2026-2027

Secondary Student Handbook
Grades 9-12

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Amite County School District is committed to educating all children to ensure their maximum potential is met and they're prepared to function in a multicultural and global society.

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FOREWORD

The purpose of this book is to acquaint students, parents, and teachers with necessary information concerning the organization and administration of the Amite County School District schools.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Chavis Bradford ..... Superintendent of Education
Robert McDaniel ..... Assistant Superintendent of Education

DIRECTORS

Lyndsey Latham ..... Business Director
Rebecca Roberts ..... Special Services Director
Deshon Johnson ..... Technology Director
Neal Smith ..... Athletic Director
Ross Thomas ..... Transportation Director
Tara Reed ..... Food Service Director
Stacy Bass ..... Custodial/Maintenance Director
Belinda Speare ..... Assistant Federal Programs Director

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

District I ..... Diane Cook
District II ..... Monica Johnson
District III ..... Bettye Fenn
District IV ..... Cindy Newman
District V ..... TBD

AMITE COUNTY INFO

Amite County is located in Southwest Mississippi on the border of Louisiana. As of the 2010 Census, the population was 13,131. Its county seat is Liberty. Amite County is named after the Amite River, which runs through the county.

Amite County School District 2026-2027

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
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27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
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November 2026						
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29	30					

December 2026						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20

February 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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May 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 3, 2026 First Day for Staff
August 6, 2026 First Day of School for Students
January 6, 2027 Students Return
May 14, 2027 Graduation
May 25, 2027 Last Day for Students

Professional Development
Holiday
60% Day
Progress Reports

Amite County High School, and CTE Information

Amite County High School

600 Irene Street Liberty, MS 39645

Principal: Edward Tatum

Phone: 601-657-8920 Fax: 601-657-4044

Office hours: 7:30 a.m - 4:00 p.m

School hours: 8:15 a.m – 3:30 p.m.

Amite County Career & Technical Center

1501 Irene Street Liberty, MS 39645

Director: Neal Smith

Phone: 601-657-8081 Fax: 601-657-8098

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m -4:00 p.m.

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Amite County High School, and CTE classes:

Begin/End 8:15 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Faculty Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Bus dismissal is 3:20 p.m.
Student drivers and car riders will be dismissed immediately after bus dismissal.

Amite County High School 2026-2027 Bell Schedule

9th-12th Grade	
Breakfast	7:50 – 8:10
1st Block	8:10 – 9:49.....99
2nd Block	9:53 – 11:32.....99
3rd Block	11:36 – 1:35.....119
VoTech/PE	11:36-11:56
1st Lunch	11:59 – 12:19
2nd Lunch	12:22 – 12:42
3rd Lunch	12:45 – 1:05
4th Block	1:39 – 3:18.....99
Dismissal	3:20

Early Release Schedule 60% Day

Breakfast	7:50-8:10
1st Block	8:10-9:12——62
2nd Block	9:16-10:19——63
3rd Block	10:23-11:45——82
Lunch	11:20-11:40
4th Block	11:49-12:54——65
Dismissal	12:55

VISITORS

Any parent or guardian wishing to visit the school is welcome. Parents must report to the principal's office upon arriving on the campus and must present a photo ID to be signed in and issued a visitor's pass. Visitors must wear a visitor's pass at all times while on campuses.

TOBACCO USE POLICY

As per Mississippi law, no person shall use any tobacco product on any school property. Violators shall be subject to a warning the first conviction, $75 for a second conviction, and a fine not to exceed $ 150 shall be imposed for subsequent violations. School property means any public-school building or bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by a local school board, school, or directors for administration of any public educational institution or during a school related activity. Sixteenth section land or lieu land without school facilities or school related activities are exempt from this Act.
Anyone convicted under this Act shall be recorded as being fined for a civil violation and not for a criminal violation. Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act 2000 HOUSE BILL 641

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FROM PARENTS

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify and update emergency notification information to the school. Forms are available at the school.

CONFERENCE WITH TEACHERS

For your child to receive maximum educational benefits, a close parent-teacher relationship is encouraged. Parents wishing to meet with a teacher must contact the school office to schedule a conference and provide at least (1) business day's notice whenever possible. For the safety of all students, parents are required to check in at the office to receive a visitor's pass upon arriving at school. **Please do not go directly to room. All Teacher-Parent conferences will be conducted during planning periods or before/after school.**

ASSIGNMENT TO SCHOOLS

The Amite County School District accepts only students, who physically reside full-time, weekdays/nights and weekends, within the limits of the school district with the following exception: the child of an out-of-district school employee is eligible to attend school in the district, based on the mutual consent of the school boards.

Each student must have on file at his/her assigned school a verification of residency form as required by state law. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide the school district with at least two (2) proofs of residency documents as verification of their current and physical address at which their parent or legal guardian resides, except that a document with apost office box as an address will not be accepted. If the residence of a student changes during the school year, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to provide the school with at least two (2) proofs of residency documents of verification of the new address. Submission of false residency information may result in withdrawal of enrollment and other actions authorized by law.

Eligibility of Enrollment of Expelled/Suspended Students

A student who is expelled or suspended by another school district and who subsequently applies for admission to the Amite County Schools may not be eligible to enroll in any Amite County School until he/ she is provided proof of eligibility for readmission following suspension or expulsion.

ADDRESS CHANGE

It is the parent's responsibility to report changes of address or telephone number to the school office immediately. Failure to do so may result in a delay of emergency contact or important information being disseminated. A change form may be requested in the school office. Two proofs of residency must be submitted upon the change.

ASBESTOS POLICY
All school buildings owned by the Amite County School District have been inspected for asbestos. A management plan has been developed and sent to the Mississippi Department of Education for their approval.

A copy of the results of the inspection, along with a copy of the management plan, can be found in the office of the Superintendent of Education, located at 533 Maggie Street Liberty, Ms. 39645.

SAFETY
The objective of the Amite County School District is to conduct all operations safely and efficiently. The district shall provide a safe and healthy school environment, free of recognized hazards that may endanger the health or safety of any students, employees, and visitors.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
Activities may be monitored by video surveillance on campus and buses.

SCHOOL SAFETY ACT/STUDENT BEHAVIOR
This school district shall meet requirements established under the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001, which provides for the establishment of a School Safety Center by the Department of Education; a Safety Grant Program, available to eligible public-school districts; a
The School Board of this district, with the assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis. (§37-3-83 (2), MS Code of 1972, amended)

BALLOONS, FLOWERS, GIFTS AND FOOD DELIVERY
Balloons, flowers, gifts, and food delivered by restaurant delivery services will not be allowed in the classrooms or on the bus.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students must be present 66% of the instructional day to be marked as present for that day.
To receive credit in a course, Mississippi law requires not only a passing grade in the course, but also a minimum amount of seat time. To receive credit, a student must attend each class a minimum of 41 class days during a one half-credit course, 82 class days during a one-credit course, and 164 class days in two-credit course. On this basis, any student who is absent more than 4 absences in a one-half credit course, more than 8 absences in a one-credit course, and more than 16 absences in a two-credit course, more than 8 absences in a one-credit course, and more than 16 absences in a two- credit course will be denied course credit, and the student will receive a grade of 50/no credit.

- Allowed four (4) absences in a one -half credit class, excused or unexcused.
- Allowed eight (8) absences in a one-credit class, excused or unexcused.
-

1. With block schedule now in effect, school attendance becomes an extremely important responsibility of the students and parents so when a student misses his/her 2nd day in a one-half credit course or the 4th day in a one-credit course, students and parents will be notified.

2. If a student misses more than the allotted days, the student may be dropped from the class, and 50/ No Credit (NC) will be given.

3. After loss of credit due to attendance, credit may be reinstated by a School-Level Attendance Committee after a review of documentation and/or after Credit Recovery is successfully completed.

4. It is the student's responsibility to initiate making up all work with his/her teacher. A student will receive an unsatisfactory grade on work not made up.

5. Current documentation of chronic illness must be placed on file annually. With the permission of the principal, the homebound policy will be used in these documented cases.

6. Any student absent for twenty (20) consecutive days will be dropped from the roll unless the legal guardian advises the principal that the student has a legitimate reason for extended absence. The principal will determine the course of action to be followed concerning a student's progress and placement following an extended absence.

Notifying the School of Absence(s)
When a student is absent from school, the parent/legal guardian is required to contact the school before 9:00 a.m. each day the student is absent. For the absence to be excused, a note from the parent/ guardian or a doctor's excuse must be submitted to the office within five days of the absence.

CHECK OUT POLICY
Only the legal guardian or other person designated by the legal guardian may check a student out of school during school hours. A photo ID is required to verify identification. Under no circumstances is a student to be taken out of school without official clearance.

According to the Mississippi Department of Education, a child must attend school a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction per day.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
The district will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated based on their status as homeless. A homeless student will be admitted to the district school in the attendance area in which the student is living.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION
Students may be enrolled in the homebound program following the sixth consecutive day of absence that is a result of an illness, injury, or condition diagnosed by a physician, provided that all requirements for homebound enrollment are met. Parents are asked to contact the school principal to arrange for up to fifteen (15) days of homebound instruction. School board approval is needed for each period of fifteen (15) days of homebound instruction thereafter.

FOSTER CARE
The district will ensure that children in foster care remain in their schools of origin unless it is determined to be in the student's best interest to change schools. Should a school transfer become necessary, the district will coordinate with the receiving school to ensure enrollment without delay.

TARDINESS
An adequate amount of time has been allotted for students to get to class on time. Getting to class on time is the responsibility of each student. A student who arrives after the designated starting time for a class or school day may be recorded as tardy.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER
If a student is to withdraw from school or transfer to another school, the student's legal guardian must contact the principal. All textbooks, library materials, technology, and other school property must be returned prior to withdrawal. Fees and debts must be paid upon withdrawal.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Students transferring from another district into the Amite County School District must obtain a release form from the school district in which they reside. Approval must then be secured by the Amite County School District Superintendent with final approval by the Amite County School District School Board. Transfers are subject to tuition charge and availability of space.

TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM HOME SCHOOLS OR NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Pupils from non-accredited schools will not be accepted without an examination. The procedure for enrolling transfer students who were enrolled in a non-accredited school or in a correspondence school or who were receiving home schooling will be as follows:

- The student will be temporarily assigned during registration to grade level or subject indicated on report card, transfer papers, or written documentation from correspondence school, home school, or private tutor.
- Credit will be awarded according to the following criteria:
  a. A student scoring between 85-100 on the End of Course Assessment will receive an 85/B for the course and will be awarded the credit.
  b. A student scoring between 65-84 on the End of Course Assessment will receive that numerical grade for the course and will be awarded credit.

