

2020 Student Handbook

MILLER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2019 - 2020

Adopted September, 1992

Revised, May 2019

"Alma Mater"

Miller High, we'll e'er be faithful

To thy colors bright,

E'er be true and loyal lovers

Of the red and white.

Hail, O Hail our Alma Mater,

Dearest ever known,

Ever hail thee, never fail thee,

Our dear high school home.

Praise and glory, fame and honor.

May they grace thy throne,

In the realm of high school memories,

We'll claim thee our own.

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MILLER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

996 PHILLIPSBURG ROAD

COLQUITT, GEORGIA 39837

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce you and your parents to Miller County High School. A careful study of this handbook will answer many of your questions concerning school policies and procedures, student activities, school safety, curriculum, and guidance and counseling services. Read all items carefully and take the time to discuss them with your parents. Remember that every student is expected to be familiar with the contents of this handbook!

Principal's Office

Mike Simmons (229) 758-4131

Guidance Counselor's Office

Vicki Simmons (229) 758-4132

Vocational Supervisor's Office

Allen Martin (229) 758-4131

MILLER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Vision:

Pirates, reaching our potential in relentless pursuit of excellence.

Mission

Pirates exhibit integrity by upholding the highest ethical standards and moral values, make positive character driven choices, are responsible for creating accountable partnerships, and are

empowered to respect and be respected, and believe that they can achieve excellence through confidence in themselves, their school and their community.

Core Value Words:

Integrity

Character

Respect

Confidence

Responsible

Site/District Coordinators:

Federal Programs Robert Green

Special Education, 504 and Gifted/

Testing Jodi Collins

Title IX: Allen Martin

Sports Equity Coordinator: Allen Martin

Attendance/Truancy: Allen Martin

School Safety: Cleve Roland

MILLER COUNTY EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Miller County Program for Exceptional Children offers special education and related services for eligible students ages three to twenty one. The procedures for identifying and determining eligibility for the program are governed by the Georgia Department of Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The state of Georgia recognizes eligibility categories which include intellectual disabilities, hearing impairment including deafness, speech or language impairment, visual impairment including blindness, emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, specific learning disability, or deaf/ blindness. Decisions regarding eligibility, least restrictive environment, and services are made by a committee of individuals including the parent. The committee collaborates to develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to support students' individual needs.

IEP annual review meetings are held annually to determine progress and necessary specialized services. Meetings include parents, teachers, local education authorities, and related service providers.

Miller County offers the full continuum of services for students with identified disabilities and strives to serve each student to the greatest extent possible in the least restrictive environment. Related services are provided for eligible students as deemed necessary by IEP teams. Related services may include special transportation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, adapted physical education, speech/language therapy, psychological, and audiology services. Special education instruction is specially designed by qualified staff and provided at no cost to parents.

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND

Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.31 Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services

Hospital/Homebound (HHB) services are designed to provide continuity of educational services between the classroom and home or hospital for students in

Georgia public schools, whose medical needs, either physical or psychiatric, do not allow them to attend school for a limited period of time. HHB instruction may be used to supplement the classroom program for students with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with

regular school attendance (e.g., students receiving dialysis or radiation/chemotherapy or students with other serious health conditions).

Students must be enrolled in a public school in Georgia in order to receive HHB services.

HHB services are not intended to supplant regular school services and are by design temporary.

The student must anticipate being absent from school for a minimum of ten consecutive (five days for student on block schedule) or intermittent school days due to a medical or psychiatric condition. The student's inability to attend school for medical or psychiatric reasons must be certified by a licensed physician or licensed psychiatrist who is currently treating the student for the diagnosis presented.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. For more information, please contact Jodi Collins.

The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR part 104 provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled peers. Your child has the right to free and appropriate educational (FAPE) services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student.

Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students.

Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. You have the right to not consent to the school systems' request to evaluate your child. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.

You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations.

You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities.

If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.

You have the right to examine your child's educational records.

You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney.

You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedures (Section 504 Procedural Safeguards) upon request. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school systems' impartial hearing procedure.

You have the right to, at any time; file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The Miller County School System, including all staff and administrators have the responsibility of ensuring that all students with disabilities are identified, evaluated and provided with needed accommodations and services, resulting in a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

MEDIA CENTER POLICIES

Individual students may come to the media center with a signed pass. A teacher may send up to three students at a time to be supervised by media personnel. Students must have an assignment, which requires Media Center resources.

