

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

We welcome you to the 2014-2015 school year. When selecting courses, we ask that you confer with the counselors who will help you select the right courses for your specific needs. If the administration can help you in any way, please let us know.

We present this regulation handbook to you so that you will be properly informed of the policies, procedures and organization of the school.

Let us work together to ensure that we have the best school year possible.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Shane Jones.....	Principal
Michelle Bordwell.....	Assistant Principal
Rob Cushman.....	Assistant Principal
Kelley Densford .....	Assistant Principal
Donny Smith.....	Assistant Principal
Matt Smith.....	Assistant Principal
Todd Arnold.....	Athletic Director
Patricia Winston.....	School Testing Coordinator
Cathy Barham.....	Attendance
Jennifer Baird.....	Secretary/Check-In
Lynn Wilson.....	Cohort
Penny Talley.....	MSIS
Beverly Noel.....	Bookkeeper
Mitzi Atchison.....	Secretary

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**Guidance Staff**

Pam Cooper.....	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor
Annie Martin.....	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor
Latausha Williams.....	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor
Adam Sikes.....	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor

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**GED PROGRAM**

Aquarius Winston.....	Instructor
Joel Rich.....	Assistant Instructor

## SHS Positive Recognition Programs

- **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 to Military Academy, etc.)
- **The Club: 30 & Above-** Students with an overall 30 or higher score on the ACT will have their names permanently placed on the wall.
- **Wheel-barrel of Works-** Entire classrooms are rewarded for perfect attendance, punctuality, and homework.
- **Best Dressed Day-** Students who participate weekly throughout the entire year have a chance to have lunch with the principal at a fine restaurant.
- **Perfect Score on a State Test-** Students who score perfect on any of the four state tests earn lunch at Texas de Brazil.
- **Activity Passes-** Students can earn an activity pass good for free admission to all activities by scoring in the top 25 on a state test.
- **Good Performance Referral-** Students who are written up by their teacher for good work will have their parent phoned and are entitled to visit the wheel barrel of works.
- **Postcards-** Words of encouragement are mailed to a student's home by a teacher or administrator.
- **All A's Letter-** Students who score all A's on their report card are rewarded with a letter signed by all four administrators.
- **Advanced Scores on a 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.
- **Student Ambassadors-** Students who demonstrate leadership abilities are selected by staff to mentor students and outreach.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**(Entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2009 and after)**

\*\*26 Carnegie units are required for graduation\*\*

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. Government, Economics)
A 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	7 Units (Only 6 total credits of Band/Athletics can count toward the total 26 credits)

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

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**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.

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**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.”

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

English	4 Units
Mathematic	3 Units (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II required, Trig/Pre-Cal recommended)
Social Studies	4 Units (MS Studies, World History, US History, US Govt., Economics, Geography)
Science	3 Units (Biology and Physical Science required; Chemistry recommended)
Business & Technology	1 (Keyboarding and Computer Applications)
Advanced Electives	2 Units (1 year required; 2 of same foreign language recommended)
Comprehensive Health	.5 Unit
A Fine Art	1 Unit

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**GRADING**

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

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## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS**

For entrance into NHS, a student must have earned an overall grade average for two consecutive semesters of 93.0 with no grade below 90.0. To maintain membership, a student must earn an overall semester grade average of 93.0. Students must complete academic courses which will qualify them to be recognized as an Honor Graduate. (See above.)

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## **EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION**

Participation in athletics, band, choir, cheerleading, or any other school activity is subject to all rules and regulations set forth by the organization, SHS, 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 and received credits as follows:

Classes of 2015-2018:           6 credits, with a 2.0 GPA

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## **COURSES OFFERED**

### **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

Personal Finance  
Computer Applications  
Keyboarding  
STEM  
Marketing Essentials  
Business Law

### **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Family Health  
Family Dynamics  
Nutrition & Wellness  
Child Development

### **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

Economics  
Geography  
MS Studies  
US History  
AP US History  
US Government  
AP US Government  
Psychology  
World History  
AP World History  
Sociology  
Law Related Education  
Personal Leadership  
AP Economics