Students coming from non-accredited, or home schools are required by district policy to enroll in the four (4) state tested classes and to be administered the corresponding state exams.

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA
24 Credits
For students entering 9th grade 2018-2020 and thereafter

4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I)
3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I)
4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
½ Credit Physical Education
½ Credit Health
1 Credit Arts
1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
5 Credits Electives

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA – CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT
26 Credits

4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I)
3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I)
4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
½ Credit Physical Education
½ Credit Health
1 Credit Arts

1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
4 Credits CTE Electives-Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
3 Credits Electives

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Earn Silver level on ACT Work Keys

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.

TRADITIONAL DIPOLOMA – ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
26 Credits

4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I)
3 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I)
4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
½ Credit Physical Education
½ Credit Health
1 Credit Arts
1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
7 Credits Electives-Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHL's.

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 in 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).

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.

TRADITONAL DIPLOMA – DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT
28 Credits

4 Credits English (Required subjects - English I, English II)
4 Credits Mathematics (Required subject - Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I)
4 Credits Science (Required subject - Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I)
4 Credits Social Studies (Required subjects - 1 Credit World History, 1 Credit U.S. History, ½ Credit U.S. Government, ½ Credit Economics, ½ Credit MS Studies, ½ Credit World Geography)
½ Credit Physical Education
½ Credit Health
1 Credit Arts
1 Credit College and Career Readiness (Must occur in the student's junior or senior year)
1 Credit Technology or Computer Science
8 Credits Electives-Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHL's.

Additional Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency sub-score.

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 exam.
- One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA
24 Credits

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. 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.

4 Credits English (Alternate English Elements I-IV)
4 Credits Mathematics (Alternate Math Elements I-III and Alternate Algebra Elements)
2 Credits Science (Alternate Biology Elements and Alternate Science Elements)
2 Credits Social Studies (Alternate History Elements (Strands: US History and World History) and Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and US Government)
½ Credit Physical Education
½ Credit Health (Alternate Health Elements)
1 Credit Arts
4 Credits Career Readiness (Career Readiness I-IV)
4 Credits Life Skills Development (Life Skills Development I-IV)
2 Credits Electives

Additional Requirements:

- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, MAAP-A, and achieve a minimum score or higher to be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Changes to Endorsement
Changes to a diploma endorsement selection can be made by making an appointment with the student's counselor. Changes require the parent signature.

Early Exit Diploma (for students entering 9th grade prior to 2018-2020)
The Amite County School Districts strives to meet the needs of all students. College and Career Ready is the utmost importance. In accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's Accountability Standards, students may elect to exercise the option of "Early Exit." Students must successfully complete one of the approved graduation tracks and meet the College and Career Readiness Standards. These standards require an ACT sub score of the following:

Mathematics-22 English-18 Reading-22 Science-23

Early Release Eligibility
For students entering high school to be eligible for early release during the student's senior year, students must have met the following:

- Mississippi IHL College Readiness Benchmarks[9] (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math) OR
- Silver level on the ACT Work Keys
- SAT equivalency sub scores
  or a student must meet ALL the following:
- 2.5 GPA AND
- Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation AND
- Be on track to meet diploma requirements.

GRADUATION REGALIA
Stoles that may be worn are high school issued with cap and gown, honors/high honors and National Honor Society. Medals that may be worn are high school issued with cap and gown, Tech Master Scholars, Mississippi Scholars, perfect ACT score, and valedictorian/salutatorian. Other national honor societies will wear cords. Clubs may wear pins or medals. **Graduation caps may not be decorated.**

GRADUATION CEREMONY
The Amite County School District considers the graduation ceremony a prestigious and ceremonial event. Guidelines regarding dress and behavior will be signed by both parent and students prior to the ceremony.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CLASSIFICATION
Grade classification will be updated only at the beginning of the school year.

Freshman -	Successfully complete 8th grade	
Sophomore -	Six	(06) Credits
Junior-	Twelve	(12) Credits*
Senior-	Eighteen	(18) Credits**

STUDENT COURSE LOAD
Twelve (12) units should be in the areas of English, Math, Science, Business Education, Social Studies, or Languages. All students in the Amite County School

District will adhere to the following minimum student load and attend high school for a minimum of 4 years:

9th graders will take at least eight (8) credits
10th graders will take at least eight (8) credits
11th graders will take at least eight (8) credits
12th graders will take at least two (2) academic credits per semester

Regardless of the number of credits taken, only seniors are allowed early dismissal. Seniors who complete graduation requirements at the end of the summer school will be awarded a diploma at that time.

A **term** is a 9-week period. There are 4 terms in a school year. A **semester** is an 18-week period. There are 2 semesters in a school year. One semester consists of two terms.

GRADING SCALE

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

Report cards are issued each nine (9) weeks and will be sent home on the second Thursday of the week after the nine weeks tests. If you have questions about the authenticity of your child's report card, please call the school. (Refer to school calendar for exact dates.) A child must be enrolled at least seven (7) days during a nine weeks period in order to receive a progress report or report card.
On the Thursday following the 3rd Friday of the term, a failure notice will be issued to all students who are failing. The progress report will be sent to the parent in order to provide ample time for the parent to contact the teacher about the situation.

GRADING

A student's nine-week average will be determined using the following criteria:

1. Daily work, including homework, will represent 50% of the total average.
2. Weekly or chapter tests will represent 40% of the total average.
3. Nine weeks test will represent 10% of the total average.

50/NC (No Credit) or less will be placed on permanent records and grade sheets for the courses where a student has lost credit due to:

a. Excessive absences
b. Dropping out
c. Dropping a class after the 5 days allowed
d. Expulsion

ONLINE GRADING SYSTEM

The Amite County School District has converted to the web-based student package SAMs Active Resources. Each school will send parent letters with instructions on how to log in to the website to view student's grades.

Standard – GPA
The Standard Grade Point averages will be based on a Standard 4.0 and will be unaffected by Quality Points. The Standard Grade Point averages will continue to be recorded as academic achievement on a student's high school transcript. This change will align with the scale used by colleges and universities.

Weighted GPA – Class Rank-QPA
The Weighted GPA shall be used to determine rank-in-class of graduating seniors. The student's rank shall be recorded on the student's permanent record. Class rank is computed on the basis of Quality Points, rather than on Standard Grade-Point average and projects a more accurate profile of academic performance. It is also designed to encourage more students to enroll in challenging courses. Students in advanced courses earn additional Quality Points directly proportionate to regular courses. In this way, those students in courses of average academic difficulty set the 4.0 norms. The student's rank shall be recorded on the student's permanent record. **COURSES MAY NOT BE RETAKEN TO IMPROVE QUALITY POINT AVERAGE.**

When calculating Standard GPA's and Class Rank QPA, Physical Education (P.E.), Band, Driver's Education, and Varsity sports will not be included. However ½ unit of PE is used in the calculation when used to satisfy graduation requirements and 1 unit of Band may be calculated when it is used to meet graduation requirements.

REGULAR COURSES
If a course is not classified as Advanced or Dual Enrollment, then it shall be weighted as a regular course using the standard 4.0 scale.

STANDARD 4.0 GRADING SCALE	
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0

WEIGHTED COURSES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT
Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level course taught with rigor and with prescribed College Board curriculums intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Exam in those subjects. Passing Advanced Placement Exams may qualify students for college credit at many institutions of higher learning. Students taking an AP class are required to take the AP exam. AP courses are weighted.

DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT
Dual Enrollment/Credit courses are offered as an opportunity for high school students to take college-bearing courses and earn college credit in these courses. In order to qualify for a dual

credit course, the student must be at a Junior or Senior standing and must meet the criteria as defined by the institution offering instruction. Dual Credit courses are weighted.

WEIGHTED SCALE		
	Advanced Placement (AP)	**Dual Enrollment/Credit**
A	4.5	5.0
B	3.5	4.0
C	2.5	3.0
D	1.5	2.0
F	.5	1.0

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

A student's Standard Grade Point Average (GPA) and Quality Point Average (QPA) shall be computed using the progress report grade of the last nine (9) weeks of the school year.

Valedictorian: Highest scholastic average through the progress report grade of the last nine (9) weeks of the school year.

Salutatorian: Second highest scholastic average through the progress report grade of the last nine (9) weeks of the school year. GPA will determine the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

To qualify as Valedictorian or Salutatorian, the student must have been enrolled at this school the last three (3) semesters. In the event of a tie, ACT will be used.

HONOR GRADUATES

High Honors.....3.5 GPA or above
Honors..... 3.0 - 3.4999 GPA
Core.....Required credits plus electives totaling 24 units

HONOR GRADUATES
Entering 9th graders 2018-2020 and thereafter

High Honors - Minimum GPA 3.5
Honors - Minimum GPA 3.0

Students seeking valedictorian or salutatorian must meet the requirements of High Honors. Please Note: The designation of High Honor Students and Honor Students is officially determined after the Final Rank-GPA is calculated.

Students seeking valedictorian, salutatorian, or high honors status at graduation must meet the requirements of the high honors. Students who wish to graduate with honors must meet the requirements of the honors.

HONOR ROLL

Students meeting the following requirements will be listed as an Honor Roll student. Grades must be made in all subjects taken.

Superintendent's Scholar – Student must have an "A" in every subject.
Principal's Scholar – Student must have an "A" or "B" in each subject area. Students cannot have a grade of "C" on the report card for the nine weeks to be eligible for Principal's Scholar.
Honor Roll – Student must have all "B's".

SCHEDULE CHANGES/DROPPING CLASSES

Students will not be allowed to change their schedules except in extreme emergencies. Schedule changes will be determined and made by the principal's office. Students have a maximum time of five (5) days to drop a class without receiving a SONIC. No classes will be changed after the first five (5) days of a course.

CREDIT RECOVERY

The purpose of Credit Recovery is to permit those students in grades 9 – 12 enrolled in a school within the Amite County School District who are significantly behind in their accumulation of credits the opportunity to recover credits through on–line instruction. Credit recovery is defined as the successful completion of coursework not completed during the school year, for which the student received a failing grade offered through on–line instruction. More than one course (semester) may be taken during the school year, but only one course may be taken at a time; that is, before the student may enroll for a second credit recovery course, the first credit recovery course must be completed. Ninth through twelfth grade can only do the maximum two credit recovery courses for summer school.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The Dual Enrollment program allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a regionally accredited college or university that will also count as a credit toward a high school diploma. No Dual Enrollment courses will be offered that are tied to a required End of Course Test (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History).

