



DeSoto Central Middle School

2611 Central Parkway Southaven, MS 38672
Phone 662-349-6660 Fax 662-349-1045

Bryon Williams

Kim Burrell

Jennifer Stripling

Chris Wamble

Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians of DCMS students:

The agenda information had to be sent to the publishing company in May. Certain policy updates were adopted by the county in June. Please be informed that updated board policy will override any outdated policy or policies in the agenda. However, the vast majority of the updated policies were received before the agenda was sent to printing and the necessary changes have already been made. The updated School Board Policy is now available online at www.desotocountyschools.org

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

- The use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity. This also includes hate groups.
- Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics, controlled substance(s), prescription drugs, or any substance dangerous to students.

Students who openly defy these warnings will be considered a threat to the safety of students and staff and will be disciplined accordingly. Also, the student could be expelled from DeSoto County Schools.

Thank you for your support of DeSoto Central Middle School. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great school year.

Respectfully,

Mr. Bryon Williams, Principal
DeSoto Central Middle School

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SCHEDULE				
Time	Subject	Rm #	Teacher	Teacher Email Address
1st Period				
2nd Period				
3rd Period				
4th Period				
5th Period				
6th Period				
7th Period				
8th Period				

<p style="text-align: center;">LOCKER/BUS INFORMATION</p> <p>Locker # _____ Bus/Route # _____</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Important Medical Data</p> <hr/> <hr/>
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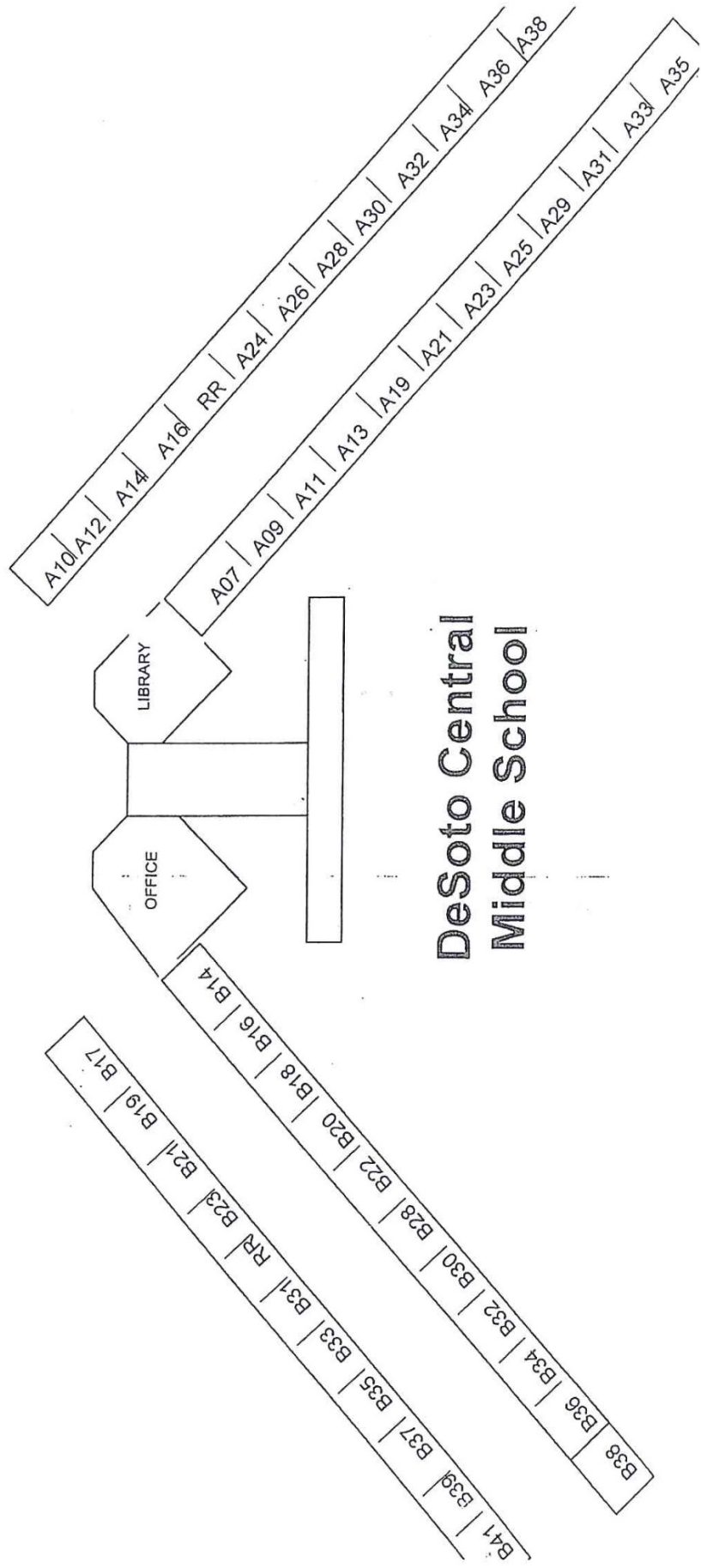
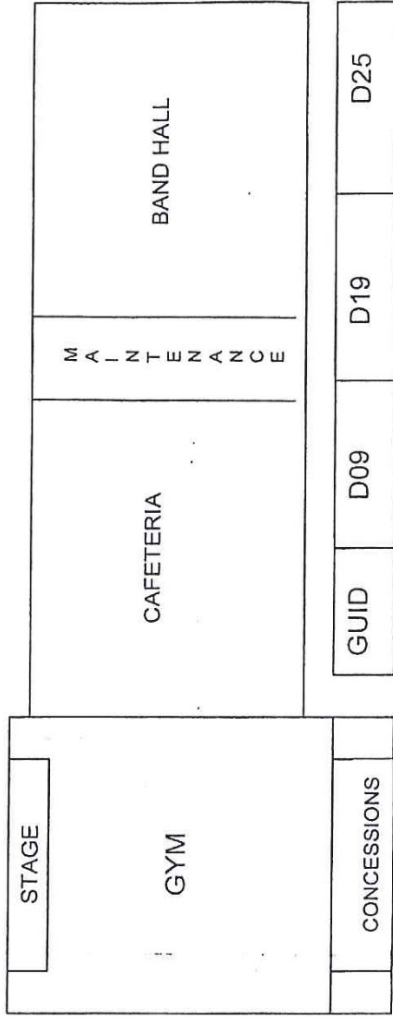
Published date is May 2017. All policies and procedures of DeSoto County Schools and DeSoto Central Middle School are subject to change. Parents will be notified.

