



DeSoto Central Middle School

2611 Central Parkway
Southaven, MS 38672

Phone 662-349-6660 Fax 662-349-1045

Bryon Williams

Kim Bey

Joshua Russell

Erin Thomas

Chris Watson

Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

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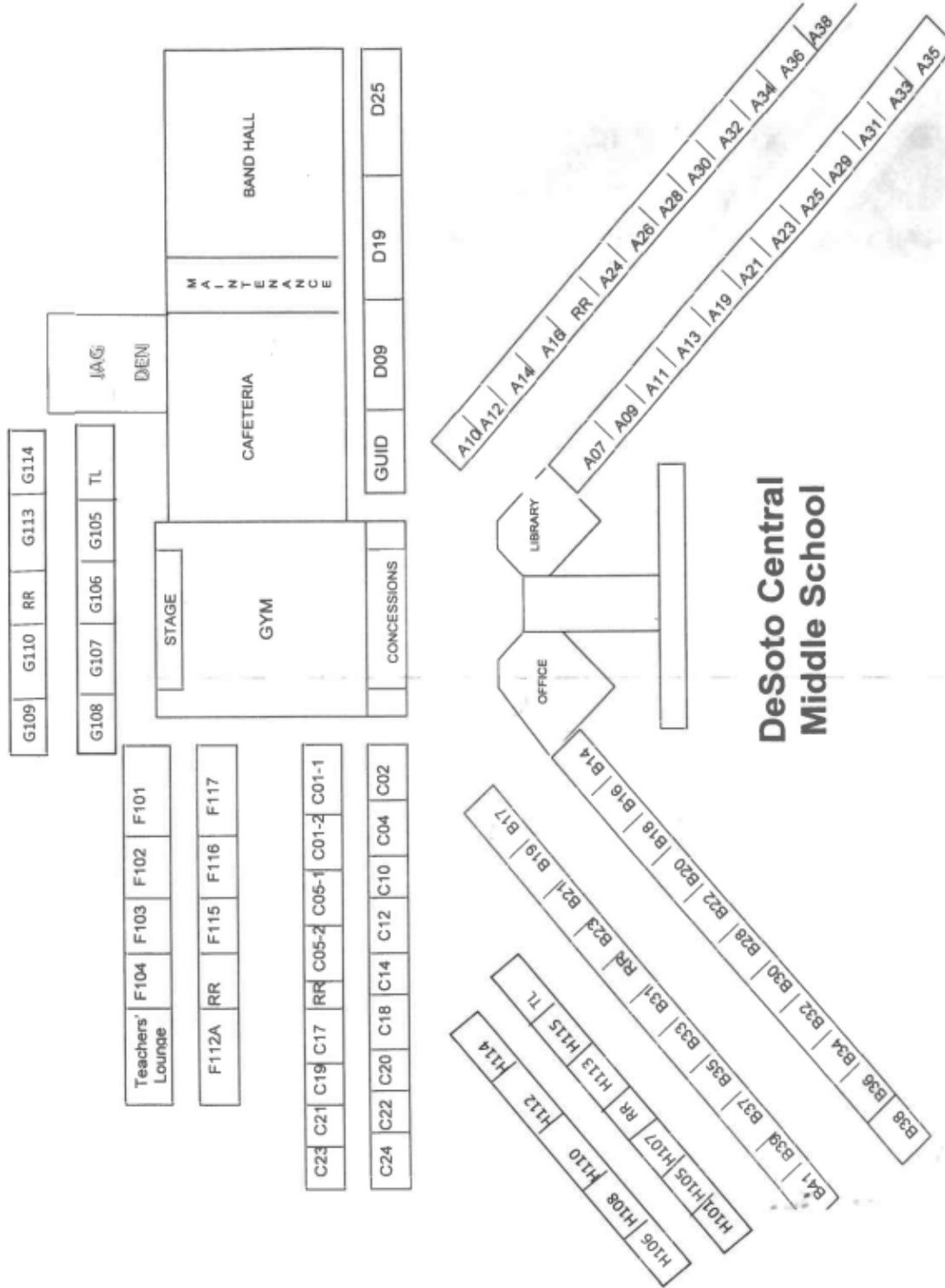
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SCHEDULE				
Time	Subject	Rm #	Teacher	Teacher Email Address
1st Period				
2nd Period				
3rd Period				
4th Period				
5th Period				
6th Period				
7th Period				
8th Period				

