to a student unless the student's physician authorizes school personnel to administer the medicine and the parents/guardians have signed the Authorization for Administration of Medication associated with this policy. The parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining a

statement from the physician authorizing school personnel to administer the medicine. The statement should include:

1. Student's name
2. Name of medicine
3. Method of administration
4. Time/s to administer the medicine
5. Amount of medicine
6. Date to discontinue or review administration of medicine
7. Physician's signature
8. Date

The parents/guardians are responsible for getting the medicine to the school. All medicine must be in a proper container with a label from the pharmacy which states the following:

1. Student's name
2. Name of medicine
3. Method of administration
4. Time/s to administer the medicine
5. Prescription number
6. Name of pharmacy
7. Date filled

- A. Prescription Medication** - A Medication Authorization Form for the administration of medication must be completed by the parent/guardian at Mitcheschool. A new authorization must be completed at the beginning of each year or whenever there is a change in the medication dosage or schedule. In accordance with state law, students who need to keep certain medications in their possession for emergencies will need authorization from their parent/guardian and the physician. All authorization forms are available online at the time of registration or from the school nurse. Prescription medications must be supplied and brought to school by the parent/guardian or authorized adult.

The medication must be in the original labeled container. The prescription label must have the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, route, time to be given, and the name of the prescribing physician. Parents should request the pharmacist to provide a container labeled for school use. Only the required number of doses needed at school should be brought in the container. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to insure that adequate medication is available at the school.

In the event the school nurse is not available to administer medication, e.g., field trip, unlicensed school personnel, who have completed the Assisted Medication Administration Training, will assist the student with taking his/her medicine. Some restrictions may apply.

All medications will be kept in a secure area at school and administered only by designated personnel. All students' medications must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school year or when the medication is no longer needed. Medications left at school will be disposed of on the school nurse's last workday of the year.

- B. Over-the Counter Medication** - The school nurse, in accordance with standing orders written by the Amite County School District Medical Director and with written authorization by the parent/guardian, may give a limited number of over-the-counter medications. If the school nurse is not available, the parent/guardian must bring the medication to school and administer it. Students require an Authorization for Administration of Over-the-Counter Medications Form completed and signed by the

parent/guardian to receive over-the-counter medications at school. This authorization is completed online with student registration and is valid for one year. School nurses will not be able to administer any other over-the-counter medications unless the following is completed:

- Medication has been prescribed by a licensed health care provider
- Medication is brought to the school, in a properly labeled prescription bottle/container, by the parent/guardian.
- Written authorization from a parent/guardian has been received

C. Medication Administration on Field Trip – Due to the severity of student's medical conditions on school campuses, school nurses may not attend field trips. Provisions will be made to train professional school staff to assist students with medication administration on field trips. Some restrictions may apply.

The school reserves the right to refuse administration of any medication when circumstances warrant such action. This may include adverse reaction, incomplete instructions for administration, non-compliance by the parent or student with school policy, or other extenuating circumstances. The parent /guardian will be notified of these situations.

ASTHMA AND ANAPHYLAXIS CHILD SAFETY ACT

Amite County School District will comply with the Asthma and Anaphylaxis Act. The school nurse or trained personnel, in accordance with a standing order written by Amite County School District medical director, will administer an auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who it is believed, in good faith, to be having an anaphylaxis reaction, whether or not the student has a prescription for epinephrine. MS Code §37-11-71 The school nurse or trained personnel, in accordance with standing order written by Amite County School Medical Director may administer medication and maintain for use when necessary.

Prescribed medication for asthma (rescue medication), and for anaphylaxis (epinephrine) should be kept in the nurse clinic unless written permission for a student to carry these prescription drugs has been agreed to by the physician, parent, and school nurse. It requires, in part, that the student has demonstrated the necessary maturity to keep it on their person. **If your child has been diagnosed with asthma or anaphylaxis, a Amite County School District Action Plan must be completed by the healthcare provider and parent/guardian at the beginning of each year, or whenever there is a change in the medication dosage or schedule.** These forms are available online at the time of registration or from the school nurse.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

At Amite County School District, it is our responsibility to be proactive against the spread of infection. Students will be sent home and are to stay home until they are without a fever (Temperature is less than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit taken orally) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. When a student becomes ill at school, he/she shall be observed by a school staff member and a parent/guardian will be contacted.