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students must acquaint themselves with the deadlines for the ACT or SAT. Colleges have deadlines for applying for admission and financial aid. It is essential that college-bound seniors test early enough to meet these deadlines. The counselors will make every effort to furnish students with all information. However, it is the students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with each school's admissions policies and procedures.

1. Special Education– The Amite County School District offers Special Education Services to those students who qualify. If you feel your child qualifies for these services, contact the principal at your child's school.
2. Health Services – District nurses provide school-based clinics at each of the schools on a regular basis. Mobile clinic is available.
3. Counseling Service – Counseling services are available through the district guidance counselor/social worker.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study guides, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel he/she would like to discuss with the counselor.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM (EL)

Philosophy

The Amite County School District recognizes the need and the requirement to provide EL (*English Learner*) students with linguistic and academic instruction and support services to develop English language proficiency such that, over time, they progress through school at a rate commensurate with their native English-speaking peers. To ensure educational efforts are consistent district-wide, the following requirements will be met: The Amite County School District shall administer a Home Language Survey to all newly enrolled students, identify and screen potential English Learners using the Mississippi Department of Education's approved English language proficiency assessment, and notify parents of identification, placement, and program services within required timelines. The district will provide an evidence-based Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP), appropriate instructional and assessment accommodations, equitable access to all educational programs and services, annual English language proficiency assessments, monitoring of students who exit the EL program, and ongoing evaluation of the district's English Learner program to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state requirements.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The ESSA builds upon the critical work States and local educational agencies (LEAs) have implemented over the last few years. The reauthorized law sets high standards and contains policies that will help prepare all students for success in college and future careers. It prioritizes excellence and equity and recognizes the importance of supporting great educators in our nation's schools.

The **Mississippi State Report Cards** contain the accountability grades and information about school and district performance on statewide assessments, the graduation rate (for high schools and districts) and teacher qualifications. These report cards are made for the state, district and individual schools. They are located on the Mississippi Department of Education's Website and will be linked to Amite County School District's website when they are available.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports integrates Response to Intervention (RtI) for academics and RtI for behavior into a unified model that recognizes the reciprocal influence academic performance and social/emotional/behavior have on each other. The goals of the MTSS are to be prevention oriented by knowing which students need support and implementing supports as early as possible each school year. Interventions will be evidence-based and targeted to the student's needs. Progress monitoring data will be used to know when to make changes in instruction.

The Mississippi Department of Education shall require every school district to follow the instructional model which consists of three tiers of instruction.

Tier I: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi College and Career Readiness State Standards and Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks.

Tier II: Focused supplemental instruction

Tier III: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

If strategies at Tier I and Tier II are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Multi-Tiered System of Support. On those occasions that the Multi-Tiered System of Support interventions are not successful, the procedures for assisting students considered at-risk of academic failure will be followed. This committee will recommend improvements and/or forward the referral to the Multi-Disciplinary Evaluation Team (MET). This Board of Education approved procedure is provided to principals, who chair the Multi-Tiered System of Support and is published in the *District Policies and Procedures Manual*.

It is the policy of the Amite County School District that the referral of a student to the MET begins the state of Mississippi's process for determining the eligibility of a student for special services. Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students should be considered only after appropriate instructional variations and interventions have been implemented in the regular classroom and if the student continues to be "at risk," or if the student is obviously disabled.

PHOTO VIDEO RELEASE

Amite County School District reserves the right to film or photograph students, unless otherwise directed by parent or guardian. News media must obtain permission from the superintendent before interviewing, photographing or filming students or personnel.

TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS

Amite County School District provides textbooks free of charge to students. It is the duty of each student to care for the textbooks to the best of his/her ability. Students who lose or damage textbooks are required to pay for them. Students should take pride in the upkeep of all textbooks. Teachers are instructed to assess fines for amounts up to the current value of a book when it is obvious that the student has damaged or defaced the book.

LIBRARY

The school library contains many volumes of books carefully selected by teachers and the librarian for general reading and reference work.

Students are encouraged to confer with the librarian regarding books and materials available and supplies needed to supplement the textbooks to use in preparing daily assignments. Certain rules and regulations are set by the librarian relative to checking books out, care of books, book fines, conduct, etc.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Programs: All schools within The Amite County School District (ACSD) participate in the USDA School Breakfast Program and The National School Lunch Program.

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits:
All students receive free breakfast and lunch.

Meal Prices for Adults & Visitors
Breakfast $2.85
Lunch $4.85

WELLNESS POLICY: The ACSD Board of Trustees has enacted a Wellness Policy to meet the health needs of our students and to comply with guidelines determined by the Mississippi Department of Education and the State Legislature. Restrictions are set on food and beverage items that may brought onto campus. Parents that would like to offer suggestions are encouraged to join a School Wellness Council.

DISCIPLINE
STUDENT CONDUCT-DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001, this school district shall adhere to requirements governing student conduct.

1) For this section:

a) The term "disruptive behavior" refers to such actions of a student that is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles, or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees, defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher, and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.

b) The term "habitually disruptive" refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willfully and overtly, on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. However, no student shall be considered habitually disruptive before a behavior modification plan is developed for the student in accordance with the code of conduct and discipline plans if the school district.

2) Every behavior modification plan written pursuant to this section must be developed by utilizing evidence-based practices and positive behavioral intervention supports. The plan must be implemented no later than two weeks after the occurrence of the disruptive behavior.

3) Any student, thirteen (13) years of age or older, who does not comply with a behavior modification plan developed for him/her by the school principal, reporting

teacher, and student's parent shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year. After the second act of disruptive behavior during a school year, by a student who is younger than thirteen (13) years of age, a psychological evaluation shall be performed upon the child. Reference: MS Code §37-11-181 (2015)

CODE OF CONDUCT-STUDENTS

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001 (Section 37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended), this School Board shall adopt and make available to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians at the beginning of each school year, a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians. The code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school board and shall be made available at the school level in the student handbook or similar publication. The code shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Specific grounds for disciplinary action under the school district's discipline plan, procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including suspension and expulsion, which comply with due process requirements.

(b) An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities

(c) Policies and procedures recognizing the teacher as the authority in classroom matters and supporting that teacher in any decision in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct; such recognition shall include the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, and send the student to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind has been held with the parent, guardian, or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed, and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the student may not be removed from the classroom, and the principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his/her disapproval.

(d) Policies and procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or a school-related activity.

(e) Procedures for the development of behavior modification plans by the school principal, reporting teacher, and student's parent for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year; and

(f) Policies and procedures specifically concerning gang-related activities in the school, on school property or vehicles; or at school-related activities.

Ref: §37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PLAN

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001 MS Code §37-11-53 (1972), amended, the following requirements shall be met by this school district:

1) A copy of the school district's discipline plan shall be distributed to each student enrolled in the district, and the parents, guardian, or custodian of each student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of the district. The school board shall have its official discipline and code of student conduct legally audited on an annual basis to ensure that its policies and procedures

are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law, and state and federal constitutional provisions. As part of the first legal audit occurring after July 1, 2001, the provisions of §37-11-55 and 37-11-18.1, 2001 Regular Session, shall be fully incorporated into the school district's discipline plan and code of student conduct.

2) The discipline plan of the schools of this district shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public-school district shall be responsible financially for his/her minor child's disruptive acts against school property or persons.

(b) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in public school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.

(c) any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference; and

(d) a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public-school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses or at any school-related activity.

3) Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be charged a fine not to exceed $250.00.

4) The school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed $20,000.00, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6) years who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to the school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of school child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall be in addition to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable. Educational property includes school buildings, school grounds, buses, parking areas, and locations where school-sponsored activities are conducted.

5) The School District's discipline plan may provide that as an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the reporting teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian, or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline policies of the school district.

The Mississippi School Safety Act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001. Ref: MS Code §37-3-81; §37-3-83; §37-11-54; §37-11-55; §37-11-53, (1972), amended.

INTIMIDATIONS/THREATS/HARASSMENT

It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten or coerce, whether by illegal threats of force or by the distribution of intimidating, threatening or coercive material, any person enrolled in any school for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to attend school classes or causing him not to attend such classes.

Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed $500.00, imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) years who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court. Ref: MS Code §37-11—20 (1972)

BULLYING

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written communication, electronic or verbal, or any physical act of any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus that:

- Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property.
- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

No student or school employee shall be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by school employees or students. No person shall engage in an act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying. A student who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying should report the incident to the appropriate school official. Bullying should be reported as soon as possible.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of harassment or bullying shall be unique to the individual incident. The consequences will vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. They must be consistent with the Board of Education's approved code of student conduct. Ref: MS Code §37-11-67 (1972).

GANG/GROUP ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION

Gangs or groups which initiate, advocate, or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or that disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. Students who wear, carry, or display gang/group paraphernalia or exhibit behavior or gestures that symbolize gang membership and/or participate in activities that intimidate or affect the attendance of another person will not be tolerated and shall be subject to appropriate action. This behavior includes but is not limited to the use of hand signals, graffiti on clothes, person, and notebooks, grooming (including hair and eyebrows), which by virtue of its color arrangement, trademark, or symbol, implies an affiliation with such a group.

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

As directed by MS Code, §37-11-29 (2001), the following policy is enacted in the Amite County School District.

Any principal who has knowledge of any unlawful activity that occurred on educational property on or during a school related activity or that may have occurred shall report such activity to the superintendent of the school district or his designee, who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials as required by this section. If the superintendent or his designee is unavailable, any principal may make a report required under this subsection.

Any teacher or other school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity or violent acts which occurred or may have occurred on an educational property during a school-related activity is required by law to report such activity or acts to the principal who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement official.

The superintendent shall notify, in writing, the parent, guardian, or custodian, the youth court, and local law enforcement of any expulsion of a student for unlawful activity as defined in MS Code §37-11-29. §37-11-29, which defines unlawful activity as any crime other than ordinary traffic violations involving a penalty of less than $50.00 and costs.

The superintendent shall notify the youth court and local law enforcement agencies, by affidavit, of the occurrence of any unlawful activity as defined by Section 37-11-29.

When the principal has a reasonable belief that an act has occurred on educational property or during a school related activity involving assault resulting in serious physical injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law, the principal shall immediately report the act to the appropriate local enforcement agency. School property shall include any public-school building, bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, or athletic field in the charge or the principal.