Teachers' Lounge	F104	F103	F102	F101
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F112A	RR	F115	F116	F117
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C23	C21	C19	C17	RR	C05-2	C05-1	C01-2	C01-1
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C24	C22	C20	C18	C14	C12	C10	C04	C02
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DeSoto Central Middle School

Bell Schedule 2017 - 2018

6th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Students must sit in cafeteria
7:50 – 8:00	Students are dismissed to go to lockers and class/Channel 1
8:00 – 8:48	1 st period / DCTV / Announcements
8:48 – 8:58	Break
9:03 – 9:51	2 nd period
9:56 – 10:44	3 rd period
10:44 – 11:09	Lunch
11:14 – 12:02	4 th period
12:07 – 12:55	5 th period
1:00 – 1:48	6 th period
1:53 – 2:41	7 th period
2:46 – 3:35	8 th period
3:35	Car riders are dismissed
3:40	Bus riders and walkers are dismissed

7th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Students must sit in gym
7:50 – 8:00	Students are dismissed to go to lockers and class/Channel 1
8:00 – 8:48	1 st period / DCTV / Announcements
8:53 – 9:41	2 nd period
9:41 – 9:51	Break
9:56 – 10:44	3 rd period
10:49 – 11:37	4 th period
11:37 – 12:02	Lunch
12:07 – 12:55	5 th period
1:00 – 1:48	6 th period
1:53 – 2:41	7 th period
2:46 – 3:35	8 th period
3:35	Car riders are dismissed
3:40	Bus riders and walkers are dismissed

8th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Students must sit in gym
7:50 – 8:00	Students are dismissed to go to lockers and class/Channel 1
8:00 – 8:48	1 st period / DCTV / Announcements
8:53 – 9:41	2 nd period
9:46 – 10:34	3 rd period
10:34 – 10:44	Break
10:49 – 11:37	4 th period
11:42 – 12:30	5 th period
12:30 – 12:55	Lunch
1:00 – 1:48	6 th period
1:53 – 2:41	7 th period
2:46 – 3:35	8 th period
3:35	Car riders are dismissed
3:40	Bus riders and walkers are dismissed

DeSoto County Schools Calendar 2017 - 2018

August 1	Teachers' First Day
August 3	Students' First Day
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
October 9	Columbus Day Holiday
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
December 18 – January 1	Christmas Break
January 2	Teachers Return
January 4	Students Return
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 16	Professional Development Day
February 19	Presidents' Day
March 12 – 16	Spring Break
March 30	Good Friday Holiday
April 2	Easter Holiday
May 23	Students' Last Day
May 25	Teachers' Last Day
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday

Subject To Change Due To Emergency Conditions

MISSION STATEMENT OF DESOTO CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

DeSoto Central Middle School recognizes that each child is unique and achieves success in a variety of ways. Therefore, DeSoto Central Middle School commits itself to helping each student achieve positive social and academic success, as well as developing skills in responsibility and self-actualization. We support a dedicated faculty that strives to provide advanced technology and other resources enabling students to attain their own success.

WELCOME

The administration, faculty, and staff of DeSoto Central Middle School welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year. This handbook is to provide you with the guidelines that are followed here at DeSoto Central Middle School. Every member of the staff is here to help you have a successful and enjoyable school year. Read this handbook carefully, as it will answer many questions about your needs and what will be expected of you at DeSoto Central Middle School.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Our school is part of the DeSoto County School System, which is the largest school district in the State of Mississippi. All schools in the district are fully accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

VISITORS

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)
- 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.

