

Lake Cormorant High School

**10201 Starlanding Rd.
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**PRINCIPAL
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THIS STUDENT HANDBOOK BELONGS TO:

Welcome to Lake Cormorant High School

The policies and procedures contained in this handbook are the result of a concerted effort by the faculty and administration in hopes of helping you become an integral part of Lake Cormorant School. We believe a quality education is the ultimate tool that can take each student to great places in this world. The faculty and administration are committed to providing each student with a safe and orderly environment in which they can achieve and excel.

AGENDA

This agenda is property of Lake Cormorant High School and is to be treated like a textbook. Do not fold or tear the pages. There will be a \$5.00 fee to replace the agenda. All students are required to have their agenda each day. It will serve multiple functions such as a planner and a hall pass. It is to be used as a tool to by the student, teachers, and the parents.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

DeSoto County Schools will be regionally and nationally recognized as a system of superior-performing schools that ignite a passion for learning, while inspiring student success through instructional excellence and exemplary leadership.

MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW

Under the Mississippi compulsory School Attendance law, a parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school age child in this state shall cause such child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate non-public school. Under the provisions of this law, "compulsory school age child" means a child who has attained or attain the age of six on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

If a compulsory school age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen calendar days after the first day of the school year which the child is eligible to attend or if a child accumulates twelve unlawful (unexcused) absences during the school year at the public school in which the child is enrolled, the parent may be taken to court and fined and/or jailed for educational neglect of their child. The penalty for this unlawful act is up to one year in the DeSoto County Jail and/or a \$1,000.00 fine.

BELL SCHEDULE

Doors Open 8:05am
Break – 8:05am – 8:30am
First Block 8:35am – 10:00am
Second Block 10:05am – 11:30am
Third Block 11:35am – 2:05pm
Fourth Block 2:10pm – 3:45pm

LUNCH SCHEDULE

CBC Lunch: 11:10am - 11:35am
1st Lunch: 11:40am - 12:05pm
2nd Lunch: 12:10pm - 12:35pm
3rd Lunch: 12:40pm – 1:05pm
4th Lunch: 1:10pm - 1:35pm
5th Lunch: 1:40pm - 2:05pm

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS CALENDAR

August 3, 2020	Teachers' First Day
August 10, 2020	Students' First Day
September 7, 2020	Labor Day Holiday
October 12, 2020	Columbus Day Holiday
November 3, 2020	Distance Learning Day (Students complete assignments at home)
November 23-27, 2020	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 18, 2020	End of First Semester
December 2, 2020- January 1, 2021	Christmas Holidays
January 4, 2021	Students Return
January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 12, 2021	Professional Development Day (Tentative)
February 15, 2021	President's Day Holiday
March 15-19, 2021	Spring Break
April 2, 2021	Good Friday Holiday
April 5, 2021	Easter Break (Tentative)
May 25, 2021	Students' Last Day (Tentative)
May 26, 2021	Teachers' Last Day (Tentative)

Tentative Make-up Days: February 12, February 15, April 5, May 26 and May 27

Wall of Honor- A professional photograph of a student will be permanently placed on the wall for outstanding achievement (National Merit finalist/Semi-finalist, National Achievement Finalist, acceptance into Military Academy, etc.)

The Club: 30 & Above-Students with an overall 30 or higher on the ACT will have their names permanently placed on the wall.

Wheel-barrel of Work – Entire classrooms are rewarded for perfect attendance, punctuality, and homework.

Perfect Score on a State Test or 27 higher on the ACT – Lunch at Texas de Brazil.

Glowing Gator – Students who are written up by their teacher for good work will be invited to the Glowing Gator Pep Rally.

Advanced Scores on the State Test – Students who score on the advanced level of any of the four SATP tests may sign their name on the wall in the respective hall of the state tested subject.

Gator Buddies – Students are selected through an interview process to partner with our community-based classroom students.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: 12th graders (24 Carnegie units are required)

- English** 4 Units
- Mathematics** 4 Units (Algebra I, and 2 higher)
- Science** 4 Units (Biology and Physical Science)
- Social Studies** 4 Units (MS Studies, Intro. to World Geography, World History, U.S. History & U.S. Govt., Economics)
- Fine Art** 1 Unit (Band, Theatre, Music, Art, Chorus)
- Comprehensive Health** .5 Unit
- Business & Technology** 1 Unit (Keyboarding/Computer Applications or STEM)
- Physical Education** .5 Unit (Fall Semester Band will substitute for Physical Education credit)
- Additional Electives** 5 Units (Only 6 total credits of Band/Athletics can count toward the total 24 credits)

ALL REGULAR EDUCATION STUDENTS MUST PASS ALGEBRA I, BIOLOGY, ENGLISH 10, & U.S. HISTORY SUBJECT AREA TESTS TO GRADUATE.