Any superintendent, principal, teacher, or other school personnel participating in making a report because of this policy or participating in any judicial proceeding resulting from this policy shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and as a result shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

"UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY" SHALL MEAN:

a. Aggravated assault, including but not limited to: (Assault resulting in serious physical injury or as involving use of a weapon).
b. Assault on a school employee, simple or aggravated.
c. Indecent liberties with a minor.
d. Possession of a firearm or other weapon.
e. Possession, use or sale of any controlled substance.
f. Rape or Sexual battery.
g. Other sexual offenses.
h. Murder or other homicide.
i. Kidnapping or Other violent acts, such as fighting.

WEAPONS

The Amite County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms, or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors, and guests. Because of such dangers, the board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, explosive devices (including fireworks) or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms, or weapons.

EXPLOSIVES/FALSE REPORTING

It shall be unlawful for any person to report to another by any means, including telephone, mail, e-mail, mobile phone, fax or any means of communication, that a bomb or other explosive or chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction has been, or is to be, placed or secreted in any public or private place, knowing that such report is false. Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000 or shall be committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than ten years, or both. MS Code §97-37-21 (1972).

NON SCHOOL RELATED CONDUCT

The school district shall have the authority to suspend, expel, or change the placement of students for misconduct that occurs off school property or at activities other than school-sponsored events.

The local school board shall have the authority to expel a pupil or to change placement to an alternative school or a home bound program for misconduct in the school, on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event, or for misconduct on property other than school property or other than at a school related event when such conduct, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders the pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the education environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Disciplinary actions and procedures are to be conducted in accordance with applicable statutes and in accordance with memoranda, bulletins, or notices published and distributed by the Superintendent and are subject to the following controlling principles:

1. An accumulation of twelve (12) or more demerits shall result in a letter, phone, or personal conference between the parent(s) and principal.
2. An accumulation of sixteen (16) or more demerits shall result in the student being assigned one (1) day of suspension.
3. An accumulation of 24 demerits shall result in the student being assigned two (2) days of suspension.
4. An accumulation of 36 demerits may result in the student being assigned three days of out-of-school suspension or an administrative hearing before a discipline committee. The committee will consist of three teachers, one guidance counselor, and the principal or an assistant principal. The committee will make a recommendation of probation or a district disciplinary hearing.

The principal may, at his/her discretion, with just cause, suspend or recommend expulsion of a student with or without an accumulation of demerits.

Demerits will be assigned as follows:

OFFENSE	DEMERITS
1. Behavior unbecoming of a student	2-36
• Cheating/plagiarism • Any student discovered receiving or giving aid on an examination will be subject to the following policy: 1) parent notified 2) a zero will be posted for that work, and 3) eight demerits will be issued.	8
• Dress code violation	2-6
• Gambling	6-26
• Improper gesture	2-8
• Improper physical contact	2-18
• Improper physical contact of a sexual nature	6-36
• Inciting	4-18
• Indecent exposure	6-36
• Misconduct and/or disruption	2-16
• Technology violation	6-36

2. Harassment (verbal/written)	12-36
3. Bullying	6-36*
4. Disobedience to teacher and/or staff	4-16
5. Displaying obscene statements/decals on campus or at school events	6-12
6. Disrespectful to other students	1-4
7. Disrespectful to teacher and/or staff	4-12
8. Drugs: Illegal, prescription, and/or alcohol (possession, sale/distribution, and/or use)	36*
9. Drugs: Possession of unauthorized chemicals (over-the-counter drugs and/or paraphernalia)	6-36
10. Electronic equipment use during school hours, all personal electronic equipment will be turned off and put away, not to be visible in anyway. The only exception will be when meeting the BYOD policy agreement. Students violating the policy will receive a referral to the office, and receive 12 demerits for each violation. However, if electronic device disrupts class the students will receive 14 demerits.	6-14
11. Fighting (more than one on one)	12-36
12. Fighting (one on one)	12-36
13. Fighting on school bus (see student transportation)	
14. Fighting with physical injury	36*
15. Gang-related activity (displays, gestures, etc.)	4-36
16. Illegal check-out/check-in	4
17. Illegal use of lunch number (cost of meal and demerits)	6
18. Improper driving on campus	1-8
19. Intimidations/threats	6-36
20. Leaving campus without permission	6-36
21. Misconduct on school bus (see student transportation)	
22. Off-limits	2-4
23. On campus, but not in class	8
24. Pornographic content (possession)	2-36
25. Profanity directed to student	2-6
26. Profanity directed to teacher and/or staff	4-18
27. Profanity- use of	2-8
28. Sexual Harassment	6-36
29. Skipping school	12
30. State testing violation (disruption or misconduct of any kind during state testing)	36*
31. Striking/threatening a teacher and/or staff – intentional	36*
32. Striking/threatening a teacher and/or staff - unintentional	6-16
33. Strong-arm tactics (monies and other valuables)	16-24
34. Tardy to class	2
35. Theft, breaking and entering, or possession of stolen goods	6-36
36. Tobacco (possession/use of tobacco and related paraphernalia), including e-cigarettes, e-liquid, e-juice, vaping, lighters, matches.	10-36 demerits
37. Vandalism- major ($15 or more)	16-36
38. Vandalism- minor ($14.99 or less)	4-12
39. Weapon possession/use (no fireworks, knives, mace/pepper spray, guns, realistic toy weapons, ammunition)	36*

***Students will receive the indicated number of demerits and a referral for a district disciplinary committee hearing.**	
Principal may make alternate school decisions.	

VANDALISM
The school district will not tolerate students' writing on or otherwise defacing school buildings, furniture, or other school property. Students guilty of this offense will be disciplined according to school policy and restitution will be required from the parents/guardians.

POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHY
A student may not possess, view, send, or share pictures or texts that have sexual content while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school buses. This policy strictly prohibits sexual material in electronic or any other form and includes but is not limited to the sexual material contained in a cellular telephone, camera phone, school Chromebooks, or personal digital assistant and sexual material transmitted by text message, e-mail, or any electronic communication device.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION
School bus drivers are required to observe numerous laws and regulations safeguarding the lives of the students they transport. The driver oversees those riding on the bus. The law instructs drivers to keep order and holds the driver responsible. Drivers, with the approval of the principal, have the right to refuse to transport those guilty of misconduct. The bus schedule should be as regular as possible. Without prior permission, students are not permitted to get off the bus in any location other than their official stop.

To avoid keeping others from waiting, no school bus should be expected to wait for any student. Buses will leave the school grounds each afternoon as soon as all have come aboard or not later than five minutes after dismissal.

At the driver's discretion, students will be permitted to use portable media players (with headphones) while riding on the school bus. However, the device must be turned off and put away once the student arrives on campus. Please keep in mind that the school and the school district assume no responsibility for lost or stolen valuables.

BUS REGULATIONS
Pupils Shall:
1. Be ready in the morning at the scheduled time and place for the bus to arrive and get off at assigned bus stop.
2. Always look in both directions and pass in front of bus when crossing street.
3. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
4. Be quiet when bus is nearing and crossing a railroad or highway.

Pupils Shall Not:
1. Play on the road while waiting for the bus.
2. Put head or hands out of windows.
3. Stand or change seats while bus is in motion.
4. Ride outside of bus.
5. Mar or deface bus.
6. Smoke or use intoxicants.
7. Fight or tussle.
8. Strike or threaten the bus driver.
9. Use profane language or make vulgar gestures.
10. Carry deadly weapons.
11. Make excessive noise.
12. Throw objects.
13. Commit any other act of improper conduct.

14. Carry items larger than a school bookbag and must not be placed in the aisle of obstruct the driver's view.

Note: The driver is empowered to enforce the regulations by reporting all violations to the principal or teacher. If any pupil persists in disobeying any of the regulations and rules of good conduct, school officials may suspend or expel the disobedient pupil. Safety on school buses is of utmost importance in transporting students to and from school in the Amite County School District. With this goal in mind, discipline on school buses will be handled according to the following rules:

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

1st offense - Parent contact – minimum.
2nd offense - Suspension from all buses – One (1) to three (3) days minimum.
3rd offense - Suspension from all buses – Three (3) to five (5) days minimum.
4th offense - Suspension from all buses – Ten (10) to fifteen (15) days minimum.
5th offense - Suspension from all buses – Thirty (30) school days.
6th offense – Suspension from all buses – Remainder of the year.
Demerits may also be given for any offense on a school bus. Principal discretion will determine severity of the punishment.

FIGHTING OR OTHER MAJOR INFRACTIONS:

1st offense ---------- Suspension from all buses – Three (3) days minimum
2nd offense---------- Suspension from all buses – Five (5) days minimum: Students will be subject to removal from all buses for the rest of the school year.
3rd offense ---------- Suspension from all buses the rest of the school year: If the fight or major infraction occurs toward the end of the school year, the suspension could carry over into the following school year.

Students involved in a major school bus infraction including fighting may, at the discretion of the administrator administering the discipline, are subject to out-of-school suspension along with bus suspension.

PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT WHILE BUSES ARE MOVING ANY INCIDENT THAT DISTRACTS THE DRIVER WILL BE CONSIDERED A MAJOR INFRACTION.

The punishment listed is a minimum that may occur for each offense. Administrators may administer more severe punishment if they feel the situation or infraction requires such action.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND STATEMENT POLICY

All persons concerned are hereby placed on notice that the disciplinary actions and video cameras may be used on busses to assist in the supervision and safety of the children.

Suspension

1. A short-term suspension is defined as denial of school for three (3) or fewer days. A short-term suspension may be imposed upon any student by the principal or assistant principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. A conference with the student's parent or guardian is required prior to the student's reinstatement.
2. A long-term suspension is defined as any denial of school attendance for five (5) days. A long-term suspension may be imposed upon any student by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.
3. Both long-term and short-term suspensions shall be governed by the following procedures:
   a. A student may be suspended only one (1) time for each offense.

b. Students suspended during an examination period shall be offered an opportunity to take any examination missed as a result at such time and under such conditions as may be determined by the principal of the school.
c. The principal of each school shall keep record of suspensions imposed during each school year. Such record shall contain the name, race, and sex of each student suspended, the dates of such suspensions, and a brief description of the incident or misconduct requiring the suspension.
d. A student may be suspended by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled for any reason for which a student may be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the Board of Education.
e. No student shall be suspended without affording each student the opportunity to express his or her version of the incident to the principal of the school after being fully advised of the charges lodged against the student unless there are reasons which make it inadvisable to do so, which reasons must be put in the record of the incident by the principal.
f. The principal of the school may, after completing the investigation as set forth above, suspend a student without further notice or proceeding. Promptly upon the suspension of a student, the principal of the school shall forthwith send to the parent/guardian of each student a "Notice of Suspension" and shall state the name of the student, the nature of the incident resulting in suspension, the length of the suspension, and the exact date the student should return to school. Such principal of the school and/or teacher(s) can be arranged to discuss the incident and disciplinary measures taken if the parent or guardian addresses the desire for it. A parent or guardian conference with the principal is required for reinstatement of students on short-term suspension.
g. While not a requisite, it is desirable that the principal of the school afford the parent or guardian of the student an opportunity to confer with such principal concerning the student's behavior before suspending each student. The record maintained by the principal of the school shall show whether such conference was held with the parent or guardian of the student.