Parents and/or visitors on the approved check-out list may bring fast food. However, you must stay with child during lunch. **Dropping fast food off is not permitted.**

COMMUNICATION

Agenda

All students are required to have an agenda each and every school day. The agenda is to be used by the student/parent/teacher as a communication tool. There is a \$5.00 replacement fee for a lost agenda.

Rules for the Agenda

1. Students are to have his/her agenda with him/her at ALL times.
2. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom without an agenda.
4. If an agenda is damaged or lost, the student will replace it.
5. Do not remove the spiral binder of the agenda.

Auto Dialer

Auto Dialer is used as a communication tool. Students who miss one or more periods will have their parents notified by phone that evening. Other notifications are report cards, state testing, and individual teacher notifications.

Progress Reports

DeSoto Central Middle School is proud to be on the cutting edge of technology. Parents have an added opportunity to become directly involved in your child's education through our ability to email progress reports directly from the teacher's electronic grade book. All that is required is an email address furnished by the parent. With this information, teachers can begin to utilize this wonderful resource of communication. Progress reports will be sent home in the middle of each nine- weeks grading period.

Web Page

The DeSoto Central Middle School web page consists of tons of great information about our school. On the web site you can find information on principals and staff, calendars, bus routes and announcements. Please feel free to visit and learn more about our school.

www.desotocountyschools.org/dcm/

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Desoto County School District has Asbestos management plans for each school in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The management plan can be reviewed in the main office of the school. Any questions may be directed to Desoto County Board of Education, Sam Hall at 1-662-449-7221.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Safety

Listed below are several policies that will be strictly enforced for the safety and well-being of our students.

1. Every outside door of the building will be locked with a sign posted requiring all non-school employees to check in at the school office.
2. Student Early Checkout: Only a parent or guardian, or a person certified in writing by the parent or guardian, will be allowed to check a student out of school. A phone call will not be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** There will be no check-outs after 3:05 except for verified doctor's appointments. Please work with the school so instructional time is not lost to disruptions.

3. Please be informed that visitors may be videoed or have pictures taken while on school property.
4. Any students involved in a fight may be suspended for 3 days and possibly have a disciplinary hearing.
5. Bicycles ridden to school must be walked to the appropriate racks where the bicycle will remain until school is out. Then they must be walked to the street. Skateboards are not allowed.

Suspensions/ALC/DCAC

Students who are suspended, in ALC, or DCAC will not be allowed to attend any school activity during time of suspension or alternative placement. Students may also not be able to attend field trips or participate in extra curricular activities. This will be the principal or his designee's discretion.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Office hours are from 7:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:15 a.m. Parents will be responsible for students arriving prior to 7:15 a.m. or students still on campus after 4:00 p.m. unless the students are involved in a school sponsored activity.

ATTENDANCE/EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, 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 receive a passing grade, students must satisfy the following:

1. For the purpose of compliance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, absences will be determined to be excused or unexcused. Each of the following shall constitute an excused absence:
 - a. Authorized school activity with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee;
 - b. Illness or accident which prevents attendance. The superintendent or his designee may require any necessary proof of illness or accident;
 - c. Absences due to isolation by the County Health Officer or State Board of Health;
 - d. Absences due to death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family includes grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, and stepsisters;
 - e. Court attendance where the child is party or under subpoena;
 - f. Observance of a religious event at the discretion of the superintendent or his designee;
 - g. Any other absence deemed to be valid by the superintendent or his designee.

Each time a student is absent, he/she must bring a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence. The same applies each time a student checks out from 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. Seven (7) absences due to illness may be excused by a note from a parent/guardian. Any additional absence after the seven (7) excused by a parent/guardian note must be excused by a note from a doctor or other documentation excusing said absence. Any documentation being given for excuse of absence(s) must be submitted to the principal or his/her designee within two (2) school days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

2. When a child has exceeded five (5) unexcused absences, the DeSoto County Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing by the school principal. Any further unexcused absences shall also be reported to the Attendance Officer.
3. A student must be present at school the majority of the school day to be eligible to participate in any school activity during or after the school day.

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 will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

If a compulsory school age child has not been enrolled in a school within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year which the child is eligible to attend or if a child accumulates 12 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 the child. The penalty for this unlawful act is up to one year in the DeSoto County Jail and /or a \$1,000 fine.

Students in grades six, seven, and eight must satisfy the following:

Absences due to a death in the immediate family must be cleared and approved by the principal or his/her designee. (Immediate family includes parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters including stepbrothers and stepsisters.)

A student is considered to be tardy when he/she is not in class at the scheduled time. Three incidents of tardiness to class will be considered as equal to one unexcused absence.

A student must consult the teachers on the day he/she returns to class following an absence to make arrangements to make up any work missed.

At the end of a semester, a student may be excused from the final examination in a course if he/she has an 85 average or above and has not missed more than two (2) days (excused or unexcused) prior to the days designated for exams.