** Students intending to enroll in college need to work closely with their counselor to ensure all selected courses are sufficient to prepare them for college acceptance.*

**9th, 10th, and 11th GRADE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English I • English II
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology I
Social Studies	3½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements:

- Student must identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission
- For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:
 - Have a 2.5 GPA
 - Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
 - On track to meet diploma requirements
 - Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

Recommendations:

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math Elements I-III • Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	• Alternate Biology Elements • Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) • Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	• Alternate Health Elements
Art	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements:

- 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.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program-Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.
- 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.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- 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

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 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).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- 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

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL CPC-recommended requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- 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

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN
(Entering ninth graders in 2009 and after)

The Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian of each DeSoto County High School must be enrolled in the school on or before September 1 of the student's junior year and attend the school for both the junior and senior school years.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must meet the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning entry requirements.

The valedictorian must have the highest overall weighted numerical average based on fifteen (15) quarters.

The salutatorian must have the second highest overall weighted numerical average based on fifteen (15) quarters.

GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION
AND SPECIAL DISTINCTION
(Entering ninth graders in 2009 and after)

Graduates of Distinction (cum laude):

A "Graduate of Distinction" must have an overall weighted number average of 90 – 94 for fifteen (15) quarters. The student must meet the 26 credit graduation requirements. *

Graduates of Special Distinction (magna cum laude):

A "Graduate of Special Distinction" must have an overall weighted numerical average of 95 or higher for fifteen (15) quarters. The student must meet the 26 credit graduation requirements. *

* If a student chooses to opt out of the twenty-four credit graduation requirements, the student will not be able to graduate as a "Graduate of Distinction" or "Graduate of Special Distinction."

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
SET BY THE MS INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING
(Entering ninth graders in 2008 and after)

English	4	Units
Mathematics	3	Units (Algebra I and 2 units higher)
Social Studies	3	Units (World History, US History, US Govt., Economics or World Geography)
Science	3	Units (Biology and 2 units higher)
Business & Technology	.5	(Keyboarding and Computer Applications)
Fine Art	1	Unit
Advanced Electives	2	Units (2 years of foreign language OR any combination of English, math higher than Alg. 1, science higher than Bio. 1, advanced elective category, or any AP course.

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Participation in athletics, band choir, cheerleading, or other school activity is subject to all rules and regulations set for the by the organization, LCHS, and DCS policy. Any questions concerning the eligibility for participation should be directed to the club sponsor, coach, or member of the administrative staff. For the previous school year, the student must have passed credits and received credits as follows:

6 credits with a 2.0 GPA and 70 grade average

DROPPING SUBJECTS AND CHANGING SCHEDULES

Dropping subjects and changing schedules will be done only through the guidance office or upon request of the principal. A change of schedule may be considered only in extreme cases.

Students transferring to SHS from an out-of-district school may not enroll in full credit or state tested subjects if more than 25% of the days have been missed for the current term/semester.

Students may be removed from State Tested Subjects (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, U.S. History) at the discretion of the Principal. Criteria for removal may include: grades, attendance, behavior, or other special circumstances.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Senior (Grade 12)	Must have 20 credits; pass Eng. III, and be on track to graduate
Junior (Grade 11)	Must have 13 credits; pass Eng. II, Alg. 1, and 3 more core units
Sophomore (Grade 10)	Must have 6 credits, pass Eng. I, and 2 more core units
Freshman (Grade 9)	Has earned fewer than 6 credits

The high school academic program in DeSoto County Schools requires a minimum of four (4) years. Students may NOT take math, science or English ahead of their classification. The only exception is for students who have failed to advance to the next high school level, grades 9 through 12. These students have the following options, as approved by the principal, to earn credit(s) in order to graduate with one's original high school class:

1. The student may earn no more than one (1) credit during regular summer school. Graduating seniors may earn two (2) credits.
2. The student may earn two (2) English credits during their Junior and/or Senior year(s), one course per semester if necessary, to graduate on schedule. In order to be considered for promotion, each student must meet the daily attendance requirements established for the district. Classification does not necessarily qualify a pupil as a candidate for graduation. To be a candidate, a student must meet the requirements for graduation.