<p align="center">BUS INFORMATION</p> <p align="center">Bus/Route # _____</p>
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<p align="center">Important Medical Data</p> <hr/> <hr/>

Published date is July 2023. All policies and procedures of DeSoto County Schools and DeSoto Central Middle School are subject to change. Parents will be notified.



DeSoto Central Middle School

Desoto Central Middle School

Bell Schedule 2023– 2024

6th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Doors Open/Students report to Cafeteria
7:50 - 8:00	Students report to their 1 st period class
8:00 - 8:58	1 st period/break
9:02 - 9:50	2 nd period
9:54 - 11:16	3 rd period / lunches (A Lunch 10:20 – 10:44 / B Lunch 10:46 – 11:10)
11:20 - 12:08	4 th period
12:12 - 1:00	5 th period
1:04 - 1:52	6 th period / break cart
1:56 - 2:44	7 th period
2:48 - 3:35	8 th period

7th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Doors Open/Students report to Gym (right side)
7:50 - 8:00	Students report to their 1 st period class
8:00 - 8:58	1 st period/break
9:02 - 9:50	2 nd period
9:54 - 10:42	3 rd period
10:46 - 12:08	4 th period / lunches (A Lunch 11:12 – 11:36 / B Lunch 11:38 – 12:02)
12:12 - 1:00	5 th period
1:04 - 1:52	6 th period
1:56 - 2:44	7 th period
2:48 - 3:35	8 th period

8th grade schedule

7:40 – 7:50	Doors Open/Students report to Gym (left side)
7:50 - 8:00	Students report to their 1 st period class
8:00 - 8:58	1 st period/break
9:02 - 9:50	2 nd period
9:54 - 10:42	3 rd period
10:46 - 11:34	4 th period
11:38 - 1:00	5 th period / lunches (A Lunch 12:05 – 12:29 / B Lunch 12:32 – 12:56)
1:04 - 1:52	6 th period
1:56 - 2:44	7 th period
2:48 - 3:35	8 th period

DeSoto County Schools Calendar 2023-2024

August 1	Teachers' First Day
August 3	Students' First Day
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
October 9	Fall Break
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
December 15	End First Semester
December 18-January 1	Christmas Break
January 2 and 3	Professional Development Days
January 4	Students Return
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 16	Professional Development Day
February 19	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 11-15	Spring Break
March 29	Good Friday Holiday
April 1	Easter Break
May 22	Students' Last Day
May 24	Teachers' Last Day

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

Subject To Change Due To Emergency Conditions

MISSION STATEMENT OF DESOTO CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

WELCOME

The administration, faculty, and staff of DeSoto Central Middle School welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. This handbook is to provide you with the guidelines that are followed here at DeSoto Central Middle School. Every member of the staff is here to help you have a successful and enjoyable school year. Read this handbook carefully, as it will answer many questions about your needs and what will be expected of you at DeSoto Central Middle School. All procedures and policies in the student handbook can be changed at the Principal's discretion to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

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

VISITORS AND PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

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

- All visitors must contact the office. (including news media)
- If the principal has any reason to question the legitimacy of the visit, the superintendent's office will be consulted.
- Teachers will not be interrupted while teaching except for emergencies.
- It is at the principal's discretion to ask a visitor to leave the campus, if he or she is causing a disruption to the environment, program, or activity to which the visitor is attending.
- Parent meetings and conferences will take place in person and through the use of technology.
- All visitors wishing to meet at DCMS face to face must be by appointment, unless it is an emergency.