Absences due to suspensions are counted against the student toward the exemption policy. The enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the building principal.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR GRADING

Students must demonstrate mastery of the content required for each grade/course. The skills from the State of Mississippi Curriculum Structure are included. Content for grades 7-12 is determined by objectives listed in State Curriculum Structure.

Monitoring Student Progress

Each teacher has the responsibility for identifying pupils who are not making satisfactory progress toward the achievement of grade level or course objectives, particularly those objectives listed in the State Curriculum Structure.

Teachers are encouraged to notify parents during each grading period if students do not meet minimum requirements.

The following guidelines apply to all subject areas:

The DeSoto County School District requires that the State Curriculum objectives be included in the scope and sequence of every subject area. The school district provides a curriculum manual for each teacher.

Required lesson plans must follow the format developed and approved by the school district.

DeSoto County Schools Grading Scale

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

Grading Policy

Each nine-weeks grade is computed by averaging the grades for that nine-weeks. Eighty percent (90%) of the nine-weeks grade will be the average of that nine-weeks work and twenty percent (10%) of the nine-weeks grade will be a comprehensive test. In grades 6-12, the semester grade is computed by averaging the two nine-weeks grades with the semester examination. The yearly grade is computed by averaging the two semester grades. The grading policy for students with disabilities with current Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) will be consistent with policy IHF-A.

Grading Parameters for Grades 6, 7, and 8

All Classes

- 10% Nine Weeks Test
- 40% Major Tests, and Major Projects
- 35% Classwork
- 15% Homework

Promotion, Grades 6, 7 and 8

In order to be promoted in grades 6, 7 and 8, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Earn a minimum yearly average of 65 in mathematics, English/literature, science, and social studies.
2. Meet the school districts daily attendance requirements.

DRESS CODE

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

It is virtually impossible to formulate a set of regulations that adequately cover every detail of proper grooming. **Violations of the Dress Code will be dealt with in accordance with the DeSoto County Schools Code of Discipline. It will be treated as insubordination and will be handled as stated in the Code of Discipline of the DeSoto County Schools. Insubordination is a Level II violation.**

- **First Violation:** Administrator-Parent conference, ALC if can't not be corrected.
 - **Second Violation:** ALC or corporal punishment
 - **Repeated Times:** Suspension from school pending a disciplinary hearing
1. No combs, picks, or rollers in hair 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 will be 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, excessive part of the back, excessively tight or distracting in class are not permitted. No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline of pants or skirts. Blouses/tops made to be worn outside should be at least three (3) inches below the waistline and no longer than five (5) inches below the waistline.
 6. Students in grades K thru 12 are allowed to wear shorts as part of their daily attire. Shorts should be no shorter than two (2) inches above the knee. They should not be excessively

tight or baggy. Athletic shorts are not permitted unless they are a part of an approved gym class/activity.

7. Knee length dresses and skirts are allowed.
8. No spandex articles are allowed.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times, and 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 any 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/or violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulations.
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. Pants should fit properly. No baggy pants are allowed. No writing is to be on the seat of the pants, even the cheerleader's uniform and dance team. Capris for girls must be mid calf.
14. **Leggings are allowed when worn with a top that meets the dress length guidelines specified in #7.**
15. If needed, properly placed patches may be worn with pants. No holes, tears or shreds above the knee will be allowed.
16. Hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings or on the grounds of the school except for medical reasons as prescribed by a physician. Head coverings as part of a religious belief will be allowed if there is sufficient proof the student is a practicing member of the religious sect. Head coverings may be worn if authorized by the faculty and/or administration, if it is part of a uniform (i.e., wearing a full baseball uniform during games or practice) or as deemed necessary.
17. Specific outfits designated for extracurricular activities and decisions concerning any questionable clothing will be left to the discretion of the principal.
18. Local principals or their designee have the power and discretion to make all decisions on their campus.

BUS POLICY

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege can be denied to 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 apply on the bus.

Students are to comply with the following rules:

1. Ride assigned bus and only get off bus at assigned stop. (To receive permission to ride another bus, get off at another stop or have friends ride home, students must have prior approval by school administrator no later than 12:00 noon. This must be done in writing by parent of student.)
2. Be at assigned stop (**this does not mean inside house.**)
3. Always look in both directions and pass in front of the bus if necessary to cross 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. For your safety do not distract driver through loud talking and misbehavior. Be quiet when the bus is nearing and crossing a railroad and/or highway.
6. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
7. Be courteous.
8. Keep bus clean.

Students are not to:

1. Play on the road while waiting for the bus.

2. Bring unauthorized articles on bus. (Ex. pets, combustibles, large articles, weapons, gameboys, cell phones, etc.)
3. Eat or drink on bus (this includes chewing gum.)
4. Use profanity or vulgar gestures.
5. Smoke or use intoxicants.
6. Fight or tussle.
7. Throw things – including things out of windows.
8. Destroy or damage bus interior or exterior. To do so, would be cause for either paying of damages or bus suspension as determined by school administrator.
9. Open emergency door (can only be opened in case of emergency.)

