

Lake Cormorant High School Student Handbook 2023 - 2024

**10201 Starlanding Rd.
Lake Cormorant, MS 38641
662-996-3060
662-996-2520 Main Office
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**PRINCIPAL
Dr. Bobby Davis**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Ms. Telitha Ball
Mr. Parker Jones
Mrs. Rebecca Murdock**

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

**Mrs. Yaminoh Dunbar
Dr. Tameka McIntyre
Mr. Parker Neal**

Welcome to Lake Cormorant High School

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW

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

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

BELL SCHEDULE

Doors Open 8:00 am
First Block 8:25am – 10:00am
Break 10:00 – 10:10am
Second Block 10:10am – 11:55am
Third Block 12:00pm – 2:05pm
Fourth Block 2:10pm – 3:45pm

LUNCH SCHEDULE

1st Lunch 12:00pm-12:30pm
2nd Lunch 12:35pm-1:00pm
3rd Lunch 1:05pm – 1:30pm
4th Lunch 1:35pm – 2:05pm

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS CALENDAR

August 1, 2023
August 3, 2023
September 4, 2023
October 9, 2023
November 20 – 24, 2023
December 15, 2023
December 18, 2023- January 1, 2024
January 2 – 3, 2024
January 4, 2024
January 15, 2024
February 16, 2024
February 19, 2024
March 11-15, 2024
March 29, 2024
April 1, 2024
May 22, 2024
May 24, 2024

Teachers' First Day
Students' First Day
Labor Day Holiday
Fall Break
Thanksgiving Holidays
End of First Semester
Christmas Holidays
Professional Development Days
Students Return
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Professional Development Day (Tentative)
President's Day Holiday
Spring Break
Good Friday Holiday
Easter Break
Students' Last Day
Teachers' Last Day

Tentative Make-up Days: February 16, February 19, April 1, May 23

The Club: 30 & Above-Students with an overall 30 or higher on the ACT will have their names permanently placed on the wall.
27 higher on the ACT – Dinner at Texas de Brazil.
Glowing Gator – Students who are written up by their teacher for good work will be invited to the Glowing Gator Pep Rally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology
Social Studies	3½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the Mississippi Public School

Requirements

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

Requirements:

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

Recommendations:

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

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math I-III • Alternate Algebra
Science	2	• Alternate Biology • Alternate Science II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History • Alternate Social Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	• Alternate Health
The Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV
Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements

- Students who have met the criteria of having Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.
- Students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) and achieve level of Passing or Proficient.
- The state defined Alternate Diploma is included in graduation rates in the same manner as a traditional diploma.
- Students with an Alternate Diploma must complete the postsecondary institution to determine eligibility for Ability to Benefit (ATB).

Requirements:

- The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program-Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.
- Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• See the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for implementation options.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE & Technical	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Electives	3½	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One dual credit
 - Work-Based Learning
 - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential
 - One (1) AP, Diploma Program-IB, or Cambridge (AICE) course aligned to their career pathway. Students must earn a C or higher and take the appropriate exam

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
 - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
 - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II + two (2) additional above English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology + two (2) additional science courses above Biology
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• See the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for implementation options.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Electives	7 ½	• Must meet two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL CPC requirements.
- Must successfully complete one (1) of the following:
 - Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges
 - Essentials of College Math or Essentials of College Literacy (in senior year)
 - SAT equivalency subscore
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency sub score).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II + two (2) additional above English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology + two (2) additional science courses above Biology
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• See the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for implementation options.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Electives	8	• Must meet two (2) advanced electives of the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Two (2) elective courses must meet MS IHL CPC recommended requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore as defined by IHL.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

DCS July 2022

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL CPC-recommended requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency sub score.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

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

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

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

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

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

GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION

AND SPECIAL DISTINCTION

(Entering ninth graders in 2009 and after)

Graduates of Distinction (Cum Laude):

A "Graduate of Distinction" must have an overall weighted number average of

90 – 94 for fifteen (15) quarters. The student must meet the 26 credit graduation requirements. *

Graduates of Special Distinction (Magna Cum Laude):

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

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

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

SET BY THE MS INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Entering ninth graders in 2008 and after)

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

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

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

6 credits with a 2.0 GPA and 70 grade average.

DROPPING SUBJECTS AND CHANGING SCHEDULES

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

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

Students may be removed from State Tested Subjects (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, U.S. History) at the discretion of the Principal.

