



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a More Perfect UNION

2026-2027 Student Handbook



**UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-2027 STUDENT HANDBOOK
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

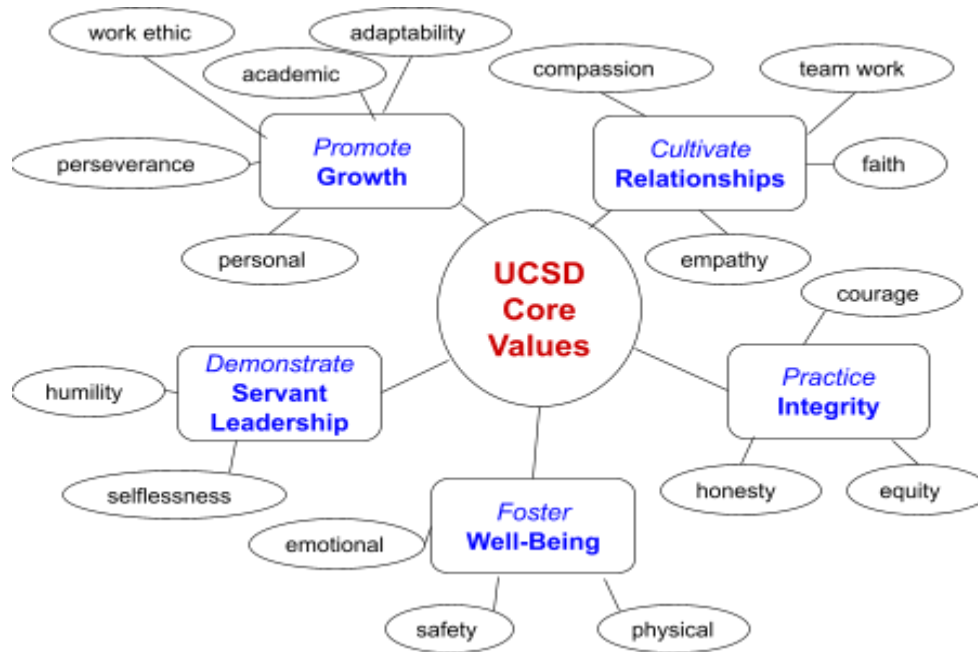
Academic Honors	56-58
Admission Requirements	7-9
Athletics	63-68
Attendance	10-16
Automobiles	48-49
Bullying	23-24
Career & Technical Students	49
Central Office Administration and Staff	4
Checkout Procedures	15-16
Child Nutrition	37-38
Code of Discipline	19-22
District Information	3
Dress Code	17-18
Dual Enrollment	61-62
Elementary (K-6)	42-46
Exemptions	51
Forms	69-76
Grading System	43-44, 50
Graduation Requirements	52-54
High School (7-12)	47-68
Illness/Medication/Head Lice	40-41
Mobile Device Policy	29-31
Out of District Policy	8-9
School Administrators & Staff	5
School Board	2
Summer School	17-17

VISION

"Building A More Perfect Union"

MISSION

The Union County School District is a leader in educational excellence, which strives to provide opportunities for the academic success of its students while inspiring high expectations for all in a safe and orderly environment.



A Legacy of Distinction

When a student enrolls in the Union County School District he/she becomes part of a unique class of people. This class of students will mature and spend much time together. They will develop as close friends and even as competitors. The attitudes of each school toward academics, sports, clubs and other activities make the Union County School District distinct from other districts. Each school, regardless of its size and its mixture of personalities, adds character to an already perfect place.

UNION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Chris Greer, 1st District
Mickey Basil, 2nd District
Mike Browning, 3rd District
Alison Goodwin, 4th District
Michael Mink, 5th District