Note: DCS Transportation Department and driver are not responsible for articles left on bus. 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, the penalty will be at principal's discretion depending on circumstances. Punishment may be up to and including daily or permanent suspension.

CAR USE

No students are allowed to drive a vehicle to or from the school grounds.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students should:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Be prepared for each class.
3. Participate in class discussions and activities.
4. Take advantage of resources available for academic and social problems.
5. Express themselves in a manner that is not a disruption or an embarrassment to others.
6. Dress in a way that is appropriate for school.
7. Master to the best of his/her ability all subjects.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

No student shall be allowed to carry a knife or any other article that can be construed as a weapon on the school grounds or school bus. Failure to abide by this policy may result in immediate suspension of the student. If a student pulls a knife or weapon on anyone in a threatening manner, he or she will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.

No student is allowed to have tobacco or any associated item (lighter) in his/her possession on any school campus or school bus. Failure of a student to abide by this policy may result in immediate suspension of the student.

1. Any student with a Facebook or Instagram page making threatening or derogatory remarks about teachers or students may be suspended if it causes a disruption in the daily process of school.
2. No student will be allowed to work for any teacher, office or school program that has a failing grade in any subject.
3. Any student that has become a discipline problem resulting in 3 office referrals or a suspension from school will not be allowed to make any school trips or participate in any extra-curricular activity including sporting events. This will be at the principal or his designee's discretion.
4. No gum is allowed in school.
5. Students are not allowed to have gum, liquid paper, or anything which could be used to deface school property.

Any student who shall sell, use, or possess any dangerous narcotic drug or alcoholic beverage (as these terms are now defined or may hereafter be defined by law) will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.

Students are not to bring toys, cameras, cell phones, pagers, radios, tape recorders, stereos, etc. to school without permission from the administration. Such items will be confiscated and will only be released to a parent or guardian.

No Name Calling and No Touching of other students.

Consequences for Fighting

1. The student will receive a possible 3 Day Suspension.
2. The student will have a possible disciplinary hearing with additional punishment possible.
3. Students fighting are subject to be removed from all extra-curricular activities.

BACKPACKS

Backpacks of any type are allowed at DeSoto Central Middle School. However, students are not allowed to have backpacks in the classrooms – this includes Sportspacks. Students should place backpacks or Sportspacks in their lockers at the beginning of the day. There will be time allotted for students to pick up backpacks from their lockers at the end of the day.

TARDY POLICY

Our tardy policy is based on one semester.

Morning Tardies

School begins at 8:00 a.m. Any student who is not in the classroom door when the bell stops ringing is considered tardy.

Tardies 1-8—No punishment and no parent notification

Tardy 9—Parent will be contacted.

Tardies 10-14—Students will be placed in lunch detention.

Tardies 15 thru indefinite—Students will be in ALC for the remainder of the day.

Parents may present themselves to the principal or his designee **three** times per semester for an excuse if their child is late and it is not the child's fault, no exceptions.

Period Tardies

Students who are not in the room when the bell stops ringing are tardy.

Students are allowed **5** tardies per period with no punishment and no parent notification. Students who are tardy the **6th** time for a class in one semester will be considered insubordinate and it will be the principal's discretion or his designee as to the disciplinary action taken.

Students who are tardy the **7th through indefinite** will be assigned **1** day in ALC or corporal punishment.

There will be no check-outs after 3:05 except for verified doctor's appointment.

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS CODE OF DISCIPLINE

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or the principal, for a conference regarding the destructive acts of their child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (2) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
5. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child who

- a. fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or
 - b. refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed an amount provided by law.
6. The DeSoto County Schools shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed an amount as provided by law, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor (7-17) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to this school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.
7. As an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with this Code.

**CODE OF DISCIPLINE
GRADES K-12**

Student Conduct:

Acts of Misconduct

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

Level I

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

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

Minimum: Teacher-Student Conference

Maximum: Teacher-Student-Parent Conference

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

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

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

* Students, who after having 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.

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Level II

- * 2 – 1 Leaving the 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 Possession and/or use of a tobacco product or substances used as smoking material, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vapes, vaporizers, or any alternative nicotine product

* 2 – 5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions

* 2 – 6 Bullying (as defined in Board Policy JDDA)

** 2 – 7 Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA).

***2 – 8 Cheating on tests or exams

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

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

Maximum: School suspension (one to three days)

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

Minimum: School suspension (three days)

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

Teacher Support Team interventions

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

** Additional disciplinary action for unauthorized 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: School will take and keep device for 5 school days. After the device is retained for 5 school days, the electronic device will be returned to the student or his/her parent/guardian as determined by the building principal.

3rd Offense: School will take and keep device for 10 school days. After the device is retained for 10 school days, the electronic device will be returned to the student or his/her parent/guardian as determined by the building principal.

4th Offense: School will take and keep device for 20 school days. After the device is retained for 20 school days, the electronic device will be to the student or his/her parent/guardian as determined by the building principal.