Criteria for removal may include: grades, attendance, behavior, or other special circumstances.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

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

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

District: DeSoto County School District

Section: I - Instructional Program

Policy Code: IEDB - Classification of Students

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

The classification of students is based on the following requirements.

For students entering the ninth grade in 2014-2015:

Freshman	Grade 9	Has earned fewer than 6 Carnegie Units
Sophomore	Grade 10	Has earned at least 6 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English I and 2 additional Core Carnegie Units
Junior	Grade 11	Has earned at least 13 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English II, Algebra I, and 3 additional Core Carnegie Units
Senior	Grade 12	Has earned at least 20 18 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed 3 English Carnegie units and on track to graduate

Last Review Date: _____

Review History:[1/1/1900][1/1/1901]

Adopted Date: 7/1/2008

Approved/Revised Date:

District: DeSoto County School District
Section: J - Students
Policy Code: JOAB - Senior Privileges

SENIOR PRIVILEGES

Seniors are allowed two (2) college visit days per semester. The visits must be pre-approved by the principal or his or her designee, and documentation of the visits must be provided. A college visit will be documented as a school activity for attendance purposes.

~~Seniors will also enjoy the privilege of late arrival. All seniors must be enrolled in two (2) courses each semester.~~

Seniors may also enjoy the privilege of early release or late arrival if they meet the requirements as outlined in Board Policy JGFCB- Early Release- Late Arrivals. All seniors must be enrolled in two (2) courses each semester.

Last Review Date: _____

Review History:[1/1/1900][1/1/1901]

Adopted Date: 6/16/2008

Approved/Revised Date:

District: DeSoto County School District
Section: J - Students
Policy Code: JGFCB - Early Release - Late Arrivals

EARLY RELEASE/LATE ARRIVAL

~~Beginning with entering 9th graders 2017-2018 seniors are eligible for early release and/or late arrival. Seniors must be enrolled in two courses each semester.~~

Seniors must be enrolled in two courses each semester. Seniors are eligible for early release and/or late arrival if they meet the following requirements:

- *Must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores).*
- *Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:*

- 1. Have a 2.5 GPA*
- 2. Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation*
- 3. On track to meet diploma requirements*
- 4. Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy
OR SREB Math Ready or SREB Literacy Ready*

If a student is released early and desires to return for extracurricular activities, he/she is allowed to do so.

Any student desiring early release or late arrival must have a signed parental permission form on file.

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Application for Early Release/Late Arrival

Name _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

Please check the class period for which you are applying for early release/late arrival.

____ 1st Block ____ 2nd Block ____ 3rd Block ____ 4th Block

Signed Student Statement:

Upon approval, I agree to leave the school campus at the above designated period. I understand that I may only return to campus to participate in a scheduled extracurricular activity.

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

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

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

1. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, the State Board of Health, 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 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

Each time a student is absent, he/she must bring a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence within two (2) days of returning to school. Students who miss more than two (2) consecutive days for illness or accident must provide a doctor's note for the days to be excused. The doctor's note must be submitted to the principal within two (2) school days following the student's return to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

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

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

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

- Five (5) absences may be excused by a note from a parent/guardian. (Note must include student's legal name, date of absence, reason for absence, parent/guardian signature, and date note was written.)
- 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 two (2) 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 a ninety-five (95) or above semester/term average in the course;
2. The student has an eighty-five (85) or above average and does not have more than four (4) days/periods unexcused absences for final exams in full credit courses;

3. The student had an eighty-five (85) or above average and does not have more than two (2) days/periods unexcused absences for final exams in half credit courses;
4. Student has not been assigned to an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) for more than five (5) days, has not been suspended and/or placed in DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) or the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) at any time during the semester (August-December or January-May).
5. Excused absences will not impact course exemptions.

TARDY POLICY

- 5 tardies – 1st verbal warning
 - 10 tardies – 2nd verbal warning & phone call to parent/guardian
 - 15 tardies – Mandatory Parent Conference w/Behavior Plan
 - 20 tardies – 1 day ALC or Corporal Punishment (2 licks)
 - 25 tardies – 2 days ALC or Corporal Punishment (3 licks)
 - 30 tardies – 3 - 5 days ALC
 - 35 tardies – Suspended 3 days with a disciplinary hearing.
- *Student drivers are subject to losing driving privileges for violation of the tardy policy.