COMMUNICATION

Auto Dialer

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

Progress Reports

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

Web Page

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

www.desotocountyschools.org/dcm/

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Safety

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

1. Every outside door of the building will be locked with a sign posted requiring all non-school employees to check in at the school office.
2. Student Early Checkout: Only a parent or guardian, or a person certified in writing by the parent or guardian, will be allowed to check a student out of school. A phone call will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. There will be no check-outs after 3:05 except for verified doctor's appointments. Please work with the school so instructional time is not lost to disruptions.
3. Please be aware that visitors may be videoed or have pictures taken while on school property.
4. Any students involved in a fight may be suspended for 3 days and possibly have a disciplinary hearing.
5. Bicycles ridden to school must be walked to the appropriate racks where the bicycle will remain until school is out. Then they must be walked to the street. Skateboards are not allowed.

Suspensions/ALC/DCAC

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

Smoke Free Buildings

Desoto Central Middle School is a smoke free campus. Individuals are not allowed to smoke on school grounds or within the school building.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Office hours are from 8:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Doors open at 7:40 a.m. Parents will be responsible for students arriving prior to 7:40 a.m. or students still on campus after 4:00 p.m., unless the students are involved in a school sponsored activity. Students will go directly to their 1st period class upon arrival.

ATTENDANCE/EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, to be on time in order to benefit maximally from the instructional program, and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. In order to receive a passing grade, students must satisfy the following:

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

Each time a student is absent, he/she must bring a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence. The same applies each time a student checks out from school. Students who miss more than two (2) consecutive days for illness or accident must provide a doctor's note for the days to be excused. Seven (7) absences due to illness may be excused by a note from a parent/guardian. Any additional absence after the seven (7) excused by a parent/guardian note must be excused by a note from a doctor or other documentation excusing said absence. Any

documentation being given for excuse of absence(s) must be submitted to the principal or his/her designee within two (2) school days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

2. When a child has exceeded five (5) unexcused absences, the DeSoto County Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing by the school principal. Any further unexcused absences shall also be reported to the Attendance Officer.

3. A student must be present at school the majority of the school day to be eligible to participate in any school activity during or after the school day.

MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW

Under the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance law a parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school age child in this state shall cause such child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate non-public school. Under the provisions of this law, "compulsory-school-age-child" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

If a compulsory school age child has not been enrolled in a school within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year which the child is eligible to attend or if a child accumulates 12 unlawful (unexcused) absences during the school year at the public school in which the child is enrolled, the parent may be taken to court and fined and/or jailed for educational neglect of the child. The penalty for this unlawful act is up to one year in the DeSoto County Jail and /or a \$1,000 fine.

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

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

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

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

Absences due to suspensions are counted against the student toward the exemption policy.

The enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the building principal.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR GRADING

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

Monitoring Student Progress

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

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

The following guidelines apply to all subject areas:

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

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

DeSoto County Schools Grading Scale

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

Grading Policy

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

Grading Parameters for Grades 6, 7, and 8

All Classes

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

Promotion, Grades 6, 7 and 8

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

1. Earn a minimum yearly average of 60 in mathematics, English/literature, science, and social studies.
2. Meet the school districts daily attendance requirements.

Exemption Policy, Grades 6,7, and 8

Students in grades 6-8 may be exempt from final exams (not attendance) if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has a ninety-five (95) or above semester/term average in the course.
2. The student has an eighty-five (85) or above semester average and does not have more than five (5) days/periods **unexcused** absences for final exams.
3. Student has not been assigned to an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) for more than five (5) days, has not been suspended and/or placed in the DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) or the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) at any time during the semester (August-December or January – May).
4. Excused absences will not impact course exemptions.

DRESS CODE

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

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

be handled as stated in the Code of Discipline of the DeSoto County Schools. Insubordination is a Level II violation.