*** The grade "0" will be assigned regardless of other punishment.

Level III

3 – 1 Fighting

3 – 2 Gambling

*3 – 3 Theft or possession of stolen property

3 – 4 Acts which threaten the safety and well-being of 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 and/or gestures, and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials

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

Action

First Violation

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

Maximum: School suspension (three days), report to authorities when applicable

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

Minimum: School suspension (three days), ALC (ten days), and/or Levels 3-4 and 3-8 Teacher Support Team interventions

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

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

Level IV

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

4 – 2 Assault on a student. 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 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, threatening or offensive language and/or gestures directly to 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 the DeSoto County Alternative Center 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 or use

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Possession other than gun will result in assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities

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

For students below grade 6, the hearing officer may recommend other punishment if the behavior does not require expulsion and the student is likely to benefit from remediation

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

Disciplinary Action

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

Maximum: Expulsion

For students below grade 6, the hearing officer may recommend other punishment if the behavior does not require expulsion and the student is likely to benefit from remediation

** 5 – 3 Students are prohibited from wearing, displaying, or possessing in any manner on school property or at school-sponsored events clothing, apparel, accessories, drawings, or messages

associated with any gang or social club that is associated with criminal activity, as defined by law enforcement agencies.

Disciplinary Action

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

Repeated: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center

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

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

For students below grade 6, the hearing officer may recommend other punishment if the behavior does not require expulsion and the student is likely to benefit from remediation.

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

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

EMERGENCY DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

All students should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the following procedures:

Fire Drill and School Evacuation Plan

Students are to become familiar with the school evacuation plan which is posted in each classroom. The signal to evacuate the school will be a fire alarm sound. When the fire alarm sounds, all students should be silent **immediately** and follow the instructions of their teachers.

Tornado Alert

Students will become familiar with the schools Tornado Alert Plan that is posted in all classrooms. The signal for a tornado drill or alert will be announced over the intercom.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Assembly Programs

Assemblies are held periodically in the school gymnasium and cafeteria. Students should give respect to all speakers and not talk while a speaker is talking. Good manners are always expected of students. Everyone is required to conduct himself/herself in a manner appropriate for the program being presented.

Care of Property

School property is for the benefit and use of students. It is our desire that everyone will exhibit pride in helping to keep the buildings and furniture clean and in good repair. No one should write on school desks, walls, or doors.

Any student who damages, defaces, or destroys school property will be punished, and the parents will be liable for all damages.

Classroom Courtesies

The following set of classroom courtesies will be posted in each classroom at DCMS:

- Enter the room quietly and be seated.
- Be prepared and ready to follow directions.
- Raise your hand and wait to be recognized to speak or to receive permission to move around the room.
- Be respectful of other students' property and space.
- Follow the guidelines in the school handbook.
- Behavior that interferes with learning will not be permitted.

Hall Courtesies

The following hall courtesies will be posted around the campus.

- Enter the school quietly and follow the school handbook.
- All traffic should keep to the right.
- Be careful while using lockers and respect other students' space and property.
- Keep the school clean.
- Noise should be kept at a minimum at all times.
- When walking to and from the cafeteria, remain in a straight line, no horseplay, and no talking.

Restroom Courtesies

- Take care of restroom needs as quickly as possible and return to your assigned area.
- Do your part to help keep the restroom clean.
- Wash your hands.
- Do not waste soap or paper products.
- Follow the school handbook.
- Don't use the restroom as a social meeting place.

Cafeteria Courtesies

- Enter the cafeteria quietly and get in lunch line or be seated.
- Follow the school handbook.
- Keep the cafeteria neat and clean, and return trays to the proper place.
- Use appropriate table manners and be respectful.
- No food or drink is to be taken from the cafeteria.
- No talking during dismissal and return to class.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE COURTESIES LISTED WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Homework

Teachers are encouraged to give short homework assignments where a student might spend a combined total of twenty minutes to an hour nightly on homework. Each student should have the phone number of another student in his/her class so that he/she can get a missed assignment in case of an absence.

The following steps must be followed to request assignments for extended absences:

- Parents must contact the receptionist.
- Parents must give the school a 24-hour notice.
- Assignments will be available at 3:40 the following day in the main office from the receptionist.

Insurance

Several low cost insurance policies are offered through the school. All students who do not have other hospitalization are encouraged to take out this policy. Each student will receive an

insurance form at the beginning of the school year. All athletes, cheerleaders, and dance team members are required to take this policy if they are not covered by other insurance. Please see the receptionist for more information.

Lockers

Lockers are provided for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. No privileged information or personal articles should be stored in lockers, since lockers are school property. It is recommended that students lock their lockers between classes and at the end of each school day. Sharing of lockers will result in loss of locker.

Lost and Found

All articles found in the school and on the campus should be turned in to the school's main office. It is strongly suggested that each student put his/her name in any outerwear worn to school. Each year, many jackets, sweaters, and coats are left at the school. Unclaimed items of clothing are given to charities.

Medicine

The school will administer prescription drugs only. Parents need to complete an authorization to administer medicine form and return it before medicine can be administered. Students will be allowed to keep a daily dose of non-prescription medicine and take as needed. The school will not administer non-prescription medicine.