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Superintendent's Office

250 Carter Avenue New Albany, MS 38652

(662)534-1960 FAX: (662)534-1951

Windy Faulkner, Superintendent- wfaulkner@union.k12.ms.us

Jamey Wright, Assistant Superintendent- jwright@union.k12.ms.us

<https://www.union.k12.ms.us/>

East Union Attendance Center

1548 Hwy 9 South Blue Springs, MS 38828

(662)534-6920 Fax (662)534-6542

Bo Sandlin, Principal- bsandlin@union.k12.ms.us

Marshall Johnson, Assistant Principal- mjohnson@union.k12.ms.us

Sarah Johnson, Assistant Principal- johnsons@union.k12.ms.us

<https://eastunion.union.k12.ms.us/>

Ingomar Attendance Center

1384 CR 101 New Albany, MS 38652

(662)534-5463 Fax (662)534-3624

Grant Goolsby, Principal- ggoolsby@union.k12.ms.us

Rob Browning, Assistant Principal- rbrowning@union.k12.ms.us

Kassi Mask, Assistant Principal- kmask@union.k12.ms.us

<https://ingomar.union.k12.ms.us/>

Myrtle Attendance Center

1008 Paul Nolan Way Myrtle, MS 38650

(662)988-2416 Fax (662)988-2001

Justin Hollis, Principal- jhollis@union.k12.ms.us

Craig Meadows, Assistant Principal, cmeadows@union.k12.ms.us

Danita Mattox, Assistant Principal- dmattox@union.k12.ms.us

<https://myrtle.union.k12.ms.us/>

West Union Attendance Center

1610 Hwy 30 W Myrtle, MS 38650

(662)534-6745 Fax (662)534-6716

Troy Trout, Principal- ttrout@union.k12.ms.us

Ashley Henderson, Assistant Principal- hendersona@union.k12.ms.us

Jacki Manning, Assistant Principal- manningj@union.k12.ms.us

<https://westunion.union.k12.ms.us/>

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Windy Faulkner, Superintendent	662-534-1960
Jamey Wright, Assistant Superintendent/Federal Programs	662-534-1960
Matt Thompson, Director Of Accountability & Curriculum	662-534-1960
Trent Adair, Director of Student Services/Transportation	662-534-1960
Leah Byrd, Literacy Specialist	662-534-1960
Amy Davis, Lead Math Specialist	662-534-1960
Erin Rowland, Math Specialist	662-534-1960
Melissa Williams, Administrative Assistant	662-534-1960
Alicia Milstead, English Learner Director	662-534-1957
Chris Garrard, Technology Coordinator	662-534-1957
Jennifer McCormick, Technology Assistant	662-534-1957
Karen Taylor, Public Relations	662-534-1957
Lee Bruce, Special Education Director	662-534-1957
Heidi Brock, Case Manager/Gifted/504 Coordinator	662-534-1957
Ronnie Boyd, Testing Coordinator/Data Management Coordinator	662-534-1957
Kelly Hicks, Child Nutrition Director	662-534-1958
Karen Caviness, Child Nutrition Secretary	662-534-1958
Lisa Strawn, Business Manager	662-534-1960
Cary Weeden, Assistant Business Manager	662-534-1960
Judith Thompson, Business Assistant	662-534-1960
Dee Parker, Maintenance Supervisor	662-534-1957
Charlie Forester, Bus Shop Director	662-534-4662
George Butler, Bus Shop Assistant	662-534-4662
Rob Browning, Title IX Coordinator	662-534-1960
Caroline Ferguson, Psychometrist	662-534-1960

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

East Union Attendance Center

Bo Sandlin, Principal
Marshal Johnson, Assistant Principal
Sara Johnson, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Posey, Counselor
Ginny Turner, Counselor
Suzanne Owens, Testing Coordinator
Sheila Farrar, Bookkeeper
Amy Wigington, Receptionist
Betsy Basil & Benja Johnson, School Nurses
Steve Prewett, School Resource Officer

Ingomar Attendance Center

Grant Goolsby, Principal
Rob Browning, Assistant Principal
Kassi Mask, Assistant Principal
Ashley Robbins, Counselor
Tabitha Dillard, Testing Coordinator
Anna Kate Willard, Bookkeeper
Holly Wilbanks, Receptionist
Sonya Nobles, School Nurse
Tommy Sloan, School Resource Officer

Myrtle Attendance Center

Justin Hollis, Principal
Craig Meadows, Assistant Principal
Danita Mattox, Assistant Principal
Kim Thompson, Counselor
Shelly Merritt, Bookkeeper
Abby Cook, Testing Coordinator
Julie Elliott, Receptionist
Kelly Hollis, School Nurse
Tanner Golding, School Resource Officer

West Union Attendance Center

Troy Trout, Principal
Ashley Henderson, Assistant Principal
Jacki Manning, Assistant Principal/Testing Coordinator
Stacy Morrisson, Counselor
Kim Sullivan, Bookkeeper
Shonda Bogue, Receptionist
Madison Pannell, School Nurse
Brian Carpenter, School Resource Officer

INTRODUCTION

By registering your child or children or any student in the Union County School District, all parents, legal guardians, and students do hereby consent to and agree to obey and follow rules and regulations contained in this handbook and such other oral directions of school administrators or teachers as may be necessary to carry out the orderly educational progress of the school. All parents, legal guardians, and students agree and are hereby informed that all students of the Union County School District are subject to questioning or being taken into official custody while at school by any appropriately appointed law enforcement official or department of human services agent investigating an official case upon oral or written court order.

FOREWORD

The student handbook is intended to inform students of policies and procedures of the Union County School District that pertain directly to students. This is not an exclusive list of student policies. For a complete list of policies, refer to the Union County School Board Policy Manual, which are available for review at www.union.k12.ms.us.

Reference to the handbook by students, parents, and staff is recommended as a source of information on guidelines for operational procedures of our schools. Students and parents are asked to read and keep the handbook for reference for the entire 2026-2027 school year.

The handbook is reviewed annually. The policies and procedures are subject to amendment and revision by the Union County Board of Education.

The Union County School District is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1962, including regulations in vocational education; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974; and the American with Disabilities Act.

The Union County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion, or age in the provision of educational programs and services, or employment opportunities and benefits. Mr. Rob Browning has been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies of the District.

Contact Information:

Title IX Contact - Rob Browning- (662) 534-1960; 250 Carter Avenue, New Albany, MS 38652
504 Coordinator-Heidi Brock- (662) 534-1960

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Entrance Age Requirements:**

1. No child shall be enrolled or admitted to kindergarten unless he or she will be five years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.
2. No child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade unless he or she will be six years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.
3. Any child who transfers from an out-of-state school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment before September 1st shall be allowed to enroll in school at the same grade levels the providing following four statements are true:
 - a. The parent/guardian of the child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring.
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority.
 - c. The child was legally enrolled in school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state.
 - d. The principal or his designee has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state.

- **Initial Enrollment:**

1. Birth Certificates: All new students shall submit a certified birth certificate (long form version) upon enrollment. The principal may allow students to attend school for a period of time not to exceed thirty days before the birth certificate is presented. The district may revoke the admission of or suspend students who are not in compliance thirty days from the date of enrollment.
2. Immunization Requirements: Students enrolling in the Union County School District must present a Mississippi Certificate of Compliance regarding vaccinations. Valid certificates include the following: Form 121 (Certificate of Compliance), Form 121-A (Medical Exemption Form), and Form 121-T (Temporary Compliance Certificate). NOTE: The 121-T is not valid after the date shown.

- **Legal Guardianship:**

1. Anyone other than the natural parent(s) enrolling a student must provide legal documentation appointing him/her as guardian. If a petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, a certified copy of the filed petition must be provided. The Union County School District does not recognize notarized affidavits or power of attorney orders as proof of guardianship for enrolling students.

2. In cases of divorce, final documentation of the divorce proceedings should be presented upon enrollment so that legal custodial rights can be determined and adhered to by school officials .

- **Verification of Residence**

1. Upon enrollment and annually, any parent seeking to enroll a student must provide a current proof of residency from Group 1 and Group 2. If residency cannot be provided from both groups, you must speak with a building level administrator.
2. All proofs must be in the parent or guardian's name and match the student's primary residency address and must be dated within the last 45 days from time of registration.