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

English 9  
English 10  
English 11  
English 12  
Compensatory Reading  
Compensatory Writing  
Public Speaking  
Acc. English 9,10,11  
AP English 11,12  
Gifted English 9,10,11,12  
Read 180  
Expert 21  
Mississippi Writers

**MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

Algebra I & II  
Calculus  
AP Calculus  
Geometry  
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus  
Statistics  
SREB Math

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

Spanish I, II, III, IV  
French I, II

**SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Biology  
Chemistry I  
AP Chemistry  
Environmental Science  
Botany  
Genetics  
Human Anatomy & Physiology  
Physics  
Physical Science  
Zoology  
Marine/Aquatic Science  
Intro. to Biology

**FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Theater I, II, III, IV	AP Art I, II, III, & IV
Class Piano I	Visual Art I, II
Music Theory	Chamber Choir
Concert Band	Ceramics
Marching Band	Photography
Color Guard	Varsity Choir
Intermediate Choir	
Instrumental Ensemble	

**VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

Cooperative Education I & II

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/Electives**

Drug Education	Employability Skills
Physical Education	Comprehensive Health
Safety Education	ACT Prep
Driver's Education	

**Counselor's Website**

You can find information about the following:

- Graduation requirements
- Senior News (including scholarship information)
- Procedures (drop/add, attendance forms, and transcript requests)
- Career Planning Information (link to Choices)
- Learn Study Skills

**[shscounselors.wikispaces.com](http://shscounselors.wikispaces.com)**

## **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. The last day to submit a schedule change request form is as follows:

**Term 1: August 13, 2014**

**Term 2: October 21, 2014**

**Term 3: January 9, 2015**

**Term 4: March 20, 2015**

Any schedule change request (adding or dropping of a class) made after the above dates must be approved by the principal.

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.**

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## **CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS**

Senior (Grade 12)	Must have 18 credits; pass English 11
Junior (Grade 11)	Must have 12 credits and pass English 10
Sophomore (Grade 10)	Must have 6 credits and pass English 9
Freshman (Grade 9)	Student has less 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.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports can be accessed daily through Parent Portal. Usernames and passwords are available for this free service in the Counselors' office.

## **MEDICAL**

**It is of utmost importance that student registration forms be filled out in full each year so that parents can be contacted in case of an emergency.** The school will not have medication, such as aspirin, available for students. Medications are to be left with appropriate school personnel for distributing to students along with instructions regarding the nature of the medication and the appropriate dosage and time when the student should take the medicine. Parents need to make prior arrangements for their children in case they become too ill to remain in school.

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## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (K-12)**

### ***Taken from DeSoto County School Board Policy JBD***

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Each of the following shall constitute 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, or an 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 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 the 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.
9. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the principal or his/her designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the child's non-attendance. However, no absences shall be excused by the principal or his/her designee, when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law.



### **High School Students (9-12)**

- Five (5) absences may be excused by a note from a parent/guardian.
- **Any** additional absence after the five (5) 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 three (3) school days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.
- When a student has exceeded five (5) unexcused absences, the Desoto County Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing within two (2) days by the school principal or his/her designee.

### **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 to a maximum of five (5) days.

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

The principal has the discretion to allow additional time or limit the number of required assignments in extreme situations.

### **Exemption Policy (Grades 9-12)**

Students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from end of course final exams for full credit and half credit courses if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has an eighty-five (85) or above semester average in the course;
2. The student has not missed more than two (2) days/periods (excused or unexcused) prior to days designated for final exams for full credit courses;
3. The student has not missed more than one (1) day/period (excused or unexcused) prior to days designated for final exams for half credit courses;
4. Students who are suspended and/or students who are placed at DCAC at any time during a semester will forfeit the right for exemption from final exams for the semester in which the infraction occurred.

## **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDY DISCIPLINE POLICY**

5 Tardies/Unexcused Absences	Verbal warning
10 Tardies/Unexcused Absences	Required Parent Conference
15 Tardies/Unexcused Absences	In-School Suspension (1-3 days)
20 Tardies/Unexcused Absences	Required Parent Conference and In-School Suspension (5 days)
25 or more	School Suspension (3 days) with a Disciplinary Hearing

\*Principal/assistant principal determines consequence.

\*Tardies are calculated by semester.