Head Lice

If a student has head lice 3 consecutive occasions during one school year, then the principal or administrator will notify the county health department. The health department will charge the child's parent a fee to recover its costs. The student will not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained.

Private Cars

Because of the buses, parents are requested not to block the school driveway entrance and exits. Parents letting students off in the morning should also observe this rule and use caution when allowing students to depart from cars. Unloading should be done as rapidly as possible to avoid congestion.

School Closings

In case of bad weather conditions when it would be unsafe for students to come or remain at DCMS, the superintendent will notify the news media of the closing as soon as possible.

School Lunches

Students will have to know their student number in order to receive a lunch. Lunches with one container of milk are available in the school cafeteria for \$2.75. School lunches can be pre-bought weekly, monthly, and yearly. Extra milk can be purchased separately. The federal government provides free or reduced lunches for those who qualify. The price for a reduced school lunch is \$0.40. A menu is posted weekly. School lunch period is a closed period of time. No student will be allowed to leave school to eat. Parents may bring students a sack lunch. **If a parent brings a lunch bought outside of school (Ex. McDonald's), then the parent is required to eat with that student.**

Student Complaints and Grievances

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the administration. For the discussion and consideration of a grievance, any student or group of students should request a meeting time and place with a school principal. One faculty member of the student's choice may be present at such meetings. Such time and place will be designated upon request.

Telephone Use

Students are to use the office telephone only in cases of real need, such as illness requiring a student to go home.

Due to the heavy volume of business in the school office, it is requested that parents do not call the school to have messages delivered to their children except in cases of emergency. Except in

an extreme emergency, no student's class will be disturbed to receive a phone call. When time permits, messages will be delivered to students at the end of the period in which the messages were received. Parents should try to make arrangements with their children before they come to school.

Flowers and Gifts

No flowers or gifts will be received for students during school hours. This includes holidays and any special occasion.

SCHOOL SERVICES AND CLASSES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Counseling Services

Students and parents are encouraged to contact the school guidance counselor, who is available to help with a variety of student needs. Your counselor can provide information regarding subjects you need to take, scheduling classes, and personal/social problems with which you need assistance.

Library Services

A full-time librarian is available to help students learn reference skills. The librarian encourages students to read and has books that should be of special interest to all students. Students should treat books with care so that others may enjoy them. Fines will be charged for damaged or lost books.

Textbooks

Textbooks are furnished by the DeSoto County School District. **State law requires all books to be covered with a book cover upon issuance and must remain covered all year.** They are loaned to students for the period of the school year or until the student withdraws from school. Textbooks are to be treated with care. No writing is permitted in any textbook. Fines are assessed to those students who misuse or lose their books. It is advisable for students not to lend their textbooks to others.

Gifted Education Program

Each middle school has a gifted education program for the intellectually gifted. Certified gifted education teachers focus on the areas of critical thinking skills, creativity, communication skills, and leadership skills. For specific information see the gifted education teacher or counselor.

Special Education Services

Special education services are provided in a variety of settings. Resource classes and self-contained classes are available. There is a community based program for those students requiring both academic and life skills. Services are also available for language/speech disorders, emotionally disabled, hearing or visually impaired, and physically disabled.

Band

The band classes are open to all interested students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth. Each student must make arrangements for the use of an instrument.

Choir

Choir is open to all interested students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth. Students learn music theory along with foundations and fundamentals of singing. The choirs will perform several times a year.

Physical Education

In Physical Education classes students are introduced to a variety of sports such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, and track.

Students who participate in the football, basketball and/or track classes must be able to participate in games and meets, which are held in the afternoon, at night, and on Saturday depending on the sport.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading squad members are selected from eligible sixth and seventh graders at the end of each school year for the following year's squad. In addition to ability, those who are selected

must meet the sports eligibility requirements and have acceptable behavior both at school and in the community.

School Yearbook

School Yearbooks are published each year depicting every area of school life. Orders are taken for yearbooks during the fall for spring delivery.

Channel 1 News

DeSoto Central Middle School is a Channel 1 News school. This is a program of current events and topics of interest to teens that is aired each morning to the classrooms.

Other Activities

A variety of clubs meets in the afternoons. These clubs may vary from year to year.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Principal's List and Honor Roll

To be on the Principal's List a student must earn all A's and satisfactory in conduct during a grading period. Students who earn A's and B's and satisfactory in conduct are on the Honor Roll.

Perfect Attendance

The faculty knows the importance of students attending school regularly and tries to recognize students who have perfect attendance. Any student who has perfect attendance for the entire year will receive a certificate.

Awards Assembly

A student awards assembly is held at the end of the year. Student recognition will be based on: outstanding attributes to DCMS, academic achievement and/or perfect attendance.