Students with communicable diseases are required to remain at home until a physician certifies them able to return to school. Listed below is a guide for communicable diseases to which children are most susceptible.

- Chicken Pox: A highly infectious viral disease that begins with small red bumps that turn into blisters after several hours. The blisters generally last for 3-4 days and then begin to dry up and form scabs. These lesions (bumps/blisters) almost always appear first on the trunk rather than the extremities. The child may return

to school after the lesions are crusted and dry and no new ones are forming. Exposed children may attend school.

- **FLU (Influenza):** Influenza is an acute (sudden onset) viral disease of the respiratory tract characterized by fever, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, malaise, nasal congestion, sore throat and cough. Influenza in children may be indistinguishable from diseases caused by other respiratory viruses. The student may return to school when free of fever for 24 hours and feeling well.
- **Hepatitis:** Clearance by a physician.
- **Measles (Rubella):** Symptoms may include fever, hacking cough, and conjunctivitis. The child may return to school when free of fever and the rash is fading (this usually takes 5 to 7 days). Exposed children may attend school.
- **Meningococcal Meningitis:** This illness is a rare but sometimes fatal infection affecting the membranes of the spinal cord and brain. Meningitis can be caused by a variety of organisms or germs such as *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcal). It is spread through the exchange of respiratory droplets, which includes sharing a drink or utensils, kissing, cough, and sneezing. Symptoms may include sudden high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, and exhaustion. Symptoms progress quickly, and prompt medical attention is critical. Immunization can reduce one's risk and is strongly recommended for all preteens, teens and young adults. Infected individuals may return to school after treatment with antibiotics and clearance by a physician.
- **Mononucleosis:** This is an infectious disease characterized by fever, sore throat, swollen glands in the neck area, and generalized weakness. The child need not be excluded from class, unless requested for medical reasons, but may return when free of fever and feeling well enough and clearance by a physician.
- **Mumps:** Pain in chewing or swallowing may be earliest symptoms, followed by chills and headache. The child should not return to school until all swelling has disappeared, usually nine to twelve (9-12) days from onset.
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye)** This is an infectious disease characterized by redness of the eye(s), excessive tearing, itching, and discharge. Some cases may require antibiotics; therefore, a physician should be seen. Children may return to school after a physician has been seen, or when redness/discharge is improving.
- **Strep throat/Scarlet Fever:** Strep throat a communicable disease characterized by sore throat, fever, and tender, swollen lymph glands in the neck. Scarlet fever is a streptococcal infection with a rash (scarlatiniform rash). It is most commonly associated with strep throat. In addition to the signs and symptoms of strep throat, the person with scarlet fever has an inflamed, sandpaper-like rash and sometimes a very red or "strawberry" tongue. The rash is due to a toxin produced by the infecting strain of bacteria. The student may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been started if free of fever.

SKIN INFECTIONS:

- **Impetigo:** The child may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been started. Lesions that are still oozing and are on exposed skin surfaces should be covered.
- **Staph:** Children who have a minor staph infection of the skin such as a pimple may attend school. Those who have a more serious staph infection that requires medical treatment should not return to school until 24 hours after treatment has been started and is free of fever. Any lesions that are oozing and are on exposed skin surfaces should be covered with a leak-proof bandage. Clearance by a physician.
- **Ringworm:** Return to school when under treatment.
- **Scabies:** Return to school when under treatment.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SPREAD BY NON-CASUAL CONTACT

When reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms that a student/staff member is known to have a communicable disease or infection that is known not to be spread by casual contact such as, HIV infection, Hepatitis B, and other like diseases, the decision as to whether the affected person will remain in the school setting will be addressed on a case by case basis in accordance with state and federal law.

EMERGENCY CARE (FIRST AID)

The school attempts to provide an environment in which the student will be safe from accidents. Emergencies shall be dealt with promptly by teachers, first aid specialists, and principals by taking appropriate action, including sending a child to the hospital, summoning medical aid, or an ambulance. In all cases where it is necessary to send a student to the hospital, every effort must be made to notify parents.