Group 1

- Mortgage Statement
- Current Apartment or Home lease/Rental Agreement
- Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
- Property Tax Display Form
- Filed Property or Warranty Deed
- Income Tax Return Documents
- Car Registration Tag

Group 2

- Utility Bill (electric, gas, water, cable/internet bill)

OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

The Board adheres to provisions set forth in state statutes and Board Policy JBCDA concerning nonresident students.

Admission for out-of-district students will include an analysis of grades, behavior, classroom availability and absenteeism. The student must not have an academic average grade below a "C" in order to be considered for transfer to the Union County School District. A screening committee composed of the Central Office Administrator, Principal, and Guidance Counselor will review and must approve the above items before acceptance in the District. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student requesting transfer must provide any and all documentation requested by the screening committee.

Out-of-district students admitted to the Union County School District will be required upon admission to pay annual tuition fees in full according to the scale below. Failure to pay the tuition fees will result in the rejection of the transfer of the said student.

Tuition must be paid prior to enrollment of student.

1 st child	\$500.00 per year
2 nd child or more	\$250.00 per year

No one will be grandfathered in that is presently attending the school district that is verified as an out-of-district student. A summary of each out-of-district student's grades, behavior and attendance will be reviewed and approved on an annual basis before readmission for the following year. Parents of out-of-district students will be notified of problems during the school year and the admission of said student in the Union County School District could be revoked. Out-of-district students of district employees, licensed and non-licensed, may have tuition fees waived, provided all other provisions of nonresident student admissions are met.

The Union County School District will not accept out-of-district students who:

- Cause the district an additional outlay of funds beyond that which is typical for all students (special education services & speech services)
- Require services or programs that the UCSD does not have
- Cause the expansion of a program that would require additional expenditures
- Cause the district an additional financial or administrative burden

In the event the sending district does not have an appropriate program for a student, but the UCSD has an appropriate program with space available, the sending school district shall pay any additional cost associated with educating the child. If the sending district is willing to release the student and contractually agree to pay the additional cost associated with the education of the child, regardless of when those costs are fully understood, that student may be accepted by UCSD.

Due to an increase in the Kindergarten Program and an inability to track a history of attendance, discipline, and academic achievement, the administration will have wide latitude in its consideration of acceptance for out-of-district Kindergarten students.

Legal Ref. 37-6-3; 37-15-31; 37-15-33; 37-15-29; 37-19-19; 37-19-27 and 37-19-31

ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION

Federal law requires each Local Education Agency (LEA), upon request of a military recruiter or an institution of higher education, access to names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students. **A parent may submit a request in writing to the LEA that such student information not be released without prior written consent of the parent.**

PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The Every Student Succeeds Act legislation states: Parents have the right to know the qualifications of their child's teacher and/or teacher assistant. Parents may request information pertaining to the teacher's or teacher assistant's qualifications, license for the grade level or subjects taught, and the degree(s) held by the teacher, or services provided by the paraprofessionals. Parents may request written documentation of their teacher's qualifications by contacting the Federal Programs Coordinator at 534-1957 and completing the required form.

The district will also distribute information on how to obtain a school report card for the district and school each year.

Information pertaining to a child's level of achievement in each of the state academic assessments will be provided to parents during the first nine weeks grading period of the school year.

VISITORS

A parent/guardian or school vendor is welcome on Union County campuses; however; all visitors are required to "check-in" and "check-out" at the office upon arrival to campus. In order that the normal classroom atmosphere will exist, a Union County student will not be allowed to bring a visitor, relative, friend, or child to school for any part of the school day.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

A compulsory school-age child is defined as a child who has attained or will attain the age of six years on or before September 1st of the calendar year and who has attained the age of seventeen years on or before September 1st of the calendar year. This also includes any child who has attained or will attain the age of five years on or before September 1st and has enrolled in kindergarten. Students excluded from this requirement are those determined to be incapable of school attendance by school officials as based on medical documentation, an identifiable handicapping condition, or an approved home instruction program as determined by the school attendance officer.

If a compulsory school-age child has not been enrolled in school within fifteen calendar days after the first day of the school year, the principal or his designee shall report such absences to the school attendance officer.

ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND EXCUSES

The Board recognizes that regular attendance is important if students are to attain maximum benefit from the educational process and develop good work habits that carry over into their adult life. Parents and students are expected to abide by Compulsory School Attendance Law. When absences do occur, school personnel will classify the absence as excused or unexcused.

According to Mississippi Law, for purposes of compulsory school attendance, a student shall be considered in full-day attendance if he/she is present for 66 percent or more of the student's school day.

Tardies will be considered when determining perfect attendance and exemption status.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

From state law, Senate Bill 2103 Section 6: The following will constitute a valid excuse for temporary non--attendance of a compulsory school age student enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the principal of the school:

1. An absence is excused when the absence results from attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district, or his designee. These activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals and any similar activity.

2. An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the child from being physically able to attend school, and any absence after the third must be documented by a written excuse by a medical provider.
3. An absence is excused when isolation of a child is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.
4. An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a child. The immediate family members of a child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
5. An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a child, with a documented excuse from the medical provider.
6. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
7. An absence may be excused if the religion to which the or the child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of the absence is within the discretion of the superintendent of the school district, or his/her designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
8. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district, or his/her designee, that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel, including vacations or other family travel. Approval of the absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district, or his/her designee, before the absence.
9. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district, or his/her designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the child's nonattendance. However, no absences shall be excused by the school district superintendent, or his/her designee, when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law.
10. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a child participating in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA). The excuse for the 4-H or FFA event must be provided in writing to the appropriate school superintendent by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor.
11. An absence is excused when it results from the child officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.

THE WRITTEN EXCUSE:

The student must present a school-generated Parent Excuse Form signed by the parent, guardian, or medical professional on the day the student returns to school unless permission to be absent was granted by school officials before the absence occurred.