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Students are expected to attend class regularly in face or virtually, to be on time in order to benefit maximally from the instructional program, and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility.

In order to assure acceptable school attendance, the DeSoto County Board of Education has adopted the following policy for an excused absence:

1. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, the State Board of Health, and or appropriate school official.
3. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, and stepsisters. The absences must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.
4. A medical or dental appointment **with prior approval** of the principal or his/her designee, except in the case of an emergency. These absences must be documented with the proper excuse from the attending physician/dentist upon return to school.
5. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
6. Observance of a religious event, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the principal or his/her designee, the extent of absence would adversely affect the student's education).
7. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel; including vacations or other family travel, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.

Each time a student is absent, he/she must bring a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence within two (2) days of returning to school. Students who miss more than two (2) consecutive days for illness or accident must provide a doctor's note for the days to be excused. The doctor's note must be submitted to the principal within two (2) school days following the student's return to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances. [Please click here to check the district Return-to-Learn Plan for procedures for updates to the VIP and traditional attendance policy.](#)

Students who have accumulated more than ten (10) total absences must provide a doctor's note for the day to be excused. The doctor's note must be submitted to the principal within three (3) school days following the student's return to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

When a student has exceeded five unexcused absences, the Desoto County Attendance officer shall be notified in writing within two days by the school principal or his/her designee.

A high school student is considered tardy when he/she is not in class at the scheduled time. In high school a student must be in attendance for 63% of their schedule when reporting to MSIS. If a student is not present for 63% of their schedule, then they are counted absent for the entire day when reporting to MSIS.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

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

EXEMPTION POLICY (Grades 9-12)

Students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from semester and final exams if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has an (85) or above semester average in the course.
2. Students assigned to an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) for more that (5) days, students who are suspended and/or students who are placed in Desoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) at any time during the school year will forfeit the right to exemption from final exams.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE CHART

	<u>Student</u>
Exposure (Considered a close contact to a positive case) Close contact is defined as being less than 6 ft. from a positive case for 15 minutes or more)	Exclude from the school setting for 14 days after last exposure (regardless of testing result). Testing is recommended by MSDH. Student should monitor for symptoms and take their temperature twice a day for at least 14 days and contact their healthcare provider if symptoms develop.
Positive Covid-19 test; no symptoms	Exclude from the school setting until 14 days from the day of testing
Positive Covid-19 test and Symptoms	Exclude from school for 14 days from the day symptoms started, and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, and symptoms are improving
<u>Symptoms only; no test</u>	Exclude from school until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and symptoms have improved and it has been 10 days since your symptoms started.

TARDY POLICY

- 5 tardies – verbal warning
- 10 tardies – 2nd verbal warning
- 15 tardies – Mandatory Parent Conference w/Behavior Plan
- 20 tardies – 1 day ALC or Corporal Punishment (2 licks)
- 25 tardies – 2 days ALC or Corporal Punishment (3 licks)
- 30 tardies – 5 days ALC
- 35 tardies – suspended 3 days with a disciplinary hearing.

STUDENT CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Request for dismissal from school will be handled in the office. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO CHECK OUT OF SCHOOL WITH A NOTE OR OVER THE PHONE. Parents must come to school and check the student out in the office.** Any person checking out a student can be asked to provide identification. This may be done at the time of dismissal or can be done in advance of the date if needed. Since dismissal from school constitutes an absence, it should be requested only in the case of extreme emergency.

GRADING SCALE

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

9 WEEKS GRADING PERIOD

Lake Cormorant High School will operate on a nine (9) weeks grading cycle. Report cards will be issued to the student at the end of each 9 weeks grading period.

PROGRESS REPORTS

All students will receive a progress report during advisor block each 9 weeks.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may possess and use electronic devices at school subject to the following:

- The student is using the device for an educational or instructional purpose with the teacher's permission and supervision.
- Electronic devices may be used for specific instructional activities at the discretion of the school building administrator.

If a student brings an electronic device to school and it is lost or stolen, the school will not be responsible and will not conduct a search for the device.