If an accident occurs, first aid will be administered. School personnel shall not exceed usual practice of competent first aid (American Heart Association Standards CPR/First Aid). When a student becomes ill or injured at school, he/she shall be observed by a school staff member and, if necessary, parent/guardian will be contacted.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOLS HEAD LICE POLICY

I. IDENTIFYING INFESTED CHILDREN

- A. By Individual Case** -Throughout the year, any student suspected of having head lice will be examined by the teacher and, if evidence of infestation is seen, reexamined by the "confirming" examiner. If infested, the child will be handled as described in section 2, "HANDLING OF INFESTED CHILDREN," below. If one child in a classroom is found to be infested, the entire class will be screened as described above. (This is recommended by the MS Dept. of Health but not required.)

II. HANDLING OF INFESTED CHILDREN

The parent will be called to initiate treatment as described in section 3, "treatment" see below. Care will be taken not to embarrass the child and to ensure that no stigma is attached to him/her. Detailed guidelines for treatment will be sent home with the child.

Return to School – The child may return to school as soon as the parent provides evidence of treatment, either a note from the parent describing the treatment, a note stating the date of treatment: e.g., "Johnny was treated with XYZ shampoo according to package directions on 9/12/2011", and the box top or package label from the product used. The treatment should be an approved medical treatment and not a home remedy. At this time, the child will be re-examined. A few nits (eggs) may still be seen even in an adequately treated child and are not evidence of continuing infestation. If the child has not been satisfactorily treated, admission will be refused.

Upon the third incidence or notification of head lice within a school year, student will be referred to the county health department for instruction and assistance.

III. TREATMENT

- A. Individual** - Several effective products are available over the counter and prescription form. Over the counter medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration contain one of the following active ingredients: Pyrethrins combined with piperonyl butoxide. FDA approved prescription medications are Benzyl alcohol lotion 5%, Ivermectin lotion 0.5%, and Malathion lotion 0.5%. Treatment with any approved pediculocidal (lice-killing) product should be adequate. An initial treatment will kill adult and larval lice, but will not kill all the eggs. A second treatment 7-10 days later (8 days is ideal), after the

eggs left by the first treatment have all hatched, will kill the newly hatched lice before they mature and reproduce and complete the treatment process. A second treatment is recommended unless otherwise prescribed by a physician. If only one treatment is prescribed, the student will be re-checked upon return to school, and then again in seven days. If a second treatment is done or required parents must furnish evidence of the treatment no earlier than seven days and no longer than ten days after the first. The same evidence, note from a parent and box top/package label, is required. A child should not miss more than one or two days because of treatment for head lice. If the child is absent more than three days, the school attendance officer will be notified.

IV STUDENTS WITH RECURRING HEAD LICE:

- A. If a student has had head lice on three (3) occasions during (1) school year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by school officials that the student has had head lice on three (3) occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by school nurse, principal or administrator shall notify and refer the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice that that student. The county health department then shall instruct the child's parents on how to treat head lice, eliminate head lice from household items, and prevent the recurrence of head lice.

Family – Household members of a child with head lice should be examined for lice (either by a family member who knows how, the family doctor, or someone else knowledgeable about lice) and any infested persons should be treated as described above. Persons that share a bed with the infested child should be examined and also may need treatment.

BED BUG POLICY

Bed bugs are often spread through hitch hiking on items transported by individuals from one location to another. There is no evidence that bed bugs transmit disease. However, bed bugs can severely reduce the quality of life by causing discomfort, sleeplessness, embarrassment and for some people anxiety.

When a student is identified with bed bugs present on them at school, the parent will be contacted and education materials about transporting bed bugs and care at school will be given to the parent to prevent the spread of bed bugs at school. Prompt reporting is necessary so the presence can be confirmed and prompt action taken to prevent the spread. Based on an assessment, the principal and/or the school nurse may require the student to be dismissed for the remainder of the day to address the infestation.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOLS HIV POLICY

A student with HIV infection has the same right to attend school and receive services as any other student and will be subject to the same rules and policies. School authorities will determine the educational placement of a student with HIV infection on a case-by-case basis following established policies and procedures for a student with chronic health problems or disabilities. The school authorities will consult with the student's physician and parent (or guardian); respect the student's and family's right to privacy; and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student's need for accommodation or services. The student's parent or guardian will be requested to sign a release of information form to allow communication between the physician and the school system.