To use the Internet resources on MCHS computers, students must sign the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. All Internet use must be related to a school assignment; students who are not directly supervised by a teacher must have an assignment note from the teacher. "Surfing" for personal interests and chat rooms are specifically forbidden.

Students may check out two books at a time for two-week periods; reference books may be checked out overnight. Late fines are \$.10 per day for regular checkouts and \$.50 per day for reference materials. If books are not returned by the end of a semester, the student must pay for materials before he/she can receive a grade report.

Lamination is done for students at a cost of \$.50 per foot. There is no cost for students to print from the computer workstations, but prior approval from Media personnel is required. Students may come to the Media Center to use newspapers or magazines, but these periodicals may not be checked out.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

To attend all classes daily and to be on time.

To come to class prepared with proper materials, such as textbooks, pencils, paper, etc.

To be aware of all rules and expectations or changes in these rules and regulations defining proper student behavior. Each student should conduct himself/herself accordingly.

To be willing to volunteer information in disciplinary cases should it be necessary.

To develop the best school record of which the student is capable.

To maintain a clean and pleasant atmosphere in the buildings and on the grounds.
To respect fellow student's rights, views, and their persons. School is both a right and a responsibility.

Chronically Disruptive Students/Chronic Offenders

Students who are chronically disruptive and/or identified as chronic offenders are referred for intervention and a progressive consequence process. Progressive consequences are a progression from low-level consequences for the initial disruptions to more serious consequences for continued disruptive behavior.

The principal of the school may deem it necessary to restrict certain clothing, etc. The principal or designee will determine if attire is disruptive or inappropriate.

Violations will be handled at the administrator's discretion and may include confiscation of inappropriate articles. Repeat offenders will be handled according to the individual student's discipline record with chronic offenses resulting in suspension. If the student is in doubt about an item's appropriateness, the best advice is to leave the item at home.

SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Student behavior, while riding a school bus, is expected to be the same on the bus as in the classroom. Students who ride the bus are expected to follow the rules set forth by the Miller County Transportation System and the Board of Education. Bus students will follow the directions of the driver. Student behavior and safety on a school bus requires the cooperation of students and parents working together with the bus driver and school administrator.

ACCESSORY

Students found guilty of being an accessory (such as assisting, planning, participating, inciting, or encouraging) to any violation of school rules are subject to the same penalties as students who are actively involved in committing such offenses.

ACTS OF PHYSICAL HARM AGAINST SCHOOL STAFF

State law provides that a student found to have committed an act of physical violence against a school administrator/official, teacher, school bus driver, or any other school employee resulting in physical harm shall be expelled from school for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public school (OCGA 20-2-751.6).

BULLYING

State law prohibits bullying. State law mandates a discipline hearing after the third incident of bullying with a referral to an alternative school setting upon a finding of guilt (OCGA 20-2-145). Miller County High School will not tolerate bullying and other forms of harassment. Please note: Any form of electronic bullying using school computers/equipment, school networks, e-mail systems at school is strictly prohibited.

DRUGS - FELONY

State law makes it unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with the intent to distribute any controlled substance or marijuana in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private school or school board. Any person

who violates or conspires to violate any section of this law shall be guilty of a felony (OCGA 16-13-32.4).

SEARCHES

Miller County High School is dedicated to providing a weapon-free, violence-free, and drug-free school. Consequently, the school may at any time conduct searches of lockers, desks, tables, other school furniture or equipment, any vehicles students bring on campus, and, under individualized reasonable suspicion circumstances, students and their possessions. Searches may include the use of electronic devices and K-9 Units. Periodic inspections may be conducted by school personnel for any reason, at any time, without notice and without student or parent consent.

Note: In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions

Students may be assigned to the In-School Suspension program for up to 30 days according to the offense. Students spend the entire day in ISS. Tardiness will result in a day being added to the ISS assignment. Students cannot participate in any extracurricular activity or practice on the days they are assigned to ISS. Students are responsible for getting their class assignments prior to attending ISS; the work is supervised by the ISS teacher. Students are responsible for completing and returning all assignments to their teachers. All assigned work must be completed before the student is released from ISS. ISS rules and regulations are explained to the student when ISS is assigned. Breaking any ISS rule results in additional ISS time served or changing the ISS assignment to out of school suspension. Severe and/or chronic misbehavior may result in out of school suspensions of up to ten days per offense.