- **First Violation:** Administrator-Parent conference, ALC if can't be corrected.
 - **Second Violation:** ALC or corporal punishment
 - **Repeated Times:** Suspension from school pending a disciplinary hearing
1. No combs, picks, or rollers in hair will be allowed.
 2. T-shirts with sleeves, white or colored, are acceptable. Shirts must be properly closed, zipped, or buttoned.
 3. No article of clothing that pertains to or depicts the following will be acceptable:
 - a. Substances or activities illegal by law for minors; alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling
 - b. Profane, suggestive, or violent language
 - c. Derogatory symbols, remarks directed to any ethnic group.
 4. Sufficient underclothes must be worn appropriately and must not be exposed.
 5. Tank tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, thin straps, or tops that expose the midriff, any part of the bust, excessive part of the back, excessively tight or distracting in class are not permitted. No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline of pants or skirts. Blouses/tops made to be worn outside should be at least three (3) inches below the waistline and no longer than five (5) inches below the waistline.
 6. Students in grades K thru 12 are allowed to wear shorts as part of their daily attire. Shorts should be no shorter than two (2) inches above the knee. They should not be excessively tight or baggy.
 7. Knee length dresses and skirts are allowed.
 8. Shoes must be worn at all times, and no house shoes are allowed. Shoes with laces should be laced and tied.
 9. Students can not wear pajamas or pajama pants to school. Students are not to bring a blanket to school.
 10. No visible tattoos will be allowed. Neither male nor female students will be permitted to wear rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, or any exposed body parts other than the ear and appropriate rings on fingers.
 11. Coaches, physical education classes or any organized athletics have the option to ban jewelry due to safety reasons and/or violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulations.
 12. Sunglasses, other than prescription, must be removed when inside the building.
 13. All pants must be worn fitted to the waist, at the waist, with or without a belt. Pants should fit properly. No baggy pants are allowed. No writing is to be on the seat of the pants, even the cheerleader's uniform and dance team. Capris for girls must be mid calf.
 14. **Leggings are allowed when worn with a top that meets the dress length guidelines specified in #7.**
 15. If needed, properly placed patches may be worn with pants. No holes, tears or shreds above the knee will be allowed.
 16. Hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings or on the grounds of the school except for medical reasons as prescribed by a physician. Head coverings as part of a religious belief will be allowed if there is sufficient proof the student is a practicing member of the religious sect. Head coverings may be worn if authorized by the faculty and/or administration, if it is part of a uniform (i.e., wearing a full baseball uniform during games or practice) or as deemed necessary.
 17. Specific outfits designated for extracurricular activities and decisions concerning any questionable clothing will be left to the discretion of the principal.
 18. Local principals or their designee have the power and discretion to make all decisions on their campus.

BUS POLICY

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

Students are to comply with the following rules:

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

Students are not to:

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

Note: DCS Transportation Department and driver are not responsible for articles left on bus.

The driver is empowered to enforce the regulations by reporting all violations to the principal. If any student persists in disobeying any of the regulations and rules of good conduct, **the penalty will be at principal's discretion depending on circumstances. Punishment may be up to and including daily or permanent suspension.**

CAR USE

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

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students should:

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

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

No student shall be allowed to carry a knife or any other article that can be construed as a weapon on the school grounds or school bus. Failure to abide by this policy may result in immediate

suspension of the student. If a student pulls a knife or weapon on anyone in a threatening manner, he or she will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.

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

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

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

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

No Name Calling and No Touching of other students.

Consequences for Fighting

1. The student will receive a possible 3 Day Suspension.
2. The student will have a possible disciplinary hearing with additional punishment possible.
3. Students fighting are subject to be removed from all extra-curricular activities.
4. Each student involved will receive a Juvenile Summons from Southaven Police Department.

BACKPACKS

Backpacks of any type are allowed at DeSoto Central Middle School.

- Lockers will NOT be issued to students
- Students will be allowed to carry backpacks throughout the day from class to class.
- Teachers will have a place and plan to store backpacks in the classroom.

TARDY POLICY

Our tardy policy is based on one nine weeks.

Morning Tardies

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

Tardies 1-8—No punishment and no parent notification

Tardy 9—Parent will be contacted.