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Amite County School District recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. This school district shall utilize training materials and resources developed by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and

shall comply with all requirements of the Mississippi Department of Education regarding suicide prevention.

Any district parent who would like to offer suggestions or would be interested in being a participant on the district Wellness Committee or a local School Health Council Member should contact Brad Barlow, Child Nutrition Director at 228-539-7231.

STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

The Amite County School District will adhere to all provisions outlined in the "Student Religious Liberties Act of 2013. Please see District Policy Manual posted on the ACSD website. MS Code §37-12-9

COMPLIANCE POLICIES – CONFIDENTIALITY

The Amite County School District adheres to the requirements outlined in the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA). Copies of these regulations are available on the district website.

CHILD FIND

The Amite County School District participates in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need special education and related services as defined by the State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 (State Board Policy 7219). This applies to, but is not limited to homeless children, wards of the state, private school children, children advancing from grade and highly mobile and/or migrant children who reside within the district jurisdiction. Requests for evaluations are not limited by the number per year or time of year a request is received. The district will adhere to the relevant policies and procedures for the implementation of the Child Find requirements for local school districts under State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (State Board Policy 7219).

SECTION 504

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each handicapped student within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the handicap.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are handicapped within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be handicapped under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Due process rights of handicapped students and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced. The coordinator of Section 504 activities can be reached at 601-657-4361; 533 Maggie Street Liberty, Ms. 39645.

TITLE IX

The Amite County School District is in compliance with the requirements of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Questions concerning Title IX may be directed to Mary Russ, the local Director of Compliance. Inquiries may be sent to: 533 Maggie Street Liberty, Ms. 39645.

TECHNOLOGY

The vision of the Amite County School District is to provide students with the tools and abilities needed to become successful citizens in the global information society. With students as the primary recipients of the technology, the district's mission of integrating technology in the classroom allows instruction to move from a teaching-centered environment to a learning-centered environment. This integration provides the tools to accomplish the National Educational Technology Standards for students.

All district schools and facilities are networked to form the Amite County District Intranet. Through the extension of this network, Internet access is available in district classrooms, libraries, and administrative areas. Currently, most classrooms are equipped with multimedia computers and a laser printer. The computer to student ratio of 1:5 provides Internet access, classroom access to the automated library circulation system, productivity software, and appropriate grade level and/or subject area software. Software for kindergarten through eighth grade is an integrated learning program. This type of program performs a diagnostic, prescriptive, and prognostic assessment for each student. Secondary software addresses a variety of required and elective courses with student access to productivity tools such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation applications. In addition, technology is integrated in Information Communication Technology (ICT) classes, STEM courses, and Robotics activities.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) Policy

Amite County School District is committed to allowing responsible, learning-centered use of personal devices at school to provide many pathways to understanding as possible for our students. The purpose of the BYOD policy is to authorize students to bring their own technology devices to school for use in our classrooms under certain strict conditions. Public wi-fi is provided on every campus district-wide. When connected to the districts public wi-fi students must comply with the districts Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

FACEBOOK

In each school, the principal or his designee may establish a FACEBOOK page for posting educational information and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to join to keep informed.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTRONIC ACCESS/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Amite County School District, referred to as the District, is providing employees and students with access to the District's electronic communication system, referred to as the District system, which includes Internet access. The District system has a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes use of the system for classroom activities and professional development. The purpose of the District system is to assist in preparing students for responsible citizenship and success in life. The District system provides electronic access to a wide range of information and the ability to communicate with people throughout the world. In addition, the District system will enhance District intercommunication, productivity, and assist in upgrading of skills through greater exchange of information with peers and the worldwide community.

ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES FOR TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEFINITION OF THE DISTRICT SYSTEM

The District's computer systems and Intranet are any configuration of hardware and software. The systems and networks include, but are not limited to, all of the computer hardware (i.e. servers, laptops, probe-ware, presentation stations, and digital cameras), operating system software, application software, stored text, and data files. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, local databases, and externally accessed

databases, such as the Internet, CD-ROM, optical media, clip art, digital images, digitized information, communications technologies, and new technologies as they become available. The District reserves the right to monitor all technology resource activity. All electronic transmissions will be archived according to District policy.