Out-of-School suspensions are reserved for serious and/or repeated offenses and can be from one to ten days at the administrator's discretion. Suspensions can be longer than ten days pending proper notification and Board of Education approval. Out-of-school suspension days are unexcused absences.

Isolation - Students may be isolated in the ISS room for the balance of a class period or the balance of the school day as determined by an administrator. Students returning to class after ISS isolation must present the teacher(s) a completed ISS Isolation pass in order to be eligible to make up any work missed during the isolation.

The following are disciplinary guidelines to be administered upon Administrator's discretion

DISOBEY/INSUBORDINATE

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

DRESS CODE

UNAUTHORIZED AREA

TOBACCO

NO SHOW FOR TEACHER DETENTION

DISRESPECT/PEERS

DISRESPECT/ADULTS

CHEATING

10. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CELL PHONE

FIGHTING

Fighting between students will not be tolerated. Students who have a problem should alert an administrator, teacher, or school resource officer of the conflict. In the event of a fight, both students will be treated in the same manner unless the administration can determine that a student tried to avoid the fight or was acting in self-defense.

Name-calling is no justification for fighting.

(Depending on degree of involvement)

1st offense - possible arrest and 5 days OSS followed by student contract

2nd offense - possible arrest and 10 days OSS followed by Alt School Placement

1. Referral/disciplinary tribunal

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

Cell Phones

To avoid disruption of instruction, the use of electronic devices, including, but not limited to cellular telephones, and other portable communication devices (PCDs), is allowed with the restrictions outlined below. Use of electronic communication devices and other electronic media during the regular school day must be in support of, and consistent with the vision, mission and goals established by the Miller County Board of Education and for the purpose of instructional support. All users of Miller County technology resources and facilities must agree to and sign the terms of an acceptable use agreement. When approved by the principal or designee, students may be permitted to use their own computer or computing devices, including handheld devices, to connect to the Miller County network.

No student shall photograph, videotape, record, or reproduce, via any audio or video means, another student or staff member while on school system premises without the expressed prior permission of the student or staff member.

Students riding the school bus to and/or from school must have all electronic devices and cell phones turned off and out of sight so that they do not interfere with the operation of the school bus, (O.C.G.A 20-2-751.5).

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cellular telephones and other PCDs. The Miller County Board of Education shall not assume responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage to a cellular telephone or other PCD, nor does it assume responsibility for the unauthorized use of any device.

Using the electronic services via the Internet is a privilege, not a right and all students and parents must sign the Miller County School System Electronic Network

Use Rules.

Using the electronic services via the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The privilege may be revoked at any time for unacceptable conduct. Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to the following.

Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts.

Using the Internet for financial or commercial gain.

Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance.

Vandalizing the data of other users.

Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
Invading the privacy of individuals.
Using an account owned by another without authorization.
Posting personal communications without the author's consent.
Posting anonymous messages.
Placing of unlawful information on a system.
Using abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages.
Sending of messages that are likely to result in the loss of recipient's work or disrupting systems; or example a computer virus.
Sending "Chain Letters" or "Broadcast" messages to lists or individuals, or other types of communication, which would cause congestion of the networks.

14. Using the Internet to send/receive messages and images, which are inconsistent with the district's curriculum, and conduct guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, racist, sexist, pornographic, dangerous, and obscene messages and images.

Medicine

In accordance with Board policy, medicine will not be administered at school except by the parent's or legal guardian's written request. All medicines must be kept in the nurse's office until needed by student.

Parking Permits/Driving Privileges

Students who drive to school are required to purchase a parking permit, park in a designated location and to register their car with the office.

Parking permits are \$10.00.

The school is not responsible for theft or vandalism of vehicles parked on campus. The administration will use all reasonable means to prevent theft or vandalism and to apprehend anyone responsible for such but cannot guarantee that vandalism will not occasionally occur. Students are to lock their vehicles when they arrive on campus and promptly exit the vehicle and parking area.

Students are not allowed to sit in cars prior to or during the school day.

Students are not to return to cars or parking areas during the school day without approval from an administrator or SPO, unless checking out through the Attendance Office.

Students are not allowed to ride in the bed of pickup trucks while on campus.