STUDENT CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

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

GRADING SCALE

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

Content for grades 9-12 is determined by Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and the Mississippi Content Frameworks for all remaining subjects.

Progress Reports will be sent in week four or week five of the nine-week period.

***Teachers are not required by district policy to take a specified number of grades. However, any grades taken must be posted to the electronic grade book bi-weekly.**

9 WEEKS GRADING PERIOD

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

PROGRESS REPORTS

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

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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

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

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

LUNCH

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

SEARCHES

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

BUS POLICY

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

STUDENTS ARE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES:

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

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO:

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

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

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

**CODE OF DISCIPLINE
GRADES K-12**

Student Conduct: as of June 2023

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.

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

* 2 – 5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions

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

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

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

Minimum: Administrator-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 with parental contact. The electronic device will be returned at the end of the school day to the student or his/her parent/guardian as determined by the building principal.

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

3rd Offense—Third offense will be considered repeated and/or flagrant and the penalty for such acts will be determined by the building administrator. The phone will be confiscated and penalties could include, but are not limited to the following:

- Check-in/Check-out procedures for the electronic device during the school day (1-10 days)
- ALC/In-School Suspension (1-3 days)

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

Level III

3 – 1 Fighting

3 – 2 Gambling

* 3 – 3 Theft 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 Sexual conduct, including unwelcomed sexual contact, or recording and/or transferring sexually suggestive images through personal electronic devices

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

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

4 – 5 Participating in sexual activity including but not limited to sexual intercourse, sexual contact or exposing intimate body parts while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.

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

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.

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

Disciplinary Action

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

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

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

DUE PROCESS

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

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

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

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

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROCEEDURES

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

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

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

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

LOSS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR PRIVILEGES (RESTRICTED PRIVILEGE LIST known as RPL)

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

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

CAR POLICY

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

MEDICINE

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

DRESS CODE

Proper attire and grooming are deemed important to scholastic achievement and orderliness. The responsibility for 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.

1-1 Dress Code Violation

- 1st violation- Documented Warning with corrected dress code
- 2nd violation- Documented Warning with corrected dress code
- 3rd Violation – Mandatory Parent Conference
- 4th Violation- ALC (1 day)
- 5th Violation – ALC (3 days)

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

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

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

TEXTBOOKS

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

GANG POLICY

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

A "gang" is defined as a group that initiates, advocates, or promotes illegal activities, activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or at supervised school functions, or activities that are harmful to the education process. Prohibited "gang activity" includes, but is not limited to: (1) Soliciting students to become gang members; (2) Participating in gang initiation or other gang ceremonies; (3) Deliberately wearing, displaying, or possessing prohibited gang symbols; (4) Engaging in gang-related violence or threats of violence; (5) Threatening others, including threats by brandishing a weapon or a replica of a weapon on school campuses, or at supervised school functions; or (6) Engaging in any behavior undertaken in such a manner as to be reasonably likely to incite violence or endanger persons or property. Prohibited "gang symbols" may include, any type of clothing decoration, jewelry, patches, bandanas, gang names, depiction of gang signs or symbols, and/or body signal/movement which is recognized as denoting a gang or is a sign, signal or movement utilized in connection with gang

communications, including, but not limited to those appearing with the “Gang Awareness” pamphlet attached hereto as well as the additions thereto in the future. School officials will keep a booklet containing known “gang symbols” in each office. In addition, prohibited “gang symbols” shall be published at the start of each school year in the Student Handbook. Students and parents who may have questions regarding this policy should contact the school principal for further clarification of any part of the policy.

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

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

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

SECTION 504

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

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

VISITORS (JCCA)

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

- All visitors must report to the office. (Including news media).
- If the principal has any reason to question the legitimacy of the visit, the superintendent’s office will be consulted.
- Teachers will not be interrupted while teaching except for emergencies.
- It is at the principal’s discretion to ask a visitor to leave the campus, if he or she is causing a disruption to the environment, program, or activity to which the visitor is attending.

DESTOTO COUNTY NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

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

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

Director of Student Intervention

Title VI, Title II and 504 Coordinator

DeSoto County Schools

5 East South Street

Hernando, MS 38632

662-429-5271

Director of Federal Programs

Title IX Coordinator

DeSoto County Schools

5 East South Street

Hernando, MS 38632

662-429-5271