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### **DISMISSAL/CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE**

**After arriving on campus, no pupil is to leave the school ground for any reason during the school day except when checked out by the parent or with permission from a principal.** Students may not check out for lunch. **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.

In case of illness, if the school is unable to contact parents/guardian and the emergency warrants such, the school reserves the right to have the student transported to a competent doctor or hospital.

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### **PERMIT TO LEAVE SCHOOL**

Juniors (after 3<sup>rd</sup> block) and seniors (after 2<sup>nd</sup> block) may be granted a work permit upon receipt of a written application from a parent. **Students are expected to leave at the time designated on the permit and not return during school hours.** Students who fail to abide by this policy will have their permit revoked and will be scheduled into a class.

In addition, work permits may be revoked and academic interventions may be required if satisfactory grades and progress reports are not maintained.

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## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

From and after July 1, 2002, the school boards of all public schools of this state shall require teachers to have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the U.S. flag at the beginning of the first hour of class each day school is in session. Any student or teacher who objects to reciting the oath of allegiance shall be excused from participating without penalty.

## CODE OF DISCIPLINE GRADES 9-12

Acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which disrupt the orderly education 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 Initiating or participating in any unacceptable physical contact
- 1-4 In an unauthorized area without pass (hall, 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: Teacher–Student–Administrator-Parent Conference

Maximum: Corporal Punishment, detention, ALC/ISD, school suspension and/or assessment as provided by the Special Services Department.

\* Students, who after having a student-teacher conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, ALC/ISD, school suspension, Teacher Support Team interventions, a referral for an assessment as provided by the Special Services Department, 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.

### LEVEL II

- \*2-1 Leaving the school grounds without permission
- \*2-2 Skipping Classes
- \*2-3 Insubordination
- \*2-4 Possession and/or use of tobacco products (smokeless tobacco included)
- \*2-5 Exhibiting any hostile physical actions
- \*\*2-6 Violation of electronic equipment/device policies

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **First Violation:**

Minimum: Administrator–Student conference, Required Parent Conference, ALC/ISD, Corporal punishment, Detention

Maximum: School Suspension (one to three days)

### **Repeated or Flagrant Violation**

Minimum: School Suspension (three days)

Maximum: School Suspension (three days), and/or ALC and/or Assessment as provided by the Special Services Department

\*Flagrant Violations could result in immediate three day suspension and a disciplinary hearing.

\* Students who, after having a student-teacher conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, Teacher Support Team interventions, a referral for an assessment as provided by the Special Services Department, 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 possession of electronic equipment/devices:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense – School will keep the device 5 school days, not counting the day the device was taken. A parent may pay a \$30 fine to regain possession of the device.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – School will keep the device 10 school days, not counting the day the device was taken. A parent may pay a \$60 fine. The student will receive a 1-day School Suspension.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – School will keep the device 20 school days, not counting the day the device was taken. A parent may pay a \$120 fine. The student will receive a 2-day School Suspension.
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense – School will keep the device for 20 school days, not counting the day the device was taken. The parent shall pay a \$120 fine. The student will be subject to a 3-day School Suspension and a Disciplinary Hearing and may be charged with a level 3-4 and 3-6 violation.

**\*In a “cell phone incident,” any student who refuses to hand over a cell phone to a school employee will receive a three day School Suspension and the phone held until the end of the school year. If the phone is passed off to another student, both students will be suspended and both phones will be taken.** At the end of the school year, a parent may regain possession of the device. If it is not picked up by a parent within 30 days after the end of the school year, the device will be donated to a charity.

Any unauthorized audio/video recordings or pictures that may pose a threat to safety, personal privacy, or the integrity of the educational process, will result in the confiscation of the electronic device and may lead to a 1-3 day School Suspension pending a Disciplinary Hearing.

### **LEVEL III**

\*\*\*3-1 Fighting

3-2 Gambling

\*\*3-3 Theft of personal and/or school property

3-4 Acts which threaten the safety and well-being of student and/or staff

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

\*3-6 Cheating on tests or exams

\*\*3-7 Vandalism of personal and/or school property (Restitution shall be made)

3-8 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive materials

#### **DISCIPLINARY 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 (3 days), and/or assessment as provided by the Special Services Department

Maximum: School Suspension (3 days) and Disciplinary Hearing

\* The grade “0” will be assigned regardless of other punishment. If a cell phone is used to cheat, a 3-day School Suspension and a possible Disciplinary Hearing may result.