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

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

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

Period Tardies

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

Students are allowed **4** tardies per period with no punishment and no parent notification. Students who are tardy the **5th** time for a class in one semester will be considered insubordinate and it will be the principal's discretion or his designee as to the disciplinary action taken.

Students who are tardy the **6th through indefinite** will be assigned **1** day in ALC or corporal punishment.

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

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS CODE OF DISCIPLINE

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or the principal, for a conference regarding the destructive acts of their child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (2) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
5. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child who
 - a. fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or
 - b. refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed an amount provided by law.
6. The DeSoto County Schools shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed an amount as provided by law, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor (7-17) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to this school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.
7. As an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with this Code.

CODE OF DISCIPLINE GRADES K-12

Student Conduct

Acts of Misconduct:

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

Level I

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

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

- Minimum: Teacher-Student Conference
Maximum: Teacher-Student-Parent Conference

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

- Minimum: Mandatory Student -Parent-Administrator Conference (Home Suspension)
Maximum: Corporal Punishment, ALC, detention, and/or school suspension

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

Level II

- * 2 – 1 Leaving the school grounds without permission
- * 2 – 2 Skipping class
- * 2 – 3 Insubordination- refusal to follow written or verbal school rules after receiving specific directions from a person in authority including, but not limited to breaking school or classroom rules, failure to respond to staff request, refusal to complete assigned task, or exhibiting disrespect towards adults
- * 2 – 4 Students shall not possess, smoke, or use tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine while on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of district employees. This includes the possession and/or use of any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to electronic cigarettes, vapes, vaporizers, cigars, pipes, hookahs or any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device
- * 2 – 5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions
- ** 2 – 6 Unauthorized and/or inappropriate use of electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA)

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

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

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

Maximum: School suspension (one to three days)

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

Minimum: School suspension (three days)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Level III

3 – 1 Fighting

3 – 2 Gambling

*3 – 3 Theft or possession of stolen property

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

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

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

- 3 – 7 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures, and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials
- 3 – 8 Inappropriate sexual conduct, including unwelcomed sexual contact, indecent exposure, or transferring sexually suggestive images through personal electronic devices
- 3 – 9 Bullying (as defined in Board Policy JDDA)

Action

First Violation

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

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

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

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

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

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

Level IV

- 4 – 1 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, synthetic drugs, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance(s) or paraphernalia.
- 4 – 2 Assault on a student. Assault is defined as purposely or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury (including pain or discomfort) to another.
- 4 – 3 Assault on a school employee. Assault is defined as purposely or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury (including pain or discomfort) to another.
- 4 – 4 Directing profanity, vulgar or threatening language, and/or obscene gestures toward a staff member.

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

Disciplinary Action

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

Maximum: Expulsion

Students below grade 6 may be given other punishment.

Level V

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

Disciplinary Action

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

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

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

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

Disciplinary Action

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

Maximum: Expulsion

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

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

Disciplinary Action

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

Repeated: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center

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

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

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

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

Disciplinary Action

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

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

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

DUE PROCESS

In cases where the imposition of punishment is for a suspension of three (3) days or less, the student will be orally informed of the charges lodged against him. The student shall have a right to respond and refute these charges. There may be a delay between the time that "notice" is given and the time of the parent/student right to respond. A parent will be notified of the suspension by telephone, if possible, and in writing. The student's parent/guardian has a right to discuss this matter further and have the charge and punishment explained by the administration along with all other rights provided by board policy.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

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

For additional information on due process and disciplinary hearings, please refer to Board Policy JDD – Disciplinary Procedures.

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

After a student is referred for consideration of placement at DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC), the District Review Board and Transition Team will determine appropriate placement for the student. Once a student is accepted into DCAC, the District Review Board and Transition Team will develop an Individualized Instruction Plan (IIP) for each student. The plan will follow the program and class schedule of the home school. DCAC follows the frameworks that are established by the state of Mississippi for the subject matter to be taught in each course.

Certified personnel will send a daily feedback sheet home that requires a parent signature for all students attending DCAC.