PURPOSE

Providing access to the District system promotes academic excellence in accordance with the District's educational objectives. This computer technology provides resource sharing, innovation, and communication that will help launch today's schools into the information age. The District system has a limited educational purpose, which includes use of the system for classroom activities, professional or career development, and limited, high-quality, self-discovery activities. Providing students and employees with access to the District system also includes Internet access. Users are expected to use Internet access through the District system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission of Amite County School District and its policies.

GENERAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Users are responsible for appropriate behavior on the District system just as they are in a classroom or on school grounds. Communications on the system are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with District standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user and/or his parent/guardian are personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the District system. The user is advised never to create, access, keep, or send anything that they would not want open to the general public.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The District maintains and reserves the right to review any material on user accounts for the purpose of maintaining acceptable use of the system. The District will maintain the system properly and efficiently to allow full access to the user. The District will notify the parents about the District system and the policies governing its use. In accordance with The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and the Children's Internet Privacy Act, the District will maintain Internet filtering software to limit access to certain sites and to monitor

access to electronic resources. The District will make training available to all users in the proper use of the system and will make copies of acceptable use guidelines available to all users. All training in the use of the District system will emphasize the ethical use of this resource.

EDUCATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Educators are responsible for disseminating and enforcing the District Acceptable Use Policy. Teachers are responsible for teaching proper techniques, for guiding student access to educational use of the system, and for assuring that students understand that if they misuse the network they will lose their privilege to access the Internet from the classroom environment.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Even though the District maintains a filtering system, it is not possible for the District to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Further, the District recognizes that parents/guardians bear primary responsibility for transmitting their particular set of family values to their children. This includes setting and conveying standards for appropriate and acceptable use when the student is using the District system, specifically the Internet. Therefore, it is ultimately a parental/guardian responsibility for the student's understanding of and compliance with the District Acceptable Use Policy including the consequences of non-compliance.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on school grounds. Communications on the network are

often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth in the Student Account Agreement. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user and/or parent/guardian are personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to create, access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents/guardians or teachers to access.

CONDUCT OF BEHAVIOR

Proper behavior, as it relates to the use of District system, is no different than proper behavior in all other aspects of Amite County School District activities. All users are expected to use the District system in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner. Any use of the District system must be consistent with the education objectives and professional development of Amite County School District.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The District may suspend or revoke a system user's access to the District system when a user violates the District Acceptable Use Policy and/or administrative regulations regarding acceptable use. Improper or unethical use may result in disciplinary actions consistent with the existing Student Discipline Policy and/or Employee Policy Handbook as adopted by the Amite County School Board and published in the Student Handbook, as well as the Mississippi Penal Code or other state and Federal Laws. This may also require restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software.

ACCEPTABLE USES

The District system will be used only for learning, teaching, and administrative purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals.

UNACCEPTABLE USES

1. Commercial use of the District's system is strictly prohibited.
2. Software may not be placed on any computer, whether stand-alone or networked to the District system, without permission from the school principal or District Technology department.
3. All users are expected to follow existing copyright laws, copies of which may be found in each campus library.
4. Student use of the District system is allowed only when the student is supervised and granted permission by a staff member.
5. Attempting to log on or logging on to a computer or email system by using another's password is prohibited. Assisting others in violating this rule by sharing information or passwords is unacceptable and may result in the revocation of access.
6. Improper use of any computer or the network is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 - Using racist, profane, or obscene language or materials
 - Using the network for financial gain, political or commercial activity
 - Attempting to or harming equipment, materials or data, etc. associated with the system
 - Attempting to or sending anonymous messages of any kind
 - Using the network to access inappropriate material
 - Knowingly placing or creating a computer virus on a computer or the network
 - Using the network to provide addresses or other personal information
 - Accessing of information resources, files and documents of another user without their permission

RIGHTS OF ALL USERS

The user has full rights within these guidelines and responsibilities to the instructional, networked system provided by the District. By authorizing use of the District system, the District does not relinquish control over materials on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on

the District system. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the District system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another District policy, or the law. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school district policy.