Medical excuses must list specific dates and be on an official medical clinic form or clinic letterhead with contact information.

Excused absences are granted once the signed Parent Excuse Form from parents/guardians or medical/dental excuses are received by the school. **These are expected to be received on the day of return to school if the absence is to be excused.** The school will allow up to two (2) days to receive the excuse. Excused absences by Parent Excuse Form are not to exceed five (5) per semester. **By state law**, an absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school, and any absence after the third must be documented by a written excuse by a medical provider. **By state law** no student will be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester. Exceptions can be made by the superintendent when extenuating circumstances arise. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, prolonged illness or injury supported by medical documentation, extended religious observances, or participation in educational opportunities of substantial merit, including out-of-state educational travel.

The principal or designee has the authority to determine the absence type based on the sufficiency and validity of information received.

EXTENDED ABSENCES:

When a student is absent for more than three (3) days, the following guidelines must be followed:

1. If the student intends to receive an excused absence, he/she, upon returning to school, must present a statement from a licensed medical professional certifying specific dates missed due to the medical condition.
2. The student anticipating an extended absence due to a medical reason must notify his/her principal prior to the absence in order that orderly academic progress may be made during the absence.
3. Failure to comply with either of the above guidelines may result in an unexcused absence.

OFFICIAL ABSENCES:

Absences that are incurred due to school-related functions may be excused as OFFICIAL if prior permission has been obtained from the principal. If an official absence has been granted, the student must:

1. Obtain assignments before scheduled absences and
2. Submit completed assignments to appropriate teachers as directed or upon date of return.

NO BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS OR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE DURING SCHOOL HOURS EXCEPT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Following an absence, students will be expected to make up their work beginning the day they return to school. Make-up work will be coordinated with the teacher and completed as instructed. Students will have up to five (5) days to complete make-up work for full credit.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

An unlawful or unexcused absence is an absence during a school day that is not due to a valid excuse. Students will be allowed to make up work. Any student who has accumulated 5 unexcused days absent during the school year will be reported to the truancy officer. This report must be made within 2 school days or within 5 calendar days, whichever is less. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be (1) factor in determining promotion or retention of a student.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR RECEIVING A GRADE:

Students in grades 8-12 can have no more than five (5) unexcused absences in a course that is scheduled in a semester and can have no more than ten (10) unexcused absences in a course that is scheduled for a full school year. In addition, students in grades 7-12 must be in attendance at least 66 percent of a class period to be considered present for the class. An accumulation of unexcused absences in a course may be one (1) factor in determining promotion or retention of a student, as well as the awarding of Carnegie units.

Students in grades 8-12 who exceed this standard may not, pending appeal, receive a grade or Carnegie unit in the course. A notation of inadequate attendance (IA) will be recorded on the report card and on the transcript if the student is passing the course. Students may, pending appeal, be required to make up class time on an hour-for-hour basis in order to remove the IA status. If a student is failing a course, the actual failing grade will be posted on the report card and the transcript. If the superintendent determines that credit should be withheld based on attendance, the parent will have (5) days to appeal the superintendent's decision. Appeal procedures will be reviewed annually and published in the Student Handbook.

In grades K-7, students can miss no more than 20 days total (excused or unexcused) per year. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be one (1) factor in determining promotion or retention of a student. Exceptions may be made when circumstances warrant such and will be based on the approval of the superintendent after consideration of the student's scholastic record and causes of absence.

Progress reports sent to parents shall indicate grades and the attendance record of the student to date.

ATTENDANCE RECOVERY

Students in grades 8-12 that exceed five (5) unexcused absences in a semester course or exceed ten (10) unexcused absences in a yearlong course will be eligible for attendance recovery opportunities. Once the defined threshold has been met, each unexcused absence in a class period will require an hour of attendance recovery for full-block courses and 30 minutes for half-block courses. Attendance recovery opportunities will be scheduled and managed by the school administration. Eligible students declining to take advantage of attendance recovery opportunities are willfully choosing to have their Carnegie unit withheld.

TARDINESS

Promptness and dependability are virtues that become habits. The Board encourages the development of these habits. Students are expected to be in class on time. Makeup opportunities for students with excessive absences and/or tardies will be arranged in a way deemed appropriate by the school administration.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL:

A student is tardy for school if he/she arrives at school after the tardy bell has rung at 7:48 a.m. A tardy slip must be secured from the office prior to admittance to class. A student who is tardy cannot be considered for perfect attendance. Parents of students in grades K-8 are expected to accompany the child into the building when the child is tardy to school.

TARDINESS TO CLASS:

A student is tardy for class if he/she arrives in the class after the class period has officially begun or the bell has sounded. The tardy must be recorded by the principal or his designee prior to the admittance to class. Tardies to school and class may be excused or unexcused at the discretion of the principal or his designee.

Any student who receives an unexcused tardy for being late to school or for being late to class may be disciplined in a manner deemed appropriate by the principal or his designee.

Tardies to school and class will be counted per semester of the school year and all tardy reports will be kept on file in the principal's office.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE:

Perfect attendance is defined as being present 100% of the time that school is in session while the student is enrolled in the district. **Any tardy, absence, or early dismissal makes the student ineligible for the recognition.** School-related absence for official school-sponsored activities will not count as an absence.

EARLY DISMISSALS:

Due to safety precautions, no student dismissals will be allowed during the last 30 minutes of the school day. Additionally, students will not be dismissed while a district or state test is being administered so that distractions and potential test security violations can be avoided. This will include nine weeks tests, semester exams, and all state-mandated tests.