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

\*\*\* Students who are involved in a fight will be arrested and their cases will be referred to the appropriate court.

### **LEVEL IV**

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

4-2 Aggravated assault to a student

4-3 Assault on a school employee

4-4 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures directly to a staff member

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

#### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

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

Maximum: Expulsion

**LEVEL V**

- \*5-1 Weapon(s) possession and/or use (as determined by Southaven Police Department)
- \*\*5-2 Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics or controlled substance(s)
- \*\*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 identified by law enforcement agencies.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

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

**DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

When a student appears before a disciplinary hearing officer, the student will be subject to additional punishment up to and including suspension of more than three (3) days, assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than ten (10) days, or an expulsion from school

**LEVELS III, IV, AND V OF DISCIPLINE CODE**

In addition to these penalties, provision of the Mississippi Criminal Code is 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.

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**SUSPENSIONS**

Pupils may be suspended at the discretion of the principal for improper conduct. All suspensions must be reported to the parents and Superintendent, in writing to include reasons, and subsequently by the Superintendent to the Board at the next regular meeting.

**REQUIRED PARENT CONFERENCE (RPC)**

A RPC is a required meeting between the student, parent, and appropriate administrator to discuss the problem/concerns. This meeting must occur before the student is allowed back to class. It may be cleared on the day assigned if the appointment can be scheduled or the following morning, thereby eliminating the student's loss of class time.

**SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

A School Suspension is for a period of one to three days. In most cases, a RPC should be issued prior to this action. **During the time of the suspension, the student is prohibited from coming to school and from attending any/all extracurricular activities. It is the student's responsibility to get his/her make-up work from the teachers.**

**SCHOOL SUSPENSION WITH DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

A School Suspension with Disciplinary Hearing is a suspension from school imposed by the principal or his/her designee pending a hearing and possible additional punishment by an appropriate hearing officer.

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**LOSS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR PRIVILEGES**

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

- Misconduct at any event sponsored by a DeSoto County School
- Multiple level 1 or 2 infractions and/or any level 3,4, or 5 infraction of DCS Code of Discipline
- Any behavior that the principal deems a threat to the safety of others

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**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The DeSoto County Board of Education recognizes corporal punishment as a method that may be used in controlling student behavior, usually after other methods have been tried in correcting the undesired behavior.

A parent should submit a written statement including phone numbers, if his/her child should not be paddled.

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**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER (ALC)**

Students may be placed in ALC, which is an in-school-center, by a principal for any period of time deemed appropriate. ALC is an in-school-center located on the campus of SHS. The student is placed in isolation and all work from their regular classes is sent to them. Students are required to finish their class work in ALC; completed work is sent

back to the teacher to be graded. Students who are placed in ALC will be required to take their exams. Students are not counted absent from school when placed in ALC.

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### **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.
- 6.

#### **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 gestures
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
11. Throw objects
12. Commit any other act of improper conduct
13. Use of electronic devices on school a bus is prohibited.

**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.

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## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

1. Students are not allowed to show a public display of affection (PDA), including no arm-in-arm, no hugging, kissing, etc.
2. Students who use their car to skip any part of the school day will receive the usual consequences for skipping school and will be placed on driving probation. A second skip will cause the permit to be revoked for the remainder of the year.
3. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "O" on the assignment.
4. No credit shall be given to the student for any work accomplished in a semester during which he/she is expelled.
5. No student may sell candy or any other products not sponsored by the school on the school campus, school bus, or at any school function.
6. Students are not to bring toys, radios, beepers, tape recorders, stereos, CD players, iPods/Mp3 players, laser pointers, etc., to school without special permission from the administration. Such items will be confiscated and consequences issued according to the Code of Discipline in the preceding pages.
7. Students shall not be allowed to use the elevator for personal use without written permission from an administrator.
8. 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. **This includes wallet chains, studded bracelets/wristlets, over-sized belt buckles, and other items at the principal's discretion.** No beads are allowed, except for girls' jewelry. Failure of a student to abide by this policy may result in the immediate suspension of the said student

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## 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 hairstyle 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.