LUNCH

Students may pay in advance for lunch daily, weekly, monthly to the cafeteria. Parents may pay online at www.mealpay.com or by calling 1-800-607-4385. Parents may check their child's account by either method. Approved free and reduced lunch will be handled in the same manner. Cash will be accepted in the lunch line, however no change will be given to students rather it will be added to the student's lunch account.

SEARCHES

Students may be searched if reasonable suspicion exists that the student possesses items prohibited by law, board policies, or school regulations. Lockers and other school property are subject to search at any time to ensure the safety of all students. Backpacks, purses, cars or any other items brought onto the school campus are also subject to search by school personnel. When feasible, the search will be conducted in the presence of the student. Any prohibited item that is found will be impounded or seized and proper disciplinary procedures will be followed.

BUS POLICY

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege can be denied pupils by suspending them from riding the bus for improper conduct. Any act of misconduct which would interfere with the driver's ability to operate the bus safely will not be tolerated. All rules and regulations which students must obey at school also must be obeyed on the school bus.

STUDENTS ARE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES:

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

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO:

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

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

In addition to these penalties, provisions of the Mississippi Criminal Code are applicable to illegal behavior. Principals are required to report illegal activities to the police. The DeSoto County Board of Education permits individual schools to adopt additional regulations, governing actions not covered by the Uniform Code of Conduct. However, such additional regulations may neither substitute for nor negate any of the provisions, or the spirit or intent of the Conduct Code, and must be approved in writing by the Superintendent of Education.

CODE OF DISCIPLINE

The uniform discipline code of the DeSoto County School provides a uniform standard of conduct for all public school students. It describes inappropriate student behavior, ensures equal treatment for misconduct, and presents specific actions for remediation of prohibited behaviors.

The code is based on the premise that rules must be enforced fairly, firmly, and consistently and in a fashion equitable and just, while complying with state mandates and regulations. It recognizes that as students' progress in school and advance in age and maturity, they will assume greater responsibility for their actions. It also recognized that differences in age and maturity require different types of disciplinary action.

In this Code, discipline is defined as the implementation of and adherence to behavioral rules and regulations which will ensure an educational environment free of mental and physical hazards to students, teachers and staff. Such an environment is conducive to the practice of good citizenship and encourages learning. The enforcement of the Code will help ensure a safe and orderly school climate for students and staff alike. Refer to School Board policy for specific provisions of the code.

STUDENT CONDUCT: LEVEL 1 – ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors, which disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including but not limited to the following:

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

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First violation:

Minimum: Teacher-Student Conference

Maximum: Teacher-Student- Parent Conference

Repeated or Flagrant violation:

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

Maximum: Corporal punishment, ALC, detention, school suspension

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

LEVEL II

*2-1 Leaving school grounds without permission

*2-2 Skipping class

*2-3 Insubordination – refusal to follow written or verbal school rules after receiving specific directions from a person in authority including, but not limited to breaking school or classroom rules, failure to respond to staff request, refusal to complete assigned task, or exhibiting disrespect towards adults.

*2-4 Students shall not possess, smoke, or use tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine while on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of district employees. This includes the possession and/or use of any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to electronic cigarettes, vapes, vaporizers, cigars, pipes, hookahs, or any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling the device.

*2-5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions.

*2-6 Unauthorized and/or inappropriate use of electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA).

**2-7 Cheating on tests or exams (The grade “0” will be assigned regardless of other punishment).

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First violation:

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

Maximum: school suspension 1 to 3 days

Repeated or Flagrant Violations:

Minimum: school suspension 3 days

Maximum: school suspension 3 days and/or ALC for up to 10 days and/or Teacher support team interventions.

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

** Additional disciplinary action for unauthorized possession or use of personal electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA):

1st Offense: First offense will result in confiscation of the device and parental contact. The electronic device will be returned at the end of the school day to the student or his/her parent/guardian as determined by the building principal.

2nd Offense: Second offense will result in confiscation of the electronic device and a mandatory parent/administrator conference. The electronic device will not be returned directly to the student; parent/guardian must meet with a school-level administrator to collect the electronic device.

3rd Offense: Third offense will be considered repeated and/or flagrant and the penalty for such acts will be determined by the building administrator. The phone will be confiscated and penalties could include, but are not limited to the following: Check-in/Check-out procedures for the electronic device during the school day (1-10 days), ALC/in-school suspension (1-3 days)

4th Offense: Fourth offense will result in school suspension (1-3) days, and a loss of electronic device privileges pending reinstatement by the building principal.