Parents/guardians may request the termination of their child's individual student Internet access at any time. It is the student's responsibility to comply with their parent's/guardian's request for no individual Internet access. Parents/guardians should be aware that District teachers utilize Internet and electronic resources for classroom instructional purposes.

District employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on the District system might be subject to review, disclosure or discovery under Mississippi statutes and federal laws.

The school district will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities and activities not in compliance with Amite County School District policies conducted through the District system.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the Amite County School Board, The Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Children's Online Privacy Act of 1998, the District system is equipped with an Internet filtering software program that limits access to "visual depictions" and material that may be harmful to minors. However, no filtering system is perfect, and the District does not guarantee that all objectionable content will be blocked.

DISCLAIMER OF DAMAGES

The Amite County School District assumes no liability, either expressed or implied, for network information services accessed on District system. The District shall not be responsible for any damages suffered while using the system. These damages include loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, misdirected deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the system errors or errors committed by individual users. Use of any information obtained from the information system is at the user's risk. The Amite County School District specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of the information obtained through on-line information services. In addition, each user, and his or her parent or guardian, if a minor, voluntarily releases, holds harmless and indemnifies the Amite County School District, its officers, board members, employees and agents, for and against all claims, actions, charges, losses, or damages which arise out of user's use of the District system, including, but not limited to, negligence, personal injury, wrongful death, and property loss or damage, and those set forth under Disclaimers of Damages.

Amite County School District Student Account Agreement

So as to ensure that both students and parents understand what constitutes acceptable use of technology in the Amite County School District, the District asks all students and their parents to review the following agreement and then sign it acknowledging that they agree to abide by the spirit of this agreement.

1. Do not share your password with anyone and do not try to obtain another person's password.
2. Do not play games or participate in chat rooms, interactive bulletin boards, web-based email, or any other online real-time conversations unless given written permission by an adult in authority and supervised by a person in authority for each instance.
3. Do not enter any information about yourself, anyone else or the school. This includes name, address, telephone number, email address, or any other personal information. Also, do not impersonate or misrepresent yourself or others.
4. Do not access, send, promote, or print hate mail threats, harassing information derogatory remarks, material of a sexual nature, information that could be harmful to you

- or others, and other anti-social communications. Do not use impolite, abusive, or objectionable language.
5. Do not access, alter, or otherwise tamper with computer system files, network files, or other students' files. Do not log onto, look at, or otherwise tamper with any directory or drive other than the one to which you are assigned.
 6. Do not damage the computer, any of its parts, the printer, the network, or any other technologies available for use. This includes introducing any virus that may destroy files or disrupt service to other users.
 7. Do not interfere with the operation of the District system by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware, including games, but not limited to MP3's, other music, or video.
 8. Do not insert a personal diskette into any networked computer without specific permission from a person in authority.
 9. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space, paper, ink cartridges, or printing capacity by printing unnecessarily or excessively.
 10. Do not transmit any materials in violation of any U.S. or state regulation, including, but not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
 11. Do not use the District system for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying.
 12. Report any malfunction or repair needed on the District system or equipment to your teacher immediately.
 13. Report any observed intentional abuse of technology equipment to your teacher immediately.
 14. Be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.
 15. Keep food, drink, candy, gum, etc. completely away from all computer equipment and related technologies.
 16. Because there can be no assurances that you will not encounter objectionable material while working on the Internet, you will immediately leave the Internet site if this occurs and report the incident to your teacher.
 17. Do not have an expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the contents of electronic communications network or of files stored in your directory. Understand the District system is the property of the District and, at any time, the files you maintain can be reviewed, removed, if warranted, and any violation of rules will be reported to the proper authority.

Use of computer networks is a privilege, not a right. Violations of the rules described above will be dealt with per the student school handbook. I understand that the District may suspend or revoke my access to the District system upon violation of the District Acceptable Use Policy and/or administrative regulations regarding acceptable use. I understand that if I use the system improperly or unethically, this may result in disciplinary actions consistent with the existing Student Discipline Policy as adopted by the Amite County School Board and published in the Student Handbook, as well as the Mississippi Penal Code or other state and Federal Laws. This unacceptable use may also require restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software.