**The principal's notification at the beginning of the school year serves as the students' only warning.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Violation:               Written Warning/ISD**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Violation:               Required Parent Conference (RPC)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Violation:               ALC (3 days)**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Violation:               Suspension (2 days) and RPC**

**Repeated Violations: School Suspension (3 days) and a disciplinary hearing**

1. Hair must be neat, clean, and worn in a manner that does not interfere with vision or cause a disruption in the classroom. No combs, picks, rollers, head/sweat bands 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 will be acceptable:
  - a. Substances or activities illegal by law for minors, such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or 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, are excessively tight, or are distracting in class are not permitted. No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline. Shirts are to be tucked in. 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-5 only are allowed to wear shorts as part of their daily attire. Students in grades 6-12 may wear walking shorts or Bermuda shorts that are 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 part of an approved gym class or athletic class/activity.
7. Knee length dresses and skirts are allowed. No slits in these skirts or dresses above the knee caps are allowed.
8. No spandex articles of clothing 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 all jewelry due to safety reasons and/or violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulations.
12. Sunglasses, other than prescription, must be removed 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, not even on the cheerleaders' uniforms or those of any team.
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 on 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.

The principal is responsible for developing and publishing any other rules and regulations concerning student attire at school or school-related activities.

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#### **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)
- 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.

## **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

## **EQUIPMENT/INTERNET RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

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

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

At SHS, policies and procedures of DCS are followed if electronic devices are misused, become a distraction to the academic environment, or negatively impact the instructional process. (See DCS Code of Discipline K-12—Level II.) However, in an effort to prepare our students for the world of college or career, DCS has created a policy to govern the possession and positive use of electronic devices for instructional purposes at school.

### **Possession and Use**

Electronic devices are permitted on school grounds but may not be used, heard, or displayed during the instructional day. Exceptions:

- Electronic devices may be used during a specific classroom period if the teacher of the class has given approval.
- Electronic devices may be used for specific instructional activities at the discretion of the school building administrator.

Personally owned electronic devices used in school are not permitted to connect to the internet through a 3G, 4G, or any other internet service provider. Personally owned electronic devices must access the internet via the District's content filtered wireless network.

### **Prohibitions**

**Students shall not possess electronic devices on their persons during statewide assessments.**

“Unacceptable electronic devices or accessories” include but are not limited to gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers, modems, routers, or televisions.

Use of electronic devices on school buses is prohibited.

Electronic devices shall not be used in any way that violates district policy or that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors; or violates local, state, or federal law.

Electronic devices may not be used during the administration of tests mandated by the Mississippi Assessment System, unless specifically allowed by law. Electronic devices may not be used during IEP meetings or assessment directions.

All notebooks, netbooks, and MacBooks must have antivirus software installed with updates activated, if applicable.

Streaming of any audio or video must be reserved for classroom activities only. Cloud based music and videos personally owned by a student are not allowed.

Tech support will not be provided for student owned devices.

### **Confiscation**

Students are only allowed to use electronic devices as instructional aids with the teacher's permission and supervision. Unauthorized use of electronic devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment. The building administrator and his/her designee may seize electronic devices if they are used during times, or in ways, not permitted. If a student refuses to give his/her electronic device to the administrator or his/her designee upon request, this will be viewed as insubordination and the appropriate consequence will apply.

### **Potential Disciplinary Actions**

All violations will be subject to the disciplinary actions for possession of electronic equipment/device as listed in School Board Policy JD (Code of Discipline K-12).

A campus administrator, in the exercise of reasonable discretion in response to student misbehavior, abuse of the privilege, or other reasonable cause, may deny or cancel the privilege of possessing an electronic device.

### **Security of Devices**

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

### **Prohibitions on Audio Recording**

Camera, video, or audio recording functions of electronic devices may pose threats to the personal privacy of individuals, used to exploit personal information, and or compromise the integrity of educational programs. Accordingly, the use of the audio recording, video recording, or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times, unless teacher approval is given for specific instructional activities.