LEVEL III

3-1 Fighting

3-2 Gambling

*3-3 Theft of personal or school property

3-4 Acts which threaten the safety and well being of students and/or staff: engaging in any behavior (by word or act) that encourages, incites, or instigates threatening or aggressive acts which can create the risk of harm to another person.

3-5 Extortion-use of intimidation, coercion or force

*3-6 Vandalism of personal and/or school property

3-7 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language or gestures, and possession of obscene, indecent or offensive materials.

3-8 Inappropriate sexual conduct, including unwelcomed sexual contact, indecent exposure, or transferring sexually suggestive images through personal electronic devices.

3-9 Bullying (as defined in Board Policy JDDA)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First Violation

Minimum: School suspension from one to three days, ALC, corporal punishment

Maximum: School suspension 3 days, report to authorities when applicable

Repeated or flagrant violations:

Minimum: School suspension 3 days, ALC 10 days and levels 3-4 and 3-8 Teacher Support Team Interventions

Maximum: School suspension 3 days and possible assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center pending the results of a disciplinary hearing.

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

LEVEL IV

*4-1 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, synthetic drugs, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance or paraphernalia.

4-2 Assault on a student. Assault is defined as purposely or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury (including pain or discomfort) to another.

4-3 Assault on a school employee. Assault is defined as purposely or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury (including pain or discomfort) to another.

4-4 Directing profanity, vulgar or threatening language, and/or obscene gestures toward a staff member.

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

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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

Maximum: Expulsion

Students below grade 6 may be given other punishment.

LEVEL V

5-1 Weapon(s) possession, and/or use of a weapon as defined in MS CODE 97-37-17. Weapons possession on educational property. The definition of weapon for the sake of this policy also includes any instrument used as a weapon which can cause death or serious physical injury. Also, any toy or look-alike weapon that looks enough like an authentic weapon to be reasonably mistaken as authentic. Examples of weapons include, but are not limited to guns, rifles, pistols, toy guns, knives, toy knives, craft knives, utility tools, scissors, air or gas operated weapons, AirSoft pistols, BB guns, air rifle, air pistol, daggers, slingshots, razors, dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades, mines, etc.

Minimum: Possession, other than a gun, assignment to DCAC and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities,

Maximum: Possession of a firearm/gun or use of other weapons will result in expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year (under certain circumstances expulsion can be from the student's assigned school to DCAC)

5-2 Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell counterfeit drugs, synthetic drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics or controlled substances

Minimum: Assignment to DCAC and a report will be made to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Maximum: Expulsion

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

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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

Repeated: Assignment to DCAC

Maximum: Expulsion for repeated violations and/or gang activity that includes but is not limited to: Acts which disrupt the process of orderly education, recruitment with use of intimidation, tagging or marking, assault, battery

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

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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

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

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

DUE PROCESS

In cases where the imposition of punishment is for a suspension of three days or less, the student will be orally informed of the charges lodged against them. The student shall have a right to respond and refute the charges. There may be a delay between the time that the "notice" is given and the time of the parent/student right to response. A parent will be notified of the suspension by telephone, if possible, and in writing. The student's parent/guardian has a right to discuss this matter further and have the charge and punishment explained by an administrator along with all other rights provided by board policy.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

When a student appears before a disciplinary hearing, the student will be subject to additional punishment up to and including suspension of more than three days, assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than ten days, or and expulsion from school.

For additional information on due process and disciplinary hearings, please refer to the Board Policy JDAAAA- Disciplinary Procedures.

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

After a student is referred for consideration of placement at the DeSoto County Alternative Center, the District Review Board and Transition Team will determine appropriate placement for the student. Once a student is accepted into DCAC, the District Review Board and Transition Team will develop and Individualized Instruction Plan for each student. The plan will follow the program and class schedule of the home school. DCAC follows the frameworks that are established by the state of Mississippi for the subject matter to be taught in each course. Certified personnel will send a daily feedback sheet home that requires a parent signature for all students attending DCAC.

An Individualized Education Plane committee meets to determine every change of placement for our special education students. Students with special education rulings follow their IEP while at DCAC.