CHECKOUT PROCEDURES

The Board recognizes that situations arise that require parents to check their student out of school. However, checkouts that are not absolutely necessary are highly discouraged. According to MS compulsory attendance law, students must be present at least 66 percent of the school day in order to be considered present for the entire day. By district policy a student must be present at least 66 percent of a class period in order to be considered present for that period. Proper excuses will be required as defined by compulsory attendance law and the UCSD attendance policy to excuse absences for class periods. **These excused absences will be included in the limitation of five (5) excused absences per semester. The same will apply for late check-ins as well.**

When it becomes necessary for a student to leave school, he/she should report to the office. Failure to report to the office before leaving campus will be considered as skipping school.

Proper authorization to leave school includes the following: A parent will submit a Parent Note Excuse form. School personnel will note the time of checkout on the form. If the student does not have a Parent Note Excuse form, then the parent will report to school and check the student out. School personnel will require the parent to complete a Parent Note Excuse form at that time before releasing the student. All names of adults allowed to check a student out must be on file on the student registration form. One emergency phone call for checkout purposes is allowed per semester at the discretion of school personnel. A Parent Note Excuse form will then be required to document the emergency phone call. School personnel reserve the right to refuse dismissal due to incomplete information. Dismissals are expected to be arranged prior to the beginning of the school day. No changes will be made after 2:30.

TRUANCY

All compulsory school-age students are to be enrolled within 15 days after the beginning of the school year. Any student not enrolled by this time will be referred to the School Attendance Officer (SAO.)

Students will be also referred to the SAO as follows:

- Student misses five (5) cumulative unexcused days
- Student misses eight (8) cumulative unexcused days
- Student misses twelve (12) cumulative unexcused days
- Student misses fifteen (15) cumulative unexcused days
- Referrals would continue every five (5) unexcused days thereafter: 20, 25, 30, etc.

ATTENDANCE POLICY APPEAL PROCEDURES:

Once a student has exceeded the maximum number of absences allowed, he/she may not be awarded a Carnegie unit for the course or be promoted to the next grade level. If the superintendent determines that credit should be withheld based on attendance, the parent/guardian will have (5) days to appeal the superintendent's decision. The appeal process is as follows:

- The parent/guardian will notify the superintendent of the intent to appeal and provide all detailed documentation for absences to be considered.
- The appeal and all detailed documentation will be reviewed by the District Attendance Committee composed of school and district administrators.
- Upon completion of the review, the parent/guardian will be notified of the decision.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

When it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from Union County Schools, the parent will report to the school's main office and request a withdrawal form. The parent will complete the form and return it to the proper school personnel. The official records of the student will be released when an official written request from the transfer school has been received.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Parents/Guardians are asked not to drop off students at school any earlier than 7:20 a.m. Also, students who drive to school are not to report on campus before 7:20 a.m. Students are not permitted to remain in automobiles and are not allowed to assemble in the parking lot upon arrival to school. Also, once a student arrives on campus, he/she is not to leave campus unless he/she properly checks out at the office.

information. Dismissals are expected to be arranged prior to the beginning of the school day. No changes will be made after 2:30.

SUMMER SCHOOL/EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

Prior written approval must be obtained from the principal before enrollment in extended school or summer school courses.

- Students in grades 6 – 8 may attend summer school for promotion in no more than two subjects if the final grade in the course(s) is no lower than 50.
- Students in grades 9 – 12 may take two courses per summer school session. No more than two units may be earned in summer school toward graduation. Students may not take Algebra I, Biology I, English II, or U.S. History in summer school unless they have passed the state test in the subject they want to take. In order to attend summer school, a student must not have a final grade lower than 55.

STATEWIDE TESTING PROGRAM

The State of Mississippi requires all school districts to participate in several testing procedures to determine instructional improvement and school ratings. Below are the tests and grade levels tested:

PreK & Kindergarten	Mississippi Kindergarten Assessment (MKAS)
Grades 3-8	Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)
Grades 5 and 8	Science Assessment
High School	MAAP-EOC
Juniors	ACT
ELPT	English Language Learners

All electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, iPhones, smart watches, etc. are not allowed in any testing area.

TEXTBOOKS

This 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 their 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.

Textbook fines and damage replacement schedule:

FE

'drawing/scribbling in book	er page
ear/damage but still usable	ost of the book
f book damaged	ost of the book
amaged	ost of the book
amaged but still usable	ost of the book
amaged, not usable	he book
issing, not usable	he book
e writing or drawing on or in the bok	he book
urned book	he book

DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL

The Union County School District does not accept deliveries, such as flowers and commercially advertised bags, to students at the local school level; however on Valentine's day we will accept deliveries for students Grades 9-12. Students carrying delivered items throughout the day and on buses are a distraction for other students and staff. Also, some parents are not able to afford deliveries for their children. This inequality often fosters hurt feelings and negative attitudes towards those who are less [fortunate](#).

DRESS CODE

It is virtually impossible to write a dress and grooming code, which will address every detail and aspect of appropriate dress and grooming; therefore, it may become necessary for the building administration to make a judgment as to whether a student is properly groomed and/or dressed. A student who is not appropriately groomed or who is attired in a manner that is detrimental and/or distracting to the school environment shall be required to make arrangements for more suitable or appropriate dress. If the arrangement for more suitable clothing requires the student to be absent from class, the absence will be designated as unexcused. The guidelines are as follows:

Grades 4-12

- Female students may wear sleeveless blouses as long as the armhole is not loose and the strap is two inches wide or wider. Halter tops or low-cut blouses are not permitted. **No undergarments are to be visible. Any item of clothing that exposes the midriff is not to be worn.** If the student extends his/her arms above their head and the midriff is exposed, this is a dress code violation.
- Sleepwear is not permitted.
- Shorts may be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- Dresses and skirts are to be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- Jeans may have holes. Holes above the knee must not show skin.
- Loose or sagging pants, or shorts falling below the waist are prohibited.
- Clothing, jewelry, buttons, patches, or any other items with words, phrases, symbols, gothic related material or suggestions, pictures, or signs, which use indecent, profane, suggestive, or inflammatory words or promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or violence, shall not be worn.
- Trench coats are not to be worn.
- Any dress or attire that local law enforcement officials deem gang related shall not be worn.
- Students shall not wear piercing rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, eyebrows, or other exposed body parts. Male students shall not wear piercing rings, studs, or any other foreign objects in any exposed body part.
- Visible tattoos are prohibited.
- Boys are allowed to have facial hair as long as it is neatly groomed.
- Students' hair should not impede vision.
- Students shall not have any outrageous haircut which includes mohawks or spikes. Picks and combs should not be worn.
- Hats, caps, bandanas, and other head coverings are not to be worn at school.
- Students are not to wear sunglasses unless a doctor's note to this effect is on file in the office.
- Male students shall not wear make-up or fingernail polish unless it is necessary for participation in a school-sponsored theatrical production.