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## **STUDENT FEES, FINES AND CHARGES**

### **STATE-OWNED TEXT BOOKS**

Textbooks for pupils are provided by the state. State-owned books are issued at the beginning of the school term/semester and returned at the close of the course. Students should see that their books are not abused, as a fine will be charged for any state-owned book that shows unnecessary wear. In case a new book is lost, the list price of the book must be paid. Students will be required to purchase another textbook after a two-week period without a book. Charges for lost books will be adjusted on the basis of age and use. Refunds for return of lost books will be made, less a \$1.00 processing charge. The school will be happy to accept checks for the amount of workbooks, fees, etc. We will not be able to cash checks and provide change for students. Returned checks must be cleared with cash.

#### **AUTOMOBILE USE**

Driving on school roads and parking on school property is a courtesy offered to students and others approved by the School Board. The parking facilities located at the various school district buildings are not public parking areas and are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school, activities, or other school-authorized activities which occur before or after the regular day. Violators will be charged with trespassing and/or vehicles towed at owner's expense. The administration, obtaining suggestions from the local police department, shall establish rules and regulations to assure traffic safety. The district shall not assume any responsibility for any losses. **Failure to abide by vehicle regulations may result in the loss of the right to bring a vehicle to school and/or other disciplinary action.**

#### **STUDENT PARKING**

**All students should park in the South student parking lot—immediately behind the gym. Unauthorized parking may result in the vehicle's being towed away at the driver's expense.**

#### **PARKING PERMITS**

Students who bring a vehicle onto campus must have a Parking Permit. The cost of this permit is \$5.00, which pays for the upkeep of the parking areas. Replacement permits are also \$5.00. Students who bring a vehicle onto campus must follow these guidelines:

1. Students must have a valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance. Both of these must be shown when registering vehicles.
2. All vehicles brought onto campus must be registered with the office.
3. All vehicles must have a permit displayed from the rear-view mirror.
4. All vehicles must be parked in the proper area.
5. Violations will result in a \$10.00 fine or loss of parking privileges.
6. Any student who has lost parking privileges and brings a vehicle on campus will have the vehicle towed at the owner's expense.
7. Vehicles without proper registration will be towed at the owner's expense. The school district is not liable for any damage that may occur due to towing.
8. Students may not go to vehicles during school hours without written permission from the administration.
9. All vehicles must be driven safely and responsibly. Squealing tires (etc.) is prohibited.
10. Students must lock their cars and leave the parking lot immediately upon their arrival at school.
11. Loud or obscene/profane music is not permitted.
12. Anyone parking on campus without a permit, parking in a restricted area, driving recklessly on campus, or using a vehicle to skip school or aid another student in skipping school will receive the following actions:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: \$10.00 fine
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: ten-day loss of driving privilege and a \$10.00 fine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: thirty-day loss of driving privilege and a \$10.00 fine
  - 4<sup>th</sup> offense: loss of driving privilege for remainder of the year and the car will be towed from campus at the driver's expense.

**Repeated tardiness to first period by drivers can result in loss of driving privilege. Students who do not follow these rules will have their permits suspended or revoked, and will receive a school suspension. Applications for parking permits are available in the main office.**

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### **TELEPHONE**

The office phones must be kept open for incoming calls at all times. Students will not be permitted to use the office phones for personal use—EMERGENCIES ONLY—at the check-out office.

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### **VISITORS**

All visitors are to report to the office of the principal upon arrival on the school campus. Under no circumstances should a person enter the building except through the main office. Students will not be permitted to bring visitors to the school during the regular school hours. Only students registered at SHS will be permitted to enter the classroom during regular school hours.

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### **LUNCH**

Students may pay in advance for lunch daily, weekly, monthly to the cafeteria. Parents may pay online at [www.mealpay.com](http://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.

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### **DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS**

To respect and guard instructional time, students will not be called from classes throughout the day to pick up items dropped off for them in the office. If a parent discovers that his/her child left something at home, the item can be placed in the designated cabinet in the office for the student to pick up between classes. Balloons, etc. for special occasions will be held in the office until the end of the school day. Because of regulations of the federal lunch program, dropping off lunch for students is discouraged.