Parents are notified of the recommendation for placement at DCAC during the disciplinary hearing. The home school will contact the parent once acceptance is granted by the District Review Board. All parents and students will meet with a DCAC administrator to discuss the DCAC program and requirements. The student shall complete a minimum of thirty (30) successful days prior to returning to his/her home school.

The District Review Board consist of school level administrators, district level administrators, and counselors as determined by the Director of Pupil Services.

LOSS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR PRIVILEGES (BANNED LIST)

The following behaviors may result in the loss of all extra-curricular privileges.

6 days of more of ALC, suspended from school 1 or more days, assignment to DCAC or JDC

CAR POLICY

Students in grades 10-12 will be allowed to drive to school. Each student must have a valid MS driver's license, proof of insurance, and must pay for a parking decal. All students that are driving must follow the school rules in regard to driving. Before a decal can be purchased student and guardian must sign a copy of the driving rules. **Driving to campus is a privilege and can be revoked by the principal at any time.**

MEDICINE

The school will administer prescription drugs only. Parents must complete an authorization form before medicine can be distributed. Medication must be in its original container. No student should have any medication (prescription or over the counter) in their possession at any time during the school day.

DRESS CODE

Proper attire and grooming are deemed important to scholastic achievement and orderliness. The responsibility for appearance of the students begins with the parents and the students themselves. Students' clothing, make-up, and hairstyles should reflect neatness, cleanliness, and self-respect so that the school is a desirable place in which to promote learning and character development.

1-6 Dress Code Violation

1st violation- Documented Warning with corrected dress code

2nd violation- Documented Warning with corrected dress code

3rd Violation – Mandatory Parent Conference

4th Violation- ALC (1 day)

5th Violation – ALC (3 days)

***Repeated Violations may result in a suspension (3 days) and a disciplinary hearing.**

It is virtually impossible to formulate a set of regulations that adequately covers every detail of proper grooming. Violations of the Dress Code will be dealt with in accordance with the code of discipline. Dress code violations will be handled as insubordination as stated in the code of discipline.

1. Hair must be neat, clean and worn in a manner which does not interfere with vision or cause disruption in the classroom. No combs, picks, rollers, or extreme coloring will be allowed.
2. T-shirts with sleeves, white or colored are acceptable. Shirts must be properly closed, zipped or buttoned.
3. No article of clothing that pertains to or depicts the following are acceptable:
 - A. Substances or activities illegal by law for minors: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling
 - B. Profane, suggestive, or violent language
 - C. Derogatory symbols: remarks directed to any ethnic group.
4. Sufficient underclothes must be worn appropriately and must not be exposed.
5. Tank tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, thin straps, or tops that expose the midriff, any part of the bust or excessive part of the back or are excessively tight or distracting are not permitted. **Shirts are to be tucked in. Blouses/tops made to be worn outside should be at least 3 inches below the waistline and no longer than 5 inches below the waistline.** No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline of pants.
6. Students in grades K-5 can wear shorts; however spandex shorts are not allowed. Shorts should be walking shorts or Bermuda shorts. Students in grades 6 thru 12 may wear walking shorts or Bermuda shorts that are knee length. They should not be excessively tight or baggy. Athletic shorts are not permitted unless they are a part of an approved gym class or athletic class/activity.
7. Near knee length dresses and skirts are allowed. No slits in these skirts or dresses above the kneecaps are allowed.
8. No spandex articles are allowed.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times; no house shoes are allowed. **Shoes with laces should be laced and tied.**
10. No visible tattoos will be allowed. Neither male nor female students will be permitted to wear rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, or other exposed body parts other than the ear and appropriate rings on fingers.
11. Coaches, physical education classes or any organized athletics have the option to ban jewelry due to safety reasons and violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulation.
12. Sunglasses other than prescription must be removed when inside the building.
13. All pants must be worn fitted to the waist at the waist with or without a belt. **Belts must be worn and buckled appropriately for pants that have belt loops. Pants should fit appropriately. NO BAGGY PANTS ARE ALLOWED.** No writing is to be on the seat of the pants, even the cheerleader's uniform and dance team.
14. Leggings are allowed when worn with a top that meets the dress length guidelines specified in #7.
15. Pants must have no exposed skin above the knee.
16. Hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings, on the grounds of the school except for medical reasons as prescribed by a physician. Head covering as part of a religious belief will be allowed if there is sufficient proof the student is a practicing member of the religious sect. Head coverings may be worn if authorized by the faculty and/or administration if it is part of a uniform (i.e.wearing a full baseball uniform during games or practice) or as deemed necessary.
17. Specific outfits designated for extracurricular activities and decisions concerning any questionable clothing will be left to the discretion of the principal.
18. Local principal or their designee has the power and discretion to make all decisions on their campus.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by DeSoto County Schools. Textbooks must be returned at the end of the year or when a student withdraws from school. No writing is permitted in the textbook and fines will be assessed to the student if they misuse or damage their textbooks. Full price must be paid by the student if the textbook is lost. Students will not be issued textbooks for the next school year until all textbook fines have been paid.