Corporal Punishment

1. The principal or assistant principal may administer corporal punishment in accordance with the law. In all cases, the principal or assistant principal must be present along with a second certified person. One will administer the punishment; the second will serve as a witness. Corporal punishment is to be administered to the buttocks only and must not be excessive. Corporal punishment will not be administered in anger. Corporal punishment will not be administered in the presence of other students and will be administered only in the principal's office or in another private area designated by him.

2. In all cases where the demerit system or corporal punishment is administered, a discipline form containing the following information must be completed:

   a. Student's name
   b. Date
   c. Details of specific incident for which punishment was assigned.
   d. Number of licks administered/number of demerits assigned.
   e. Signature of person administering punishment.
   f. Name of witness in the event corporal punishment is administered.

3 The office copy of the discipline form is to be filed in the principal's office. The parent's copy is to be brought home by the student. The teacher's copy is to be retained by the teacher.
4. Parent permission must be given prior to administration of corporal punishment.

MERIT SYSTEM

If the student is present for 20 school days at his/her home school without any discipline referrals, he/she may have four (4) demerits removed.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT

I. PURPOSE: An administrative hearing is to be held to determine the placement status of the student. This committee is to have an option of two recommendations:

1. Allow student to stay at his or her present school on probationary status.
2. Recommend the student be brought before the Amite County School District Disciplinary Committee for a hearing.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

1. One principal or assistant principal
2. One guidance counselor
3. Three teachers
   a. The teachers should reflect the diversity of the school, if possible.
   b. The committee chairman is to be a teacher.

II. NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

1. Student is to be told verbally.
2. Parents are to be told on phone if possible.
3. Parents are to be notified by first class mail if contact is not made.
4. The time and date of the hearing are to be stated in the call/letter.
5. The parent is to report to the office for the hearing.
6. The recommendation of the committee is to be made to the principal within 24 hours.

DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Amite County School District Disciplinary Review Committee hearing is to be held at the Amite County School District Office to determine placement status of the student. The committee has the option to recommend no action, probation, and alternative placement, expulsion for the remainder of the school year, or expulsion for one calendar year. Federal and state regulations will be followed when disciplinary action is taken with students who have disabilities.

Note: Any student appearing before the District Disciplinary Review Committee in the last nine-week period of the school year will remain on probation for a period of one semester the following school year.

Note: The committee will consist of three (3) district employees.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is defined as any denial of school attendance beyond ten (10) days, which may be permanent, or which may terminate at the beginning of the next school year provided sufficient rehabilitation can be demonstrated. The power to expel a student is vested in the Amite County School District Disciplinary Review Committee subject to the review of the Superintendent and Board of Education of the district.

Any principal who determines that a student has committed infractions justifying expulsion shall send a letter recommending such expulsion to the superintendent or his/her designee. The letter or recommendation shall contain the student's disciplinary record, and the principal's recommendation. The principal shall give a "Notice of Recommendation for Expulsion" to the parent or guardian of the student.

Upon receipt of the principal's recommendation, the superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parent or guardian by of the student recommended for expulsion of the exact time and place for the hearing. This hearing shall be held within ten (10) school days of the principal's recommendation for expulsion.

In case the student, his/her parent, legal guardian, or attorney request additional time, the student will remain out of school until the hearing occurs. School officials may exercise this same option with consent of student, parent, legal guardian, or their attorney.

The Disciplinary Review Committee shall have the duty to review the evidence advanced by the principal in support of his/her recommendation and to hear and review any rebuttal advanced by the student, parent, or guardian. Although proceedings will be conducted informally and formal rules of evidence shall not apply, the student and the parent or guardian has the right to:

1. Have counsel present at hearing.
2. Cross-examine or otherwise pose questions to persons giving statements adverse to student.
3. Offer statements by the student and parent or guardian and any other person who has information relevant to the charges advanced by the principal.

The decision of the committee will rest solely upon applicable school rules and law and only upon evidence admitted at the hearing. The Disciplinary Review Committee shall record all the facts considered before deciding. If any action of the board is required, the decision shall be rendered in writing (recorded) and presented at the next regular or recess meeting of the board with its recommendations. The principal or assistant principal shall advise the parent of the student and principal of the school of the committee's decision, verbally as soon as possible.

Students who are expelled may apply for re-admission at the end of their expulsion. Such students must show evidence of rehabilitation and must meet with school board members for possible reinstatement.

Students who have completed the Amite County Alternative School Program shall be subject to the following controlling policy: When a student returns from the Alternative School, he/she will be placed on eight (8) demerit probation. Any student accumulating more than eight (8) demerits will be referred to the school principal. The school principal shall determine whether the infractions committed by the student justify expulsion or alternative placement and submit recommendation to the superintendent. The parent or guardian will be notified of the recommendation.

STUDENT COMPLAINT/ GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A "grievance" under this procedure shall mean a complaint by persons who believe they have been treated unfairly or otherwise discriminated against in their educational program. The following steps shall be used in processing such grievances.

Step1

A. The aggrieved person shall present his/her grievance in writing to the pertinent teacher or school person.

B. If the grievance is sexual in nature and is directed toward the aggrieved person's teacher or school personnel, the grievance shall be presented in writing to the immediate supervisor of the individual toward whom the grievance is directed. The grievance process will then follow the steps as outlined. The aggrieved person, teacher, or school personnel may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.

C. The teacher or school personnel shall render a written decision to the aggrieved within five (5) days after receipt of the grievance.

Step 2

A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step one (1), he/she may within five (5) days, notify in writing, his/her teacher, or school personnel of his/her intent to appeal to the appropriate authority.
B. The aggrieved student shall appeal to the principal. The aggrieved shall include copies of all correspondence from Step One (1).
C. The aggrieved person or principal may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
D. The principal shall render a written decision to the aggrieved within five days after receipt of the appeal.

Step 3

A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step Two (2), he/she may within five (5) days notify in writing the principal of his/her intent to appeal to the appropriate central office administrator.
B. The aggrieved person shall present his/her appeal in writing to the central office administrator and shall include copies of all correspondence from Steps One (1) and Two (2).
C. The aggrieved person or the central office administrator may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
D. The central office administrator shall render a written decision within ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal.

Step 4

A. If the aggrieved is not satisfied at Step Three (3), he/she may submit his/her appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Education and shall include copies of all correspondence from Steps One (1), Two (2), and Three (3).
B. The aggrieved student or Superintendent may request a conference prior to the time a decision is rendered.
C. The Superintendent shall render a decision to the aggrieved student within twenty (20) days after receipt of the appeal.

EMPLOYEE/STUDENT/or OTHER THIRD-PARTY INJURY

ACSD teachers or employees injured because of the actions of a student/parent or other third party under the state law workers compensation carrier can exercise their right to seek reimbursement. State Statute as it relates to MS Code §71-3-71 'Compensation for injuries where third parties are liable',

AMITE COUNTY Dress Code/Uniform Policy

The Amite County School Board believes strongly in the value of our students wearing uniforms to school for several reasons. Wearing a uniform saves time and reduces stress by eliminating the difficult decision about what to wear each day. It has also been proven that uniforms help reduce distractions so students can focus on their schoolwork, which increases their academic performance. Therefore, in conjunction with Administration and the Amite County School Board the following policy regarding uniforms will be:

1. Students are permitted to wear khaki or black-colored **khaki style uniform** pants, shorts, skirts, or dresses only.
2. Belts are required and is considered part of the daily uniform.
3. White, black, or gold polo style shirts and t-shirts that display the school's logo are permitted and must fit appropriately.(No sleeveless shirts).

DRESS CODE:

The Amite County School Board, therefore, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Education and after consultation with parents, students and teachers within the system, presents the following policy regarding student dress:

a. Student dress in the Amite County School District must conform to the principles of

(1) Good health and safety, (2) high moral standards, and (3) consistency with the instructional process.

b. Students at the school and those representing the school away on trips or in the local community shall dress appropriately for the occasion and in keeping with the above stated principles.

Specifically:

1. None of the following will be allowed: trench coats, pajamas, half-shirts, low-cut/revealing shirts, inappropriate dresses, house slippers, flip flops, slides, fishnet stockings and shirts advertising alcoholic beverages or tobacco, weapons, or those with obscene, offensive, or questionable printing on them.
2. Khaki or black colored khaki style uniform pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses must be knee length. Pants with holes are not allowed.
3. Bicycle/spandex pants/shorts, leggings, jeggings, and meggings are not allowed.
4. Sagging and/or see-through pants are not allowed. Khaki or black colored khaki style uniform pants or shorts must be worn at the hip with no undergarment visible.
5. Appropriate undergarments are to be worn and always covered.
6. Hats, bandanas, headbands, or head coverings of any kind are not allowed, including being worn as a hair accessory.
7. Sunshades of any kind are not allowed.
8. Dog collars or similar type ornaments shall not be worn about the neck.
9. Only cold weather gloves are allowed during inclement weather. Gloves cannot be worn in the school building.
10. Students will not be allowed to wear clothing, caps, or hats that advertise or promote groups, fraternities, sororities, outside clubs, or organizations not associated or approved by the Amite County School Board.
11. Extremely tight-fitting or short clothing will not be allowed.
12. Clothing must not expose the midriff with arms raised. Halter tops are not allowed.
13. Chain(s) or other objects that may be used as a weapon (including wallet chains) are not allowed.
14. Earrings must be worn in earlobes only. For student safety, no other body piercings with rings or other jewelry is allowed. This includes nose rings and tongue studs.
15. Inappropriate/Unnatural application of make-up or hair color is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, designs in haircuts, and notched eyebrows.
16. Tattoos deemed to be inappropriate by the administration must be covered.
17. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn on school premises.
18. All backpacks must be clear and transparent or made from mesh which is see-through. Backpacks may be customized with name, initials, school logo,etc. Customization of the backpack should not prevent the contents of the backpack from being visible. A pouch no larger than 5.5 inches x 8.5 inches may be carried in the backpack to hold personal items. Athletic and gym bags may be kept in a supervised location at the school.