To ensure safe and orderly entry and exit onto the BHS campus, drivers should follow established traffic flow patterns.

Students are not allowed to give his/her parking permit to another student.

Students may be denied the privilege of parking on school property if they fail to:

Abide by parking regulations

Abide by the posted speed limit

Observe all state and city laws

Driving/parking privileges may also be suspended as part of disciplinary consequences for other campus misbehavior or unsatisfactory attendance. Parking and driving violations are also subject to the fines listed below and/or to disciplinary consequences including ISS.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are given to students at the mid-nine weeks of each semester. All students should receive progress report.

Severe Weather Causing School to be Cancelled

In the event a school must be closed due to severe weather conditions, hazardous conditions at the school or another event requiring closure, the Superintendent will issue a statement to the school(s) to be closed. If the school is closed prior to normal school hour operation, staff should listen to local radio and television broadcasts. Notifications will be made via a phone tree to notify all staff that the school has been closed.

Student Searches

When reasonable cause exists, students and/or their belongings, lockers, automobiles, or other property may be searched by the principal, assistant principals, and/or school resource officers.

Telephone

The school's telephones are for school business. According to Board policy, students are not to be sent to the office to use the phone unless absolutely necessary. If a student must use the phone, he must have a pass from the teacher and report to the Office.

TELEPHONE In Classroom

Students are NOT allowed to use the classroom telephones. Those are for teacher use only. Students may not use school phones for personal calls except in the case of an emergency. To use a school phone, you must have permission from an administrator, use the phone in the reception area, and log your call with the receptionist in the front office

LOCKS AND LOCKERS ·

One person per locker (DO NOT SHARE) · Do not leave lock so locker can readily be opened. School is not responsible for items taken from lockers. Book lockers are available for students. It is the student's responsibility to see that the locker is kept locked at all times. Any problems regarding lockers should be reported to the Principal immediately to ensure the security of the locker. Security is sacrificed any time a combination is given to another student. The school reserves the right to open and inspect any of the school lockers at any time. Students are encouraged to use their locker. Locker fee is 10.00.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES The principal and/or the Board of Education must approve all fundraising activities on campus.

FOOD OR DRINKS

No student shall have food or drinks in the classrooms without permission.

Clear, plastic water bottles with a twist-on top may be allowed in classrooms if approved by the teacher.

No fast foods or unsealed beverages are allowed on campus without administrative approval.

No food taken out of the lunchroom.

Styrofoam cups with beverages are not allowed out of the commons area.

No YETI-type cups will be allowed on campus during regular school hours.

DANCES, PROM, AND SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

No student not attending MCHS will be permitted to attend high school dances, banquets, the

prom or other high school social functions without the approval of the Principal. All school policies (dress and behavior code) are in effect at dances and other school sponsored functions. Students who cannot abide by the code of conduct will be asked to leave the school function without any possibility of refunds.

ACCIDENTS

If a student is injured on the campus during the school day, the following procedures should be followed:

Report all accidents to the teacher or coach if the injury occurs in the classroom or athletic program.

Fill out an incident report and file in the Nurse and/or Assistant Principal's office the day the accident occurs. If medical attention is required, parents will be immediately notified, and the correct procedure for the injury will be followed

MILITARY OPT OUT PERMISSION Under current federal law, all schools must, if requested, provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students to U. S. military recruiters. Under current federal laws, you do not have to allow your child's information to be shared if you choose to opt out of parking privileges. A student must maintain a 70, greater average in five out of seven classes per semester, or they will lose their parking privilege. The cost of a parking permit is \$10.00. The student must sign a parking agreement before a permit will be issued.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ATHLETICS

Students are encouraged to participate in the MCHS athletic program with its many sports offerings. The experiences and values gained through participation in athletics will reward you for life. Miller County athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor to themselves, the school, and the community, whether they are on or off the field. Please refer to the school's athletic handbook.

ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Football Baseball Tennis

Softball Golf Weightlifting

Basketball Track Cheerleading

***Students must have a physical and the parental consent form on file with the school before they will be allowed to tryout or practice. Students must have personal insurance coverage or purchase accidental coverage offered through the school. Please see athletic handbook.