Grades K-3

Parents of students in grades K-3 are asked to use good judgment when selecting appropriate school attire for their children. If there is a question of appropriateness of dress for students in

grades K-4, the judgment of the principal or his designee will be final. Students in k-4 shall not wear piercing rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, eyebrows, or other exposed body parts. Male students shall not wear piercing rings, studs, or any other foreign objects in any exposed body part.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The buildings and equipment of the school district are provided by the citizens of Union County. It is the responsibility of each student to exercise care in the use of buildings, grounds, equipment, and materials. 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 result in suspension, recommended to alternative school, or expulsion until he or she pays the cost. Parents may be held liable for damages.

CODE OF DISCIPLINE-GRADES K-12

The Uniform Code of Discipline was developed to establish a system that would facilitate an environment of good discipline in a fair and consistent manner. The code follows the guidelines established by the State of Mississippi.

Corporal Punishment- Corporal punishment is permitted as a disciplinary measure in accordance with state law. The following regulations shall govern the administration of corporal punishment: (a) it should be administered after other measures have failed to produce the desired results (b) it should be reasonable (not to exceed 3 licks per day) and not administered in a malicious manner (c) it may be administered by the principal, a member of his/her administrative staff or the teacher with a certified employee will witness the event (d) should be administered away from the view of other students and (e) refusal of corporal punishment by the student will result in specific suspension which will constitute an unexcused absence. When corporal punishment is administered, students will be given a disciplinary referral to take to the parent(s).

At the beginning of each school year, parents have the responsibility to request in writing that corporal punishment may not be administered to their child or children. School officials will attempt to comply with every request; however, Mississippi Law permits corporal punishment to be applied as a disciplinary action for Mississippi Public School students.

Detention-Student loss of free time-before, during, or after school hours

In School Detention (ISD)-Student is assigned to an area away from the regular classroom. In some cases, extra-curricular activities may be restricted or limited. ISD will be an all day detention 7:45 – 3:00.

School Suspension-Student is out of school for a designated period of time. Students who are suspended are restricted from all school property and may not attend a school function on or off the campus.

Alternative School-Student attends a self-contained class off campus for a period of

time. Students who are assigned alternative school are restricted from all school property and may not attend a school function on or off campus during the time period while assigned to alternative school.

Expulsion- Student's rights and privileges of attending school are suspended for a specific time period. Expelled students may not go onto school property at any time. If they do, they will be arrested and charged with trespassing.

Code of Discipline

Below is the discipline policy that the Union County School District has adopted to follow. The discipline offenses are categorized by levels ranging from A- F, with level F offense being the most severe. Each level has a consequence ladder in which to follow as shown below. Discipline does not go chronologically but depends on the severity of the offense. **Also, prior offenses may affect the severity of discipline.**

Refusal to comply with punishment does not exempt the student from its enforcement or consequences.

Level A Offense (A-1) Tardiness, 3 or more (A-2) Dress Code Violation (A-3) Parking Lot Loitering (A-4) Profanity/Inappropriate Gestures (A-5) Failure to do Homework or Classwork (3 or more times in 9 weeks) Consequence 1st Offense 1 Day ISD or Paddling 2nd Offense 2 Day ISD or Paddling 3rd Offense 3 Day ISD or Paddling 4th Offense 4 Day ISD 5th Offense 5 Day ISD 6th Offense 6 Day ISD 7th Offense 1 Day School Suspension 8th Offense 3-5 Day Suspension	Level B Offense (B-1) Skipping Class (B-2) Parking Lot Violation (B-3) Academic Dishonesty (B-4) Disruptive Behavior (B-5) Public Displays of Affection (B-6) Dishonesty/Lying (B-7) Forgery of Documents (B-8) Minor Physical Altercations Consequence 1st Offense 2 Day ISD or Paddling 2nd Offense 3 Day ISD or Paddling 3rd Offense 4 Day ISD or Paddling 4th Offense 5 Day ISD 5th Offense 6 Day ISD 6th Offense 1 Day School Suspension 7th Offense 3 Day School Suspension 8th Offense 5 Day School Suspension (B-1) 1st offense: 3 Day ISD, 2nd offense: 6 Day ISD, 3rd offense: 10 Day ISD (B-2) 3 or more in semester, loss of driving privileges for semester (B-3) Score of zero
Level C Offense (C-1) Destruction of School/Personal Property (C-2) Inappropriate Touch (C-3) Violation of Technology/Usage Policy (C-4) Disrespect to School Personnel (C-5) Racial Slur (C-6) Possession or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vape cigarette, juuls or other electronic smoking devices (C-7) Sale or distribution of juuls or other types of electronic smoking devices (C-8) Skipping School/Leaving School Consequence 1st Offense 1 Day School Suspension 2nd Offense 2 Day School Suspension 3rd Offense 3-5 Day School Suspension	Level D Offense (D-1) Extortion/Bullying (D-2) Theft (D-3) Fighting/Videoing (D-4) Gang-Related Activity (D-5) Sexual Harassment (D-6) Profanity or inappropriate gesture to school personnel (D-7) Violation of State Testing Policy Consequence 1st Offense 3 Day School Suspension 2nd Offense Recommendation to Alternative School (K-2, 3-5 Day Suspension)