If an administrator deems the student attire inappropriate, parent (s) will be required to bring a change of clothing for a student to remain in school for the day.

SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with §37-13-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, the school district will provide instruction implementing an abstinence-plus curriculum which will include the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity and the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining. According to Mississippi law:

- Sex education instruction must be age and grade appropriate.
- Students must be separated by gender when teaching the sex education curriculum.

- Parents have the right to request that their child(ren) be excused from such instruction.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This school district prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school-sponsored activities. Sexual harassment is inappropriate behavior and offensive. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

When a principal or his/her designee has probable cause or reasonable suspicion that school official has a legal right and responsibility to search personal belongings, cell phones, desks, persons, and/or vehicles for any item specifically prohibited by school board policy. A witness should be present during any search. It is not necessary to give prior warning of a search.

The school official should seek cooperation from the student if a search is to be made of his person requesting, for instance, that the contents of a purse or pocket be placed on a table for inspection.

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a privilege not a right. The interior of a vehicle driven by a student on the school premises may be searched if the school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized contraband items are contained inside.

STUDENT AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

1. Students are to park in the designated student parking area.
2. A maximum speed of 10 mph will be observed while on campus.
3. Cars are to be parked in lined areas only.
4. Students may not go to their cars without a pass during the school day.
5. Students will leave their automobiles immediately after arriving on campus (no sitting in automobiles). Once students drive on campus, they cannot drive off without administrative permission.
6. Students park at their own risk. The school is not responsible for theft or damages to your car.
7. The school reserves the right to search any student's car brought on campus. Searches will be conducted in the presence of the student.
8. No obscene or questionable tags or decals may be displayed on automobiles.
9. Violations will result in the assigning of demerits and/or loss of privilege of bringing a car to school.

LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Students may lose driving privileges for a minimum of 5 - 10 days in the event of the following:

1. Accumulation of 24 or more demerits.
2. 6 tardies in any class during any nine weeks
3. 10 unexcused absences in a semester ½ credit course.
4. 18 unexcused absences in full credit course.

CONDUCT IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Assembly in the gym/auditorium is held for a purpose. Orderly conduct is expected, even at pep rallies. It is especially important that students extend courtesy to those conducting programs in the assemblies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Students should secure their valuables and respect the property of fellow students. Athletic attire must be presentable. Students must wear gym or tennis shoes while participating in PE and may not participate while barefoot.

ACTIVITIES
The district offers football, baseball, basketball, track, volleyball, archery, cheer, band, choral, and power lifting. Athletes and coaches will comply with the current rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

ACTIVITY or EVENTS
Students attending a school sponsored activity or event conducted on school property, or a designated off-site location, are required to conduct themselves properly at such events. All school rules and policies will be enforced at all school activities and events conducted at the student's home school and away.

STUDENT COUNCIL/CLASS OFFICERS
The student council will consist of representatives of each class in school. The council with their sponsors will help promote the general welfare of the school. The principal will work closely with the president in the area of student government and affairs. Nominees for all student body offices must have maintained a "C" average during their high school course of study.

STUDENT VALUABLES
Students should refrain from bringing high value items or large sums of money to school. The school assumes no responsibility for lost valuables. Students are encouraged to report the loss to the school resource officer, who will inform administration. Lost and Found items are kept in the office; unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of the school year.

INSURANCE
The school district does not provide insurance for students. Accident insurance is available at a nominal fee under two plans:

- A twenty-four-hour coverage
- Coverage during school hours.

All students participating in the band, or any sports activity are required to be covered by insurance.

CARE OF PROPERTY
Students should be taught responsibility for both private and public property. The care of furniture, books, playground equipment, school buses, and all other school properties must be considered a public responsibility.

Any student destroying, defacing, or marring school property will be expected to pay the cost of repairs or replacement. **A student failing to pay these costs may be suspended or expelled until he or she does.**

SCHOOL TELEPHONES
The school telephone is for business purposes. Therefore, a student's use of the school's telephones is limited. Students may use the phone only for emergency purposes and only with permission.

EMERGENCY WEATHER PROCEDURES
It may become necessary for the Superintendent of Education to dismiss school early due to an emergency. It is highly recommended that parents have a plan of action formulated in case their child comes home and finds that no one is home. Parents should make certain that their child knows what to do and where to go in the case that no one is at home. Announcements will be made over several means of communication (AIMSWEB, School Status) should school be cancelled or released early due to weather or other emergencies.

FIRE AND SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS
The district has planned procedures to ensure the safety of each student in the event of a fire or severe weather. Drills are held periodically during the year to ensure speed and efficiency in getting children to their assigned places of safety.

Teachers will explain fire evacuation procedures to each child. Pupils must leave the classroom in orderly lines and march to an assigned place outside the building. Pupils are to move rapidly in an orderly fashion. Monitors will inspect all sections of the building to ascertain that all pupils have safely vacated the building.

CHANGING PERIODS
No class is dismissed until the teacher gives students permission to leave the classroom. All students are expected to maintain orderly behavior and always move to the right in corridors.

LATE ARRIVAL/CHECK IN
All students that arrive late must report to the office and sign in before going to class. Demerits will be issued for improper check in.

CLASS INTERRUPTIONS
Classes will not be interrupted except for important reasons as approved by the principal or assistant principal.

FUNDRAISING BY STUDENTS
Fund-raising projects in which students sell candy or other materials to the public must be sponsored by a school-sponsored organization. All fund-raising must have the approval of the principal and school board, and all funds shall be deposited and disbursed through school activity accounts.

STUDENT REGISTRATION
All students entering the public school of Mississippi for the first time must present a certified copy of their birth certificate and two proofs of residency. A child must be six years of age (kindergarten-five years of age) on or before September 1, in order to enroll for the school year. The parents or legal guardian of a student must be present before the student will be registered.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

The requirement that students present a Certificate of Compliance before they are allowed to attend school was mandated by the state legislature in 1978. School officials can neither make exceptions nor issue compliance certificates. The County Health Officer located at the Amite County Health Department can make exceptions for medical reasons. The following vaccines are required to attend school:
A. DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough)
B. Polio
C. Hepatitis B
D. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
E. Varicella (Chickenpox)
F. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis) – 7th grade

Students entering an Amite County School from another public school in Mississippi are required to present proof of clearance from their former school prior to enrollment. Students will be placed in classes by the school principal. A standardized test will be administered as an aid in the proper placement of the students from non-accredited schools.

MEDICAL CARE:
Accidents/First Aid
Safety of students is paramount. Teachers are responsible for the safety of all students under their supervision.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION
Any student who requires medication to be given at school must comply with the school district policy for the administration of medication. **Students may not bring medication of any kind to school or take medications from school unless special arrangements have been made with the school nurse and principal.**

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE
School personnel will not administer prescription medicine to a student unless the student's physician authorizes school personnel to administer the medicine and the parents/guardians have signed the Authorization for Administration of Medication associated with this policy. The parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining a statement from the physician authorizing school personnel to administer the medicine. The statement should include:
1.Student's name
2.Name of medicine
3.Method of administration
4.Time/s to administer the medicine
5.Amount of medicine
6.Date to discontinue or review administration of medicine
7.Physician's signature
8.Date

The parents/guardians are responsible for getting the medicine to the school. All medicine must be in a proper container with a label from the pharmacy which states the following:
1.Student's name
2.Name of medicine
3.Method of administration
4.Time/s to administer the medicine
5.Prescription number
6. Name of pharmacy
7.Date filled

A. **Prescription Medication** - A Medication Authorization Form for the administration of medication must be completed by the parent/guardian

and placed on file at the school before any medication will be given at the school. A new authorization must be completed at the beginning of each year or whenever there is a change in the medication dosage or schedule. In accordance with state law, students who need to keep certain medications in their possession for emergencies will need authorization from their parent guardian and the physician. All authorization forms are available online at the time of registration or from the school nurse. Prescription medications must be supplied and brought to school by the parent/guardian or authorized adult.

The medication must be in the original labeled container. The prescription label must have the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, route, time to be given, and the name of the prescribing physician. Parents should request the pharmacist to provide a container labeled for school use. Only the required number of doses needed at school should be brought in the container. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that adequate medication is available at the school.

In the event the school nurse is not available to administer medication, e.g., field trip, unlicensed school personnel, who have completed the Assisted Medication Administration Training, will assist the student with taking his/her medicine. Some restrictions may apply.

All medications will be kept in a secure area at school and administered only by designated personnel. All students' medications must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school year or when the medication is no longer needed. Medications left at school will be disposed of on the school nurse's last workday of the year.

B. **Over-the Counter Medication** - The school nurse, in accordance with standing orders written by the Amite County School District Medical Director and with written authorization by the parent/guardian, may give a limited number of over-the-counter medications. If the school nurse is not available, the parent/guardian must bring the medication to school and administer it. Students require an Authorization for Administration of Over-the-Counter Medications Form completed and signed by the parent/guardian to receive over-the-counter medications at school. This authorization is completed online with student registration and is valid for one year. School nurses will not be able to administer any other over-the-counter medications unless the following is completed:
    - Medication has been prescribed by a licensed health care provider.
    - Medication is brought to the school, in a properly labeled prescription bottle/container, by the parent/guardian.
    - Written authorization from a parent/guardian has been received.

C. **Medication Administration on Field Trip** – Due to the severity of student's medical conditions on school campuses, school nurses may not attend field trips. Provisions will be made to train professional school staff to assist students with medication administration on field trips. Some restrictions may apply.

The school reserves the right to refuse administration of any medication when circumstances warrant such action. This may include adverse reaction, incomplete instructions for administration, non-compliance by the parent or student with school policy, or other extenuating circumstances. The parent /guardian will be notified of these situations.

ASTHMA AND ANAPHYLAXIS CHILD SAFETY ACT

Amite County School District will comply with the Asthma and Anaphylaxis Act. The school nurse or trained personnel, in accordance with a standing order written by Amite County School District medical director, will administer an auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who it is believed, in good faith, to be having an anaphylaxis reaction, whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. MS Code §37-11-71

The school nurse or trained personnel, in accordance with standing order written by Amite County School Medical Director may administer medication and maintain for use when necessary.