Eligibility for Athletics

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) sets the minimum eligibility requirements for participation in athletics in Georgia. Miller County High School adheres to GHSA standards. Certification of eligibility is updated at the end of each semester. It is our belief at MCHS that academic success must accompany athletic success; therefore, we encourage each student athlete to "study hard" so that each of the athletes will be able to "play hard."

Code: IDE (1) 160-5-1-18 COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES GRADES 9-12: NO PASS/NO PARTICIPATE

(1) Purpose: The state board supports the offering of competitive interscholastic activities subject to reasonable rules and regulations that prevent any participation from interfering with the academic achievement of students.

(2) Requirements:

Each local board of education shall adopt a policy regulating competitive interscholastic activities.

The school principal shall regulate competitive interscholastic activities in his or her school and shall ensure that all staff members adhere to requirements.

A student wishing to participate in interscholastic competitive activities shall be enrolled full time in a public school.

(3) EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIP:

(a) The State Board of Education supports a cooperative relationship with the Georgia High School (GHSA) in establishing statewide regulations for high school interscholastic competitive activities. A local board of education may allow schools within its jurisdiction to join GHSA; however, nothing in this rule shall be deemed to authorize the use of state or local tax dollars for membership in GHSA. (b) The State Superintendent of Schools or designee serves as a member of the State Executive Committee of the GHSA. Reports shall be made to the State Board of any changes in the Georgia High School Association Constitution and Bylaws.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-240

Adopted November 13, 1997 Effective: December 29, 1997

Students may also be removed from participation in athletics for disciplinary reasons as outlined in the MCHS Athletic Code of Conduct.

CLUBS/CLUB OFFERINGS

MCHS offers many opportunities for students to become involved in clubs and their various activities. Club participation promotes character and the development of skills in academics, leadership, citizenship, cooperation, and service. The specific criteria for club membership may be obtained from the club sponsors.

Future Farmers of America (FFA) MCMS & MCHS Junior Beta Club

Senior Beta Club Student Council

Quiz Bowl Literary

Drama

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

AWARDING CREDIT

Students will be awarded credit for work successfully completed at the end of each semester. Incomplete grades (I) will be awarded only in extenuating circumstances and must be cleared within six (4) weeks of being assigned. Students who fail a course that is a prerequisite for a succeeding course will be rescheduled. Students who are in violation of the Miller County Attendance Policy could possibly lose credit for classes if the Credit Review Committee deems appropriate.

GRADE REPORTS

Report cards will be issued every nine (9) weeks. Progress reports will be sent home at the midpoint of every grading period. Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences to discuss grade reports.

GRADING SCALE CONDUCT SCALE

A (90-100) - Superior Achievement S-Satisfactory

B (80-89) - Above Average Achievement N-Needs Improvement

C (70-79) - Average Achievement U-Unsatisfactory

F (0-69) - Failure

I - Incomplete

ACADEMIC FOCUS-RTI Services

I. Rising 9th graders already on RTI list from 8th grade RTI list

Monitor grades/achievement

Remain on RTI as needed for EOC classes

Remove from RTI as students achieve academic self-sustainability in EOC classes

AF placement as needed for EOC

II. Academic Focus 9-12 (RTI watch list)

A. Students placed in AF for EOC classes

Teacher recommendations

Academic Needs- EOC classes

EOC: not passing score

Students receive remediation from EOC teacher

B. AF placement changed as needed for remediation in EOC classes

Credit Repair is a program that is offered to Miller County High School students. This program is designed to allow students to repair a failing grade of a course they have completed in either the fall or spring semesters. In order to qualify for this program a student must have a final grade of a 65-69 for the course grade. This program is for core classes ONLY. The student must also get the failing teachers permission to participate in the credit repair program. A student may repair up to two core classes that they have failed in the previous semester.

If the student qualifies for credit repair, they will be assigned course material online. Upon successful completion of the credit repair content, the student's final grade will be changed to a 70.

Credit Recovery will also be offered for students who have a grade lower than a 65. These students will repeat the entire course. The student will have 18 weeks to make up this credit and will be changed to a 70. Credit Recovery will also be offered online.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

Cumulative Numeric Grade Average (NGA): MCS calculates cumulative numeric grade averages for students by adding up all grades in all classes and dividing by the total number of classes taken. The numeric average is on a 100 point scale; i.e., 87.963 out of 100. Failing grades, online grades, and summer program grades are included the calculation. All courses listed official transcripts are averaged together. The Cumulative Numeric Grade Average is indicated on official transcripts.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA): MCS calculates cumulative grade point averages for students by converting the numerical grades in all classes to a 4.0 scale where A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, and F = 0. Converted grades are added up and then divided by the total number of

grades. Failing grades, online grades, and summer program grades are included in the calculation. All courses listed on official transcripts are averaged together. Points are not added to converted grades. Cumulative Grade Point Average is not a weighted average. Cumulative Grade Point Average is indicated on all official transcripts.