SPORTS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to be a member of the school's football, basketball, and/or track team, a student must:

1. Be a bona fide student having enrolled no later than the 15th day of any semester of participation, carry four basic courses, and deport himself/herself satisfactorily.
2. Attend school in the school district of which his/her parents are actual bona fide residents.
3. Pass his/her grade level by achieving at least a 75 overall GPA the previous year in order to be eligible to participate during the present year.
4. Be examined by a physician and be declared physically fit.
5. Not have reached 14 years prior to August 1 to be a member of a 7th grade team.
6. Not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1 to be member of the 8th grade team.
7. Have a certified copy of his/her birth certificate to present to the principal or his/her designee.
8. Proof of current health insurance.

(A student who does not earn at least a grade of 75 overall GPA will be placed on warning for the following semester. If by the end of the warning semester the student is not passing four basic courses, he/she will not be allowed to be a member of a team. A student who is not eligible at the beginning of the school year may become eligible the second semester by achieving a 75 overall GPA for the first semester.)

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, GENDER, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE OR HANDICAPPING CONDITIONS AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student:

DeSoto County School System is pleased to offer students access to computer usage to enhance academic development and skills in using media that are commonly found in all aspects of our daily lives. DeSoto County Schools is CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) and COPPA (Children's On-line Privacy Protection Act) compliant. Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100% effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, DCS is expected to engage in a "good faith effort" to abide by the requirements of CIPA/FERPA. CIPA/FERPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school violated CIPA/FERPA.

Due to the fragile nature of the equipment being used and the nature of much of the material available over the Internet, this form must be signed by you and your child before use of the equipment will be allowed. The use of the Internet is a PRIVILEGE, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges and/or disciplinary action. The administrator of the school and/or the school technology committee will determine if an action is inappropriate use and their decision is final. This is a legal and binding document.

As a DeSoto County School parent, I understand that my child is enrolled in the DeSoto County School System and will need to be able to use the computers/equipment at school. I understand, as well, that my child may be involved in research projects and class activities involving the Internet. As parent or guardian, I also understand that I will be responsible for my child concerning the following items:

1. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for illegal purposes of any kind.
2. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to transmit, receive, or view material that is pornographic in nature.
3. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to transmit, receive or view material that is threatening or harassing in nature.
4. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school in an attempt to gain access or "hack" into computer systems that they have no permission to use.
5. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to access any student records existing on the schools' networks.
6. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to propagate computer viruses.
7. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for the purpose of lobbying or distributing of political information.
8. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for commercial ventures of purchasing, selling, taking orders or placing orders. DeSoto County Schools is not responsible for credit card fraud and theft incurred by using personal or commercial credit card numbers on the Internet access provided at my school.
9. Students will not damage, abuse or misuse the equipment provided for their use at their school.

10. Students will not make changes to the screen or appearance of the desktop on computers provided at their school.

11. Students will not load games or other software brought from home or downloaded from the Internet onto the computers provided for their use.

12. Students will not attempt to bypass school internet filters by way of internet proxy sites.

13. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to access social networking websites such as "MySpace," "Facebook," etc.

14. Students will not use the Internet and/or computer to violate any state or federal law (i.e. Copyright law).

The above terms take into consideration the necessity for Internet access for educational purposes as well as personal development. The primary purpose of the Internet access provided by DeSoto County Schools is for research and discovery or educational media and information.

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.

DeSoto 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

ParentPortal

Welcome to the ParentPortal, a tool designed to enhance the communication and involvement of parents in their child's education in DeSoto County Schools. The ParentPortal will allow you to monitor your child's progress in school by providing Internet access to grades, attendance, discipline, academic history, graduation verification, and standardized test results in a secure password protected environment. Parent Portal is a means to further promote educational excellence by enhancing our program of communication between parents, students and teachers

Features and Benefits

- Ability to check student information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Ability to view a variety of student information such as attendance and discipline
- Increased sense of ownership and responsibility for personal progress through viewing of homework assignments and due dates, grades, test scores and personal course schedules
- Improved communications with the school and with students' teachers with online messages
- Ability to ensure basic demographic data is up-to-date ~ view information such as address and telephone, emergency contacts and more,

To obtain your ID and Password, take a picture ID to the school. Sign a Parental Responsibility Form. You will receive your user ID and password at this time.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What kind of software or computer do I need to use the Parent Portal?** Any computer with Internet access running Internet Explorer version 5.0 or better, Netscape version 6 or better, or AOL version 5 or better, Macintosh or Windows.
- **Do I have to pay for the Parent Portal?** No! This is a free service to parents.
- **How do I get a username and password?** Activation codes are necessary to create individual usernames and passwords. Activation codes must be picked up in person. Parents can pick up their codes in the school office during normal school hours. Activation codes will also be available on back to school night. Instructions for activating your account are on the sheet you were given with the code.
- **How do I access the Parent Portal?** You can access the DeSoto County Schools Parent Portal by going directly to <http://www.desotopowerschool.com/public> .
- **Can other people see my child(children)'s grades?** No. Using your personal username and password, you will see information designed specifically for your child (children). As long as you protect your password, others will not be able to see your information.
- **What if I have questions about the DeSoto County Schools Parent Portal?** Please call your school office for questions about using ParentPortal or email the MIS Department at parentportal@desotocountyschools.org for technical support.

The ParentPortal website. www.desotopowerschool.com/public