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## **RESPONSIBILITY AFTER SCHOOL**

Unless under the direct supervision of a staff member of SHS, students are expected to leave campus immediately after school. If students remain on campus unsupervised, their parents are responsible for them.

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## **SOLICITATION BY STUDENTS**

The participation of the DeSoto County Schools in the collection of money for various charitable and welfare purposes shall be subject to approval by the principal. All sales and money collection must be approved by the principal. Fund-raising activities are restricted to school organizations only.

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## **SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

- The use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity.
- Distribution, sale, or possession of illegal drugs, prescription drugs, synthetic drugs, counterfeit drugs or any substance dangerous to students. (Distribution includes giving substances to students.)

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

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## **SAFETY NET**

**To report any confidential and/or safety information regarding SHS or SHS students, log into the computer using—**

<https://login.ancomm.com/southavenhigh/>

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## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS OR 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 should schedule an appointment.

## **ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

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

An employee who is found to have used sexual harassment toward a student or another employee will be disciplined. (MS Code 37-9-59)

### **Procedure for Processing a Complaint**

Any student, school employee, or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee, or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly after the alleged act or acts occurred.

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## **THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The DeSoto County School District will not, except for “directory information”, disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without the prior written consent from the parent or the eligible student. Prior consent of the parent or eligible student is required when the school releases such information to other school officials (including teachers), officials of another school district in which the student seeks to enroll, or other federal, state, and educational agencies as enumerated in FERPA.

The schools in the District will, upon occasion, use/publish personally identifiable information including honor rolls, school annuals, athletic rosters, class rolls and school-sponsored club and activity rosters. Parents who wish their children to be excluded from this practice must advise, in writing, the principal of the school no later than fourteen (14) days after the student’s enrollment or receipt of this notice, whichever is later. Appeals regarding the decisions of school principals regarding educational records may be made to the Superintendent of DeSoto County Schools or designee.

FERPA affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within 45 days of the day the school district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible

students should submit to the Superintendent or designee a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Superintendent or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Superintendent or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information containing the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, of assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the DeSoto County School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:  
Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

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### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

To cope successfully with any emergency, it is essential that you be completely knowledgeable of your school's emergency procedures and that you remain calm throughout the emergency.

**A. FIRE:** Be familiar with fire evacuation routes and procedures.

**B. TORNADOS:** Know the definitions and actions:

**1. Definitions**

- a. Severe Weather Watch--weather conditions are such that a severe thunderstorm may develop.
- b. Severe Weather Warning--a severe thunderstorm has developed and will probably affect those areas stated in the weather bulletin.
- c. Tornado Watch--weather conditions are such that a tornado may develop.
- d. Tornado Warning--a tornado has been formed and sighted and may affect those areas stated in the bulletin.

**2. Actions**

- a. Tornado Warning--a tornado warning will be announced by one long bell. If electricity is not available, the notification to implement these tornado warning procedures will be announced verbally by the office personnel. Relocate all students from portable classrooms and relocate students to areas offering the greatest tornado resistance. Teachers will supervise their students and will keep their roll books with them. When reaching the designated shelter areas, students and teacher will be seated with their backs to the walls, knees drawn up, and heads between their knees. Coats and jackets when available could be used to cover head, arms, and legs to reduce injuries from flying pieces of glass and other debris.
  - b. Refer to and become familiar with the details of emergency plans for your school.
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**GANG POLICY**

**Taken from DeSoto County School Board Policy JDCA**

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 school 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 schools. This information shall include, but is not limited to: gang names, colors, symbols, signals, and gestures associated with gangs (all of which are prohibited gang activity). School officials will publish notice of these prohibited names, signals, gestures, colors and symbols in the school office as made available by local police department and government authorities or otherwise made known to school officials. The school will continually update the information posted in the school office relating to prohibited gang symbols and gang activity. Notice of updated prohibited gang activity and/or gang symbols will be sent home with each student, said notice shall advise students that the prohibited gang activity and gang symbols has been updated with updates maintained in the school office and the District website.

Each school shall make regular announcements to the student body advising that gang activity and gang symbols are strictly prohibited.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, nothing herein prohibits the display of recognized religious symbols such as the Star of David or the Crescent or the Cross unless these or other religious symbols are altered or augmented in some way.

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