Academic Numeric Grade Average: MCS calculates the academic numeric grade averages for students only when it is needed to determine Junior Marshals, Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, Salutatorian, or similar academic positions. The academic numeric grade average is calculated in the same method as the cumulative numeric grade average but only includes academic courses. The following academic courses are included in the academic numeric grade average:

English courses with numbers beginning with class code 23.

Mathematics courses with numbers beginning with course code 27

Science courses beginning with class code 26 or 40 with all other courses included in the fourth science course requirement effective SY 2011-2012

Social studies courses beginning with course code 45

Foreign language courses beginning with course code 60-64

Other specific courses and course numbers

The Academic Numeric Grade Average is not indicated on transcripts

HOPE Scholarship GPA: All Georgia high schools must send student transcripts with complete course history to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) for calculation of the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA. Graduates must have a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

The GPA is calculated in the same way as the cumulative grade point average but only includes academic courses. The academic courses used to calculate GPA are the same as those used to calculate the academic numeric grade average (see #3 above). The weighting of grades is uniform. GSFC adds a weight of 0.5 quality points to the student's grade (up to a maximum of 4.0 quality points) for AP and IB courses and dual enrollment coursework taken at an eligible postsecondary institution. Grades from high school courses taken in middle school are not calculated. The final GPA is not rounded up. Zell Miller eligibility consideration is 3.7. A GPA of 2.99 does not qualify for either scholarship. All GPA calculations are conducted by GSFC.

Academic Rigor Requirements for HOPE Scholarship

HOPE Scholars, at the time of high school graduation, must earn a minimum of four full credits from the academic rigor course categories listed below prior to graduating from high school
Advanced math, such as advanced algebra and trigonometry, taken at the high school, or an equivalent or higher course taken for degree level credit at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution

Advanced science, such as chemistry, physics, taken at the high school, or an equivalent or higher course taken for degree level credit at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution

Foreign language courses taken at the high school, or taken for degree level credit at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution; or

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Dual Credit Enrollment courses in Core subjects

HONOR ROLL

Students who achieve a grade of 95 or better in each subject will have their names placed on the "Principal's List" for outstanding achievement. Students who achieve a grade of 90 or better in each subject will have their names placed on the "A" Honor Roll. Students who achieve a grade

of 80 or better in each subject will have their names placed on the "A-B" Honor Roll. Honor rolls for each nine weeks will be sent to the Miller County Liberal for publication.

HONOR GRADUATES

The senior with the highest GPA will be named the class valedictorian, and the senior with the second highest GPA will be named the class salutatorian. * Must have completed Hope Rigor Courses

Honor Graduates of MCHS must have completed HOPE Rigor curriculum when offered and maintained an overall GPA of 90.00 or higher.

Must be Hope eligible by completion of 4 rigor courses

a. Earn a GPA of 90.00 or higher in the following core areas:

English

4

Mathematics

4

Science

4

Social Studies

4

Foreign Language

2

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

2019 - 2020

The following criteria outline the promotion requirements:

Number of Required Carnegie Units by Grade

6 units to pass to 10th grade (5/6)

12 units to pass to 11th grade (11/12)

18 units to pass to 12th grade (17/18)

To graduate: 24 total units

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements are determined by the year a student enrolls in the 9th grade. Students will be advised and parents will be notified concerning a student's individual graduation requirements.

Graduation requirements are on file in the counselor's office. Parents and students may schedule an appointment with the counselor to discuss individual graduation requirements and progress toward graduation.

The Miller County Board of Education's Policy requires one semester of work completed at MCHS to earn a MCHS diploma.

A student must be in compliance with all existing requirements of the Georgia Department of Education.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES

A full-time counselor is available to assist students with guidance and counseling needs. Such

needs include (but are not limited to) scheduling for courses, providing information to help with career choices, advisement for meeting graduation requirements, assistance with personal problems, crisis counseling, assistance with application/admission/financial aid processes for college or other post-high school education, sending records and transcripts, parent conferences, and coordinating testing programs for students.