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

Parents are notified of the recommendation for placement at DCAC during the disciplinary hearing. The home school will contact the parent once acceptance is granted by the District Review Board. All parents and students will meet with a DCAC administrator to discuss the DCAC program and requirements. The minimum time that is required to complete DCAC is 30 school days, but the stay can be longer if the student does not progress properly.

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

EMERGENCY DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

All students should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the following procedures:

Fire Drill and School Evacuation Plan

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

Tornado Alert

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

AREAS OF INTEREST

Assembly Programs

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

Care of Property

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

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

Classroom Courtesies

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

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

Hall Courtesies

The following hall courtesies will be posted around the campus.

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

Restroom Courtesies

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

Cafeteria Courtesies

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

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

Homework

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

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

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

Insurance

Several low cost insurance policies are offered through the school. All students who do not have other hospitalization are encouraged to take out this policy. Each student will receive an insurance form at the beginning of the school year. All athletes, cheerleaders, and dance team members are required to take this policy if they are not covered by other insurance. Please see the receptionist for more information.

Lockers

Lockers will **not** be assigned for the 2023-2024 school year. Students will be allowed to carry a backpack if they deem necessary. There will be a place in each classroom for students to place their backpack. This location will vary from room to room. The teacher will go over this information on the first day of school in their classroom procedures.

Lost and Found

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

Medicine

Administration of medication is foremost the responsibility of the parent. The first dose of any medication should be given at home in case there is an allergic reaction. The only medications that will be administered during the day are those that are specifically ordered during that time. For safety reasons, schools are not responsible for keeping extra supplies of medication to give in case a dose isn't given at home. The medication must be given at home all the time or at school all the time. A responsible adult must drop off and pick up all medications. Medication will be counted and receipted with an adult and a school staff member. Prescription medicine will only be accepted if it is in a pharmacy dispensed bottle with a current medication label that contains the student's name, name of medication, how often it is to be given, the dosage, and the date of expiration. A completed medication authorization form, signed by the parent/guardian, is also required. These forms can be found online at www.desotocountyschools.org or your school website under "Required Forms."

It is at the principal's discretion if over-the-counter medications will be given at school. If over-the-counter medications are allowed, they must be in the original bottle and/or package with the dosing instructions on it. A completed medication authorization form signed by parent/guardian and Healthcare Provider is required. Students are prohibited from carrying any medications on their person. School will not provide any medications or medicated ointments for students.

For questions regarding medication administration, asthma medication, epi-pens, or diabetic medications, please refer to board policies JGCDC, JGCDA, and JGCDE.

Head Lice

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

Private Cars

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

School Closings

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

School Lunches

Students will have to know their student number in order to receive a lunch. Lunches with one container of milk are available in the school cafeteria for \$2.75. School lunches can be pre-bought weekly, monthly, and yearly. Extra milk can be purchased separately. The federal government provides free or reduced lunches for those who qualify. The price for a reduced school lunch is \$0.40. A menu is posted weekly. School lunch period is a closed period of time. No student will be allowed to leave school to eat. Students may bring students a sack lunch. Parents are not allowed to bring students outside lunch (Ex. McDonald's) unless they receive prior approval from an administrator.

Student Complaints and Grievances

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the administration. For the discussion and consideration of a grievance, any student or group of students should request a meeting time and place with a school principal. One

faculty member of the student's choice may be present at such meetings. Such time and place will be designated upon request.

Telephone Use

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

Due to the heavy volume of business in the school office, it is requested that parents do not call the school to have messages delivered to their children except in cases of emergency. Except in an extreme emergency, no student's class will be disturbed to receive a phone call. When time permits, messages will be delivered to students at the end of the period in which the messages were received. Parents should try to make arrangements with their children before they come to school.

Flowers and Gifts

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

SCHOOL SERVICES AND CLASSES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Counseling Services

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

Library Services

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

Textbooks

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

Gifted Education Program

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

Special Education Services

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

Band

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

Choir

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

Physical Education

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

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

Cheerleading

Cheerleading squad members are selected from eligible sixth and seventh graders at the end of each school year for the following year's squad. In addition to ability, those who are selected must meet the sports eligibility requirements and have acceptable behavior both at school and in the community.