GANG POLICY

The Desoto County School District prohibits gang activity, defined hereinafter. Students who engage in gang activity will be subject to discipline pursuant to the District's Code of Discipline, up to and including possible expulsion.

A “gang” is defined as a group that initiates, advocates, or promotes illegal activities, activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or at supervised school functions, or activities that are harmful to the education process. Prohibited “gang activity” includes, but is not limited to: (1) Soliciting students to become gang members; (2) Participating in gang initiation or other gang ceremonies; (3) Deliberately wearing, displaying, or possessing prohibited gang symbols;(4)Engaging in gang-related violence or threats of violence;(5) Threatening others, including threats by brandishing a weapon or a replica of a weapon on school campuses, or at supervised school functions; or(6) Engaging in any behavior undertaken in such a manner as to be reasonably likely to incite violence or endanger persons or property.

Prohibited “gang symbols” may include, any type of clothing decoration, jewelry, patches, bandanas, gang names, depiction of gang signs or symbols, and/or body signal/movement which is recognized as denoting a gang or is a sign, signal or movement utilized in connection with gang communications, including, but not limited to those appearing with the “Gang Awareness” pamphlet attached hereto as well as the additions thereto in the future. School officials will keep a booklet containing known “gang symbols” in each office. In addition, prohibited “gang symbols” shall be published at the start of each school year in the Student Handbook. Students and parents who may have questions regarding this policy should contact the school principal for further clarification of any part of the policy.

Students may be disciplined for engaging in any activity prohibited by this policy including the prohibited “gang activity” enumerated in the third paragraph hereof. District officials will cooperate with local law enforcement to provide the school with gang information to aid in the prevention of violence, gangs, and drugs in our school. This information shall include, but is not limited to gang names, colors, symbols, signals, and gestures associated with gangs (all of which are prohibited gang activity). School officials will publish notice of the prohibited names, signals, gestures, colors, and symbols in the school office as made available by local police department and government authorities or otherwise made known to school officials. The school will continually update the information posted in the school office relating to prohibited gang symbols and gang activity. Notice of updated prohibited gang activity and/or gang symbols will be sent home with each student, said notice shall advise students that the prohibited gang activity and gang symbols has been updated with the updates maintained in the school office and the District website.

Each school shall make regular announcements to the student body advising that gang activity and gang symbols are strictly prohibited. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, nothing herein prohibits the display recognized religious symbols such as the Star of David or the Crescent or the Cross unless these or other religious symbols are altered or augmented in some way.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, wearing of clothing or particular colors in and itself is not prohibited unless the clothing (color or otherwise) is worn in combination with prohibited gang signs or symbols. The wearing or displaying in any manner of gang names, however, is prohibited.

SECTION 504

A parent, staff member, student, or personnel may request a Section 504 Plan. This request may be made, in writing, to the school’s Section 504 Coordinator. A meeting will be scheduled, at the school, to discuss a student’s possible substantial limitation to access the facility and/or educational benefit.

No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the DeSoto County School system.

VISITORS (JCCA)

Visitors are welcome on the campus of any DeSoto County School. However, listed below are regulations that must be observed:

- All visitors must report to the office. (including news media). [Please click here to also see the LCHS Return-to-Learn Plan for additional information regarding visitors.](#)
- If the principal has any reason to question the legitimacy of the visit, the superintendent’s office will be consulted.
- Teachers will not be interrupted while teaching except for emergencies.
- It is at the principal’s discretion to ask a visitor to leave the campus, if he or she is causing a disruption to the environment, program, or activity to which the visitor is attending.

DESTOTO COUNTY NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

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

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

Director of Student Intervention
Title VI, Title II and 504 Coordinator

DeSoto County Schools
5 East South Street
Hernando, MS 38632
662-429-5271

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