4th Offense Up to 10 Day School Suspension (C-1) Restitution; Failure to pay can result in suspension, alternative school, or expulsion. Parents may be held liable for damages. (C-3) Loss of internet privileges, ISS (C-6) 1st Offense 3 Day Suspension 2nd Offense will result in alternative school placement for 10 days (C-7) Placement at alternative school	
--	--

Level E Offense (E-1) Drug or Alcohol Possession/Use (Including THC products) (E-2) Threat/Assault on Student Consequence A positive test result will equal 90 days at alternative school Distribution of drugs will equal expulsion Recommendation to Alternative School or Expulsion; Notify Authorities	Level F Offense (F-1) Weapon Possession (F-2) Threat/Assault on Employee Consequence Recommendation to Alternative School or Expulsion; Notify Authorities If student is expelled, he or she must re-enter school through NASTUC.
--	--

1:1 Ipad Violation for Students in Grades 7-12

Offense – Ipad left at home, not charged for class, or left in an unsupervised area

Consequence – After 3 verbal warnings by the teacher, the student will be referred to an administrator for appropriate punishment (ISS, paddling, or suspension)

It is, of course, impossible to write rules and consequences for every possible disciplinary matter. For this reason, school administrators have final discretion in handling disciplinary matters and deciding what constitutes a discipline matter. Repeated or flagrant offenses may result in different disciplinary action. (Note: Disciplinary matters in grades K-6 may be handled in a different manner from the disciplinary code dependent on the situation and the age of the child).

DUE PROCESS

The constitutional rights of students are protected through due process. In Union County Schools, procedures granting due process will be followed in the exercise of disciplinary authority. The practice of telling students what they are accused of doing and the evidence against them (notice) and allowing them an opportunity to explain their version of the facts (hearing) before imposing any punishment contributes to achieving fundamental fairness.

SCHOOL BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

All students are expected to obey the following rules of bus conduct:

- Students should report to the bus stop on time and conduct themselves in an orderly manner while waiting for the bus.
- Students should board the bus and take a seat quickly, quietly, and safely.
- The driver is in charge of the bus and is authorized to assign seats and set bus rules. The driver's instructions must be followed at all times.
- The driver needs to concentrate entirely on driving.
- Destruction of public property is forbidden and could result in re-payment for damages and possible prosecution.
- Language should be respectful.
- Heads, hands, and feet must be kept inside the bus at all times. Feet and legs should not be in the bus aisle.
- Objects of any kind are not to be thrown in the bus or outside the bus.

- Students should speak in conversational tones.
- Fighting is prohibited.
- Possession of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or any other prohibited item will result in severe action.
- Eating/drinking on the bus is prohibited.
- Standing while the bus is in motion is not allowed.
- Students may be required to sit three to a seat.
- Balloons, radios, CD players, electronic devices are not allowed on the bus.
- NO ADULT OR CHILD UNAUTHORIZED TO RIDE A PARTICULAR BUS MAY BOARD THE BUS.
- Parents must make prior arrangements with the bus driver before allowing visitors to travel home with their children.

All arrangements must be made by 2:30 p.m. or deemed an emergency by the principal.

RIDING A BUS IS A PRIVILEGE...NOT A STUDENT'S RIGHT!

Students may be suspended from the bus indefinitely.

Students who are disruptive or fail to follow the rules of the bus will be reported to the school principal or his/her designee. Discipline will be administered based on the seriousness of the offense and the number of prior offenses. A written report concerning school bus violations will be sent home to the parent by the student. If the parent has not returned to school a signed copy of the report within three school days, a copy of the report will be mailed to the student's home and/or phone contact will be made with the parent. Written violations are housed in the school office during the course of the school year. Parents have the right to review all disciplinary records upon request. School buses have the capability to run video cameras as necessary. Children should be advised that they may be video recorded without notice at any time during their bus ride.

The discipline guidelines for students who misbehave on the bus are as follows:

1. **First Report** – A warning will be issued to the student. (If the first violation is of a violent or severe nature, the student may be disciplined in a manner deemed necessary by school administration.)
2. **Second Report** – The student is suspended from riding any Union County School bus for no less than three (3) days.
3. **Third Report**- The student is suspended from riding any Union County School bus for no less than five (5) days.
4. **Fourth Report** – The student is suspended from riding any Union County School bus for the remainder of the semester. (If the third violation occurs within the last week of the semester, the suspension may be extended into the following semester if deemed necessary by school administration.

Students who ride the bus to the career and technical center are subject to the same guidelines as other students. If a child who is eligible to ride a Union County School bus becomes ineligible to ride the bus for any reason, disciplinary or otherwise and the parent/guardian refuses to make provision for the child's transportation to and from school in a timely manner, the parent/guardian of the child may be reported to the Department of Child Protective Services for inquiry to determine whether such actions on the part of the parent/guardian constitute "neglect," as defined by law.

STUDENT/EMPLOYEE BULLYING

Students and employees in the Union County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints of such conduct.

Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

Definitions:

Bullying or harassing behavior is any **PATTERN** of gestures, written, electronic or verbal communications, any physical act, any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear or harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

If any person has in his/her possession any type of electronic device which records and said device is used with the intent and purpose of recording activity on school grounds, school transportation or any school function with the intent of antagonizing another person, he/she will be considered in violation of this policy. Intimidation, threatening, harassment or bullying will not be tolerated.

Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnesses or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the board chairman.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The district official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the district. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The district official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the district official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the board. Questions regarding grievance procedure can contact Windy Faulkner (662) 534-1960.

INTERNET ACCESS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Union County School District provides the privilege of Internet access to administrators, faculty, staff, students, and occasionally guests. Each user, as well as minor's parent or guardian, voluntarily agrees to release, hold harmless, defend, and indemnify, the Union County School District, its officers, board members, employees, and agents, for and against all claims, actions, charges, losses or damages which arise out of the user's use of the UCSD network, but not limited to negligence, personal injury, wrongful death, property loss or damage, delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries of data, or service interruptions. UCSD will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

***The Internet Network Student Access Board Policy IJ-E can be found online @**
<https://tinyurl.com/4dmfv7ee>

Access will be restricted as required to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (Board Policy IJB). Web browsing may be monitored and records retained to ensure compliance.