Prescribed medication for asthma (rescue medication), and for anaphylaxis (epinephrine) should be kept in the nurse clinic unless written permission for a student to carry these prescription drugs has been agreed to by the physician, parent, and school nurse. It requires, in part, that the student has demonstrated the necessary maturity to keep it on their person. **If your child has been diagnosed with asthma or anaphylaxis, a Amite County School District Action Plan must be completed by the healthcare provider and parent/guardian at the beginning of each year, or whenever there is a change in the medication dosage or schedule.** These forms are available online at the time of registration or from the school nurse.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

At Amite County School District, it is our responsibility to be proactive against the spread of infection. Students will be sent home and are to stay home until they are without a fever (Temperature is less than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit taken orally) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. When a student becomes ill at school, he/she shall be observed by a school staff member and a parent/guardian will be contacted.

Students with communicable diseases are required to remain at home until a physician certifies them able to return to school. Listed below is a guide for communicable diseases to which children are most susceptible.

- Chicken Pox: A highly infectious viral disease that begins with small red bumps that turn into blisters after several hours. The blisters generally last for 3-4 days and then begin to dry up and form scabs. These lesions (bumps/blisters) almost always appear first on the trunk rather than the extremities. The child may return to school after the lesions are crusted and dry and no new ones are forming. Exposed children may attend school.
- • FLU (Influenza): Influenza is an acute (sudden onset) viral disease of the respiratory tract characterized by fever, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, malaise, nasal congestion, sore throat and cough. Influenza in children may be indistinguishable from diseases caused by other respiratory viruses. The student may return to school when free of fever for 24 hours and feeling well.
- Hepatitis: Clearance by a physician.
- Measles (Rubella): Symptoms may include fever, hacking cough, and conjunctivitis. The child may return to school when free of fever and the rash is fading (this usually takes 5 to 7 days). Exposed children may attend school.
- Meningococcal Meningitis: This illness is a rare but sometimes fatal infection affecting the membranes of the spinal cord and brain. Meningitis can be caused by a variety of organisms or germs such as Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and Neisseria meningitidis (meningococcal). It is spread through the exchange of respiratory droplets, which includes sharing a drink or utensils, kissing, cough, and sneezing. Symptoms may include sudden high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, and exhaustion. Symptoms progress quickly, and prompt medical attention is critical. Immunization can reduce one's risk and is strongly recommended for all preteens, teens, and young adults. Infected individuals may return to school after treatment with antibiotics and clearance by a physician.
- Mononucleosis: This is an infectious disease characterized by fever, sore throat, swollen glands in the neck area, and generalized weakness. The child need not

be excluded from class, unless requested for medical reasons, but may return when free of fever and feeling well enough and clearance by a physician.

- Mumps: Pain in chewing or swallowing may be earliest symptoms, followed by chills and headache. The child should not return to school until all swelling has disappeared, usually nine to twelve (9-12) days from onset.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) This is an infectious disease characterized by redness of the eye(s), excessive tearing, itching, and discharge. Some cases may require antibiotics; therefore, a physician should be seen. Children may return to school after a physician has been seen, or when redness/discharge is improving.
- Strep throat/Scarlet Fever: Strep throat a communicable disease characterized by sore throat, fever, and tender, swollen lymph glands in the neck. Scarlet fever is a streptococcal infection with a rash (scarlatiniform rash). It is most associated with strep throat. In addition to the signs and symptoms of strep throat, the person with scarlet fever has an inflamed, sandpaper-like rash and sometimes a very red or "strawberry" tongue. The rash is due to a toxin produced by the infecting strain of bacteria. The student may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been started if free of fever.

SKIN INFECTIONS:

- **Impetigo: The child may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been started. Lesions that are still oozing and are on exposed skin surfaces should be covered.**
- **Staph: Children who have a minor staph infection of the skin such as a pimple may attend school. Those who have a more serious staph infection that requires medical treatment should not return to school until 24 hours after treatment has been started and is free of fever. Any lesions that are oozing and are on exposed skin surfaces should be covered with a leak-proof bandage.** Clearance by a physician.
- **Ringworm:** Return to school when under treatment.
- **Scabies**: Return to school when under treatment.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SPREAD BY NON-CASUAL CONTACT

When reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms that a student/staff member is known to have a communicable disease or infection that is known not to be spread by casual contact such as, HIV infection, Hepatitis B, and other like diseases, the decision as to whether the affected person will remain in the school setting will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with state and federal law.

EMERGENCY CARE (FIRST AID)

The school attempts to provide an environment in which the student will be safe from accidents. Emergencies shall be dealt with promptly by teachers, first aid specialists, and principals by taking appropriate action, including sending a child to the hospital, summoning medical aid, or an ambulance. In all cases where it is necessary to send a student to the hospital, every effort must be made to notify parents.

If an accident occurs, first aid will be administered. School personnel shall not exceed usual practice of competent first aid (American Heart Association Standards CPR/First Aid). When a student becomes ill or injured at school, he/she shall be observed by a school staff member and, if necessary, parent/guardian will be contacted.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOLS HEAD LICE POLICY

I. **IDENTIFYING INFESTED CHILDREN**

By Individual Case -Throughout the year, any student suspected of having head lice will be examined by the teacher and, if evidence of infestation is seen, reexamined by the "confirming" examiner. If infested, the child will be handled as described in section 2, "HANDLING OF

INFESTED CHILDREN," below If one child in a classroom is found to be infested, the entire class will be screened as described above. (This is recommended by the MS Dept of Health but not required.)

II. **HANDLING OF INFESTED CHILDREN**

The parent will be called to initiate treatment as described in section 3, "treatment" see below. Care will be taken not to embarrass the child and to ensure that no stigma is attached to him/her. Detailed guidelines for treatment will be sent home with the child.

Return to School – The child may return to school as soon as the parent provides evidence of treatment, either a note from the parent describing the treatment, a note stating the date of treatment: e.g., "Johnny was treated with XYZ shampoo according to package directions on 9/12/2011", and the box top or package label from the product used. The treatment should be an approved medical treatment and not a home remedy. At this time, the child will be re-examined. A few nits (eggs) may still be seen even in an adequately treated child and are not evidence of continuing infestation. If the child has not been satisfactorily treated, admission will be refused.

Upon the third incidence or notification of head lice within a school year, student will be referred to the county health department for instruction and assistance.

III. **TREATMENT**

Individual - Several effective products are available over the counter and prescription form. Over the counter medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration contain one of the following active ingredients: Pyrethrins combined with piperonyl butoxide. FDA approved prescription medications are Benzyl alcohol lotion 5%, Ivermectin lotion 0.5%, and Malathion lotion 0.5%. Treatment with any approved pediculocidal (lice-killing) product should be adequate.

An initial treatment will kill adult and larval lice but will not kill all the eggs. A second treatment 7-10 days later (8 days is ideal), after the eggs left by the first treatment have all hatched, will kill the newly hatched lice before they mature and reproduce and complete the treatment process. A second treatment is recommended unless otherwise prescribed by a physician. If only one treatment is prescribed, the student will be re-checked upon return to school, and then again in seven days. If a second treatment is done or required parents must furnish evidence of the treatment no earlier than seven days and no longer than ten days after the first. The same evidence, note from a parent and box top/package label, is required. A child should not miss more than one or two days because of treatment for head lice. If the child is absent more than three days, the school attendance officer will be notified.

IV **STUDENTS WITH RECURRING HEAD LICE:**

If a student has had head lice on three (3) occasions during (1) school year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by school officials that the student has had head lice on three (3) occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by school nurse, principal or administrator shall notify and refer the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice that that student. The county health department then shall instruct the child's parents on how to treat head lice, eliminate head lice from household items, and prevent the recurrence of head lice.

Family – Household members of a child with head lice should be examined for lice (either by a family member who knows how, the family doctor, or someone else knowledgeable about lice) and any infested persons should be treated as described above. Persons that

share a bed with the infested child should be examined and also may need treatment.

BED BUG POLICY

When a student is identified with bed bugs present on them at school, the parent will be contacted and education materials about transporting bed bugs and care at school will be given to the parent to prevent the spread of bed bugs at school. Prompt reporting is necessary so the presence can be confirmed, and prompt action taken to prevent the spread. Based on an assessment, the principal and/or the school nurse may require the student to be dismissed for the remainder of the day to address the infestation.

HIV POLICY

A student with HIV infection has the same right to attend school and receive services as any other student and will be subject to the same rules and policies. School authorities will determine the educational placement of a student with HIV infection on a case-by-case basis following established policies and procedures for a student with chronic health problems or disabilities. The school authorities will consult with the student's physician and parent (or guardian); respect the student's and family's right to privacy; and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student's need for accommodation or services. The student's parent or guardian will be requested to sign a release of information form to allow communication between the physician and the school system.

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Amite County School District recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. This school district shall utilize training materials and resources developed by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and shall comply with all requirements of the Mississippi Department of Education regarding suicide prevention.

STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

The Amite County School District will adhere to all provisions outlined in the "Student Religious Liberties Act of 2013.

COMPLIANCE POLICIES – CONFIDENTIALITY

The Amite County School District adheres to the requirements outlined in the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA). Copies of these regulations are available on the district website.

CHILD FIND

The Amite County School District participates in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need special education and related services as defined by the State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 (State Board Policy 7219). This applies to, but is not limited to homeless children, wards of the state, private school children, children advancing from grade and highly mobile and/or migrant children who reside within the district jurisdiction. Requests for evaluations are not limited by the number per year or time of year a request is received. The district will adhere to the relevant policies and procedures for the implementation of the Child Find requirements for local school districts under State Policies Regarding Children with Disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (State Board Policy 7219).

SECTION 504

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each handicapped student within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the handicap. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are handicapped within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are

identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be handicapped under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
Due process rights of handicapped students and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced.

TITLE IX

The Amite County School District is in compliance with the requirements of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Questions regarding Title IX compliance should be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

TECHNOLOGY

The vision of the Amite County School District is to provide students with the tools and abilities needed to become successful citizens in the global information society. With students as the primary recipients of the technology, the district's mission of integrating technology in the classroom allows instruction to move from a teaching-centered environment to a learning-centered environment. This integration provides the tools to accomplish the National Educational Technology Standards for students.

FACEBOOK

In each school, the principal or his designee may establish a FACEBOOK page for posting educational information and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to join to keep informed.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

The use of electronic equipment (cell phones, iPods, cameras, tablets, e- readers, iPads, Meta-glasses, headphones, etc.) during the school day is prohibited. This includes classrooms, hallways, restrooms, playgrounds, gyms, and any off-campus areas during the school day. All equipment must be turned off and stored away. Inappropriate use of electronic equipment will be reported to the school administration for discipline action. Electronic equipment is brought at the risk of the student/parent. The school district will not be held responsible for items damaged or broken.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELECTRONIC ACCESS/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Amite County School District, referred to as the District, is providing employees and students with access to the District's electronic communication system, referred to as the District system, which includes Internet access. The District system has a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes use of the system for classroom activities and professional development. The purpose of the District system is to assist in preparing students for responsible citizenship and success in life. The District system provides electronic access to a wide range of information and the ability to communicate with people throughout the world.

ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES FOR TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFINITION OF THE DISTRICT SYSTEM

The District's computer systems and Intranet are any configuration of hardware and software. The systems and networks include, but are not limited to, all of the computer hardware (i.e., servers, laptops, probe-ware, presentation stations, and digital cameras), operating system software, application software, stored text, and data files. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, local databases, and externally accessed databases, such as the Internet, CD-ROM, optical media, clip art, digital images, digitized information, communications technologies, and new technologies as they become available. The District reserves the right to monitor all technology resource activity. All electronic transmissions will be archived according to District policy.

GENERAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES
Users are responsible for appropriate behavior on the District system just as they are in a classroom or on school grounds. Communications on the system are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with District standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user and/or his parent/guardian are personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the District system. The user is advised never to create, access, keep, or send anything that they would not want open to the public.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES
The District maintains and reserves the right to review any material on user accounts for the purpose of maintaining acceptable use of the system. The District will maintain the system properly and efficiently to allow full access to the user.

EDUCATOR RESPONSIBILITIES
Educators are responsible for disseminating and enforcing the District Acceptable Use Policy. Teachers are responsible for teaching proper techniques, for guiding student access to educational use of the system, and for assuring that students understand that if they misuse the network, they will lose their privilege to access the Internet from the classroom environment.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Even though the District maintains a filtering system, it is not possible for the District to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Therefore, it is ultimately a parental/guardian responsibility for the student's understanding of and compliance with the District Acceptable Use Policy including the consequences of non-compliance.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on school grounds. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth in the Student Account Agreement. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused.

CONDUCT OF BEHAVIOR
Proper behavior, as it relates to the use of District system, is no different than proper behavior in all other aspects of Amite County School District activities. All users are expected to use the District system in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
The District may suspend or revoke a system user's access to the District system when a user violates the District Acceptable Use Policy and/or administrative regulations regarding acceptable use.

ACCEPTABLE USES
The District system will be used only for learning, teaching, and administrative purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals.

UNACCEPTABLE USES
1. Commercial use of the District's system is strictly prohibited.
2. Software may not be placed on any computer, whether stand-alone or networked to the District system, without permission from the school principal or District Technology department.
3. All users are expected to follow existing copyright laws, copies of which may be found in each campus library.

4. Attempting to log on or logging on to a computer or email system by using another's password is prohibited. Assisting others in violating this rule by sharing information or passwords is unacceptable and may result in the revocation of access.
5. Improper use of any computer or the network is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the following:
    - Using racist, profane, or obscene language or materials
    - Using the network for financial gain, political or commercial activity
    - Attempting to or harming equipment, materials or data, etc. associated with the system.
    - Attempting to or sending anonymous messages of any kind
    - Using the network to access inappropriate material.
    - Knowingly placing or creating a computer virus on a computer or the network
    - Using the network to provide addresses or other personal information.
    - Accessing of information resources, files and documents of another user without their permission

RIGHTS OF ALL USERS

Parents/guardians may request the termination of their child's individual student Internet access at any time. It is the student's responsibility to comply with their parent's/guardian's request for no individual Internet access. Parents/guardians should be aware that District teachers utilize Internet and electronic resources for classroom instructional purposes.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the Amite County School Board, The Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Children's Online Privacy Act of 1998, the District system is equipped with an Internet filtering software program that limits access to "visual depictions" and material that may be harmful to minors. However, no filtering system is perfect, and the District does not guarantee that all objectionable content will be blocked.

DISCLAIMER OF DAMAGES

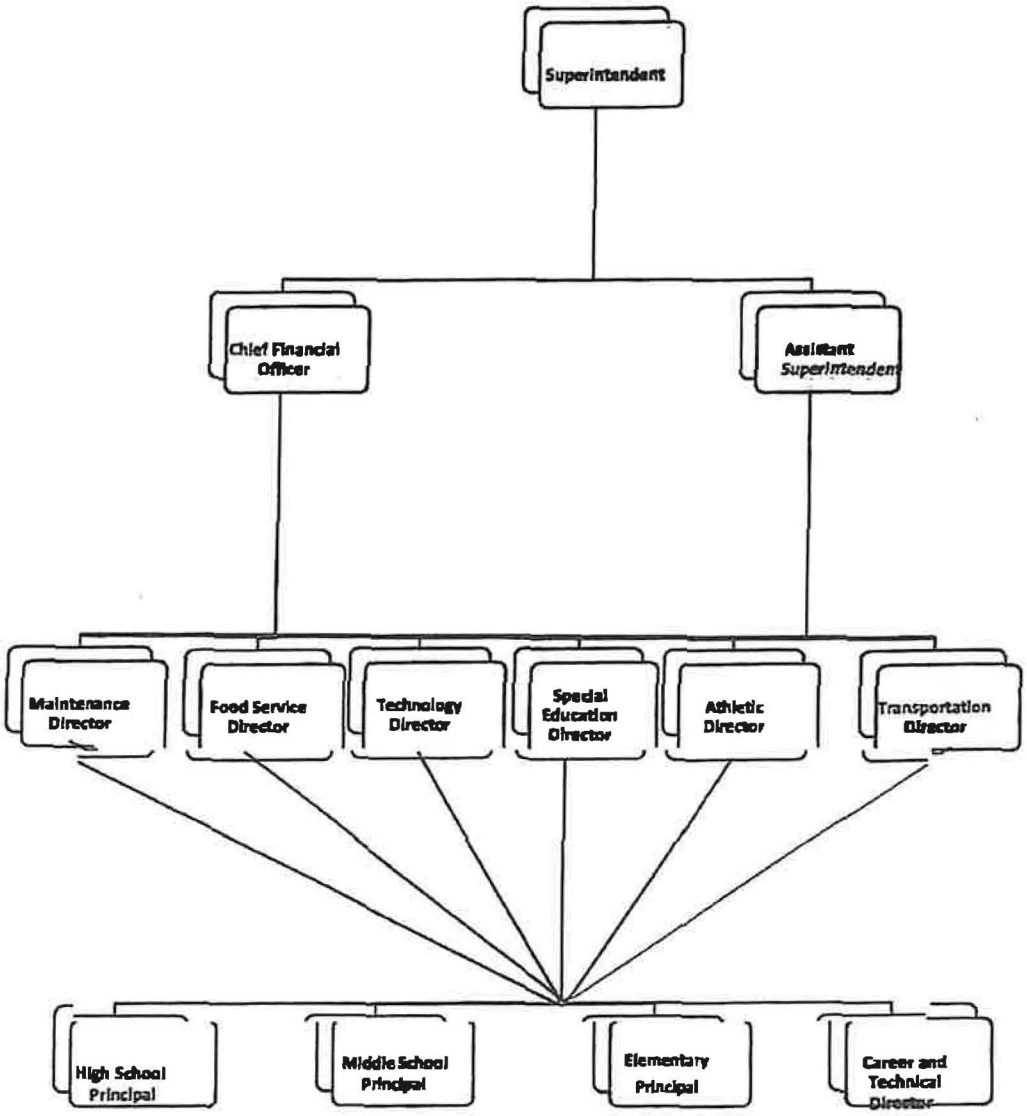
The Amite County School District assumes no liability, either expressed or implied, for network information services accessed on District system. The District shall not be responsible for any damages suffered while using the system. These damages include loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, misdirected deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the system errors or errors committed by individual users.

Amite County School District Student Account Agreement

So as to ensure that both students and parents understand what constitutes acceptable use of technology in the Amite County School District, the District asks all students and their parents to review the following agreement and then sign it acknowledging that they agree to abide by the spirit of this agreement.

1. Do not share your password with anyone and do not try to obtain another person's password.
2. Do not play games or participate in chat rooms, interactive bulletin boards, web-based email, or any other online real-time conversations unless given written permission by an adult in authority and supervised by a person in authority for each instance.
3. Do not enter any information about yourself, anyone else or the school. This includes name, address, telephone number, email address, or any other personal information. Also, do not impersonate or misrepresent yourself or others.
4. Do not access, send, promote, or print hate mail threats, harassing information derogatory remarks, material of a sexual nature, information that could be harmful to you or others, and other anti-social communications. Do not use impolite, abusive, or objectionable language.
5. Do not access, alter, or otherwise tamper with computer system files, network files, or other students' files. Do not log onto, look at, or otherwise tamper with any directory or drive other than the one to which you are assigned.
6. Do not damage the computer, any of its parts, the printer, the network, or any other technologies available for use. This includes introducing any virus that may destroy files or disrupt service to other users.
7. Do not interfere with the operation of the District system by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware, including games, but not limited to MP3's, other music, or video.
8. Do not insert a personal diskette into any networked computer without specific permission from a person in authority.
9. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space, paper, ink cartridges, or printing capacity by printing unnecessarily or excessively.
10. Do not transmit any materials in violation of any U.S. or state regulation, including, but not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
11. Do not use the District system for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying.
12. Report any malfunction or repair needed on the District system or equipment to your teacher immediately.
13. Report any observed intentional abuse of technology equipment to your teacher immediately.
14. Be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.
15. Keep food, drink, candy, gum, etc. completely away from all computer equipment and related technologies.
16. Because there can be no assurances that you will not encounter objectionable material while working on the Internet, you will immediately leave the Internet site if this occurs and report the incident to your teacher.
17. Do not have an expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the contents of electronic communications network or of files stored in your directory. Understand the District system is the property of the District and, at any time, the files you maintain can be reviewed, removed, if warranted, and any violation of rules will be reported to the proper authority.

Use of computer networks is a privilege, not a right. Violations of the rules described above will be dealt with per the student school handbook. I understand that the District may suspend or revoke my access to the District system upon violation of the District Acceptable Use Policy and/or administrative regulations regarding acceptable use. I understand that if I use the system improperly or unethically, this may result in disciplinary actions consistent with the existing Student Discipline Policy as adopted by the Amite County School Board and published in the Student Handbook, as well as the Mississippi Penal Code or other state and Federal Laws. This unacceptable use may also require restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software.


Superintendent
Chief Financial Officer
Assistant Superintendent
Maintenance Director
Food Service Director
Technology Director
Special Education Director
Athletic Director
Transportation Director
High School Principal
Middle School Principal
Elementary Principal
Career and Technical Director