School Yearbook

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

Other Activities

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

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Principal's List and Honor Roll

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

Awards Assembly

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

SPORTS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student:

DeSoto County School System is pleased to offer students access to computer usage to enhance academic development and skills in using media that are commonly found in all aspects of our daily lives. DeSoto County Schools is CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) and COPPA (Children's On-line Privacy Protection Act) compliant. Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100% effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, DCS is expected to engage in a "good faith effort" to abide by the requirements of CIPA/FERPA. CIPA/FERPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school violated CIPA/FERPA. Due to the fragile nature of the equipment being used and the nature of much of the material available over the Internet, this form must be signed by you and your child before use of the equipment will be allowed. The use of the Internet is a PRIVILEGE, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges and/or disciplinary action. The administrator of the school and/or the school technology committee will determine if an action is inappropriate use and their decision is final. This is a legal and binding document. As a DeSoto County School parent, I understand that my child is enrolled in the DeSoto County School System and will need to be able to use the computers/equipment at school. I understand, as well, that my child may be involved in research projects and class activities involving the Internet. As parent or guardian, I also understand that I will be responsible for my child concerning the following items:

1. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for illegal purposes of any kind.
2. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to transmit, receive, or view material that is pornographic in nature.
3. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to transmit, receive or view material that is threatening or harassing in nature.
4. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school in an attempt to gain access or "hack" into computer systems that they have no permission to use.
5. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to access any student records existing on the schools' networks.
6. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to propagate computer viruses.
7. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for the purpose of lobbying or distributing of political information.
8. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school for commercial ventures of purchasing, selling, taking orders or placing orders. DeSoto County Schools is not responsible for credit card fraud and theft incurred by using personal or commercial credit card numbers on the Internet access provided at my school.
9. Students will not damage, abuse or misuse the equipment provided for their use at their school.
10. Students will not make changes to the screen or appearance of the desktop on computers provided at their school.
11. Students will not load games or other software brought from home or downloaded from the Internet onto the computers provided for their use.
12. Students will not attempt to bypass school internet filters by way of internet proxy sites.
13. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to access social networking websites, chat rooms, instant messaging systems, etc.

14. Students will not use the Internet provided at their school to engage in Cyberbullying of any type.
15. Students will not use the Internet and/or computer to violate any state or federal law (i.e. Copyright law).

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

Section 504

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

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

DeSoto County Non-discriminatory Policy

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

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

Director of Student Intervention
Title VI, Title II and 504 Coordinator
DeSoto County Schools
5 East South Street
Hernando, MS 38632
662-429-5271

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

ParentPortal

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

Features and Benefits.

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to make DeSoto Central Middle School a success. We hope your child will have a great school year. This handbook contains rules, regulations, discipline codes, and many other aspects that pertain to you and your child throughout the school year. Please make sure that you and your child take time to read through this handbook and sign the form below stating you have read and understand the entire handbook and its rules and return it to the student's homeroom teacher. Note, certain policies and procedures are subject to change. Any changes that occur will be communicated. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DeSoto Central Middle School Faculty/Staff

I, _____, the parent/legal guardian of _____
(Print Name) (Print Name)

have read and understand ALL the policies, procedures, and guidelines in the DeSoto Central Middle School student handbook issued to my child.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

- The use of possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity
- Distribution of illegal drugs, prescription drugs, or any substance dangerous to students (distribution includes giving substances to students)
- Any spoken, written, gestured or electronically communicated threat that disrupts the educational environment of the school and/or suggest a student intends to cause harm or carry out an act of violence against district property, students, employees, or others (e.g. bomb threats, school shootings threat, etc.)

Students who openly defy this warning will be considered a threat to the safety of students and staff and suspended, pending a disciplinary hearing. The student could be expelled from DeSoto County Schools.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

* * * Please sign and return this form to your child's school. * * *