Any student who has a problem should feel free to consult the counselor. All students will be seen on a walk-in basis if possible; however, an appointment will allow better use of student and counselor time as well as prevent interruptions. Appointments can be made in the guidance office. All problems discussed with the counselor are confidential and will remain between student and counselor. The counselor will follow ethical and confidentiality requirements when counseling with a student.

CAREER GUIDANCE CENTER

Information is housed in the guidance office to assist students with making career and educational choices. Examples are college catalogs from most of the state and area schools, applications, financial aid information, and forms for scholarships for most colleges and technical schools, pamphlets and brochures on specific occupations, study aids for college entrance tests, and information on decision-making strategies.

Students are welcome to make an appointment with the counselor to discuss future plans and to browse through information of interest or value to them. Teachers are invited to check out information that may be useful to their classes for special projects on careers.

Out of County Students

It is the policy of the Miller County Board of Education to accept out of county students if they meet the criteria. There are standards students must meet and maintain while they attend Miller County Schools both academically and behaviorally. Any out of county students who fail to pass 5 of the 7 classes in high school or qualify to be retained while attending the Miller County School System may be asked to return to the school that services their county. Students who are referred to the office more than 4 times in a year, fight or cause disruptions in the daily flow of school will also be required to return to their service area school. Due to attendance problems, students who reach 14 excused or unexcused absences during the full year or accumulate seven tardies to school in a semester will be withdrawn. The principal has the authority to require the student to return to their service area school at any time they become a discipline problem. No out of county students will be accepted if there are problems with discipline, attendance or any academic issues.

TESTING PROGRAMS

PSAT/NMSQT - given to 10th and 11th graders in the fall. College-bound students are encouraged to take it. The test provides valuable information to students, parents, and counselors as students begin to lay groundwork for college planning. The counselor can provide registration information. To make allowances for reporting requirements, the testing service fee must be paid by the student.

SAT and ACT - given several times through the year in testing centers in our geographic area. These tests must be taken for college admission. Registration booklets can be obtained from the guidance office. The student must pay testing fees, and register online.

EOC - given to all students enrolled in an EOC course. Courses with an EOC are:

Algebra I

Geometry

Ninth Grade Literature/Composition

American Literature/Composition

Biology

Physical Science

U.S. History

Economics

As mandated by Georgia law, scores received on the EOC will count as 20% of students' second semester average.

NINE WEEKS EXAMS

Nine weeks exams will be administered in all classes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine weeks grading periods and will count as 20% of the student's final average. Courses with an EOC or SLO at the end of the year are not required to give a nine weeks exam for the 4th nine weeks. Courses that do not have an EOC or SLO at the end of the year are required to give a nine weeks exam for the 4th grading period. The 4th nine weeks exam will also count 20% of the student's 4th nine weeks average.

SUGGESTED DEADLINES FOR THE COLLEGE PROCESS

FALL of 10th GRADE YEAR - Take PSAT and use results to begin to make plans for the future. Take the SAT after completion of Geometry

FALL of 11th GRADE YEAR - Take PSAT in order to become familiar with college entrance testing program used by most Georgia colleges.

SPRING of 11th GRADE YEAR - Talk to counselor about preliminary plans, collect information about schools, and plan to take college entrance test in May or June, especially if you plan to go to a school where a minimum test score is required. If you do not do as well as you hoped, you still have several more tries to improve your scores.

FALL of 12th GRADE YEAR - Take SAT or ACT in November and/or December. Inquire in guidance office about scholarships that might be available at your chosen school or in your chosen field. Make application to the college(s) of your choice including any additional information required by the college, such as letters of recommendation, and/or immunization records, etc.

FEBRUARY of 12th GRADE YEAR - Fill out financial aid forms and submit. Follow through on any additional forms needed by the college. Establish housing arrangements if needed. Talk to a financial aid officer at the college about loans and scholarships.

MAY of 12th GRADE YEAR - Request that a final transcript be sent after your final grade point average has been calculated and a graduation date is recorded.

Helpful Hints:

Every day starting in 9th grade - Keep your grade point average as high as possible

Work on being a good "test taker"