Users are expected to respect the web filter and not attempt to circumvent the filter when browsing the Internet. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate is based solely on the content of the material and the intended use of material, not on whether a website has been blocked or not.

Each user acknowledges that information available from other websites may not be accurate. Use of any of the information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. Union County School District makes no warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, regarding the quality, accuracy, or validity of the data on the Internet.

UCSD NETWORK RULES

- The person to whom an UCSD network account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use.
- Any inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of the privilege of use and/or disciplinary action as described in the school disciplinary policy, state or federal law.
- Under no conditions should a UCSD network user give their password information to another user nor allow another user to utilize their account information unless speaking directly to a technology department employee who is assisting them.
- Schools may supplement any provisions of the District AUP (Acceptable Use Policy), and may require additional parent releases and approvals, but in no case will such documents replace the District AUP.
- Users will immediately report to school district authorities any attempt by other network users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal contact.
- Any non-standard software needed to perform a specific job function will need to be brought to the attention of the Technology Department. Those applications shall be the sole responsibility of that office and if the application interferes with any required programs, applications, and utilities, it should not be used and if in use, it may be disabled.

ACCEPTABLE USES OF TECHNOLOGY (not all inclusive)

A responsible user of the technology will:

- Use school technologies for school-related activities.
- Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online they are expected to follow offline.
- Treat school resources carefully and alert staff if there is any problem with their operation.
- Encourage positive, constructive discussion if allowed to use communicative or collaborative technologies.
- Alert a teacher, administrator, or other staff member if they see threatening, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, and posts) online.
- Use District technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Users should use their own good judgment when using UCSD technology.

UNACCEPTABLE USES OF THE TECHNOLOGY (not all inclusive)

- Violating any state and/or federal law (i.e., copyright laws).
- Using profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to others.
- Making personal attacks on other people, organizations, religions, or ethnicities.
- Accessing, downloading, storing, or printing files or messages that are sexually explicit, obscene, or that offend or tend to degrade others. The administration invokes its discretionary rights to determine such suitability.
- Not respecting the privacy of a person by posting personal contact information, such as work/home address, telephone, e-mail, photographs, or names, without obtaining prior permission from the person affected.
- Forwarding personal communication without the author's prior consent.
- Using the Internet for commercial purposes, financial gain, dating sites, personal business, producing advertisement, business service endorsement, or religious or political lobbying is prohibited.
- Destroying or altering the files of another user.
- Viewing or taking the files of another user.

FILTERING

An Internet filter is in place for the Union County School District. The filter is a critical component of the UCSD network. It is a part of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance, since it allows valuable online Internet access while restricting access to specific unwanted materials.

This filter is updated to restrict access to the websites deemed inappropriate for student use. Filtering is not a 100% foolproof way of limiting access to appropriate sites. Inappropriate sites are added to the Internet daily. Students will be supervised at all times by a teacher while using the Internet.

All inappropriate hits are logged along with the date/time and the IP address of the workstation making the request. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use and disclose any data found on the schools information network in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use data in disciplinary actions and provide as evidence to law enforcement.

Attempts to bypass the school Internet filters is in violation of the acceptable use policy and will be subject to disciplinary action found in the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.

WORKSTATION MONITORING

Data transferred or transmitted over the district network can be identified, monitored, recorded and tracked at any time. Originating users are liable if their use of the network violates any established policy, regulation, or law. Data stored on district-owned equipment is the property of the district. It may be archived and preserved indefinitely by the district. The data includes, but is not limited to any electronic documents or files.

Workstations that continually attempt to connect to inappropriate websites will be monitored. The individual using that workstation will be reported to the building Principal and the appropriate UCSD Central Office Staff.

TECHNOLOGIES COVERED

UCSD may provide the privilege of Internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, email and other technology.

The Acceptable Use Policy applies to District-owned technology equipment and privately- owned technology equipment utilizing the UCSD network, the UCSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections accessed from District-owned devices at any time. UCSD policies outlined in this document cover all available technologies now and in the future.

EMAIL

Union County School District provides faculty, staff and students (grades K-12) with email accounts for the purpose of school-related communication. Availability and use are restricted based on district policies.

Care should be taken when using email accounts. Email accounts are district business only. Users should not attempt to open files or links from unknown sources.

Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous manner online as offline. Email usage may be monitored and archived, even outside school hours.

EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT RETENTION

All emails and electronic documents should be saved in user-designated folders on the user's computer. District employee email will be archived for a minimum of one year. Official communications, e.g. teacher to parent, teacher to student, student to teacher, staff to staff, must be via the District's email system or other district approved platforms. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers who guide extracurricular activities such as clubs, choirs, bands, athletic teams, etc. District employees, who generate newsletters, memoranda, slide shows, graphics, etc. with their workstations, laptops, or other district equipment, should store these documents on their district Google Drive.

Use of personal email accounts by students and employees are not allowed.

Employee and student UCSD email is the property of UCSD. UCSD does archive employee and student email. It is the responsibility of the employee and student to maintain this email account appropriately.

SECURITY

Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the UCSD network. Including not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. Users should never share personal information.

Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students should alert the Technology Department, if they think their computer or laptop might be infected with a virus, and users should not attempt to remove the virus themselves or download any programs to help remove the virus.

UCSD may post pictures of staff, teachers, and students on the district's web server that are viewable on the World Wide Web and Facebook. In such cases the child's first name only may be listed below the photo if used. However, staff, teacher photos may include their full name. Parents should notify the school in writing by the 10th student day if they do not want their child photographed or videoed. (Form in back of handbook)

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Users should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner.

Users should recognize that among the valuable content online there is also unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content. Users should only use known or trusted sources when conducting research via the Internet.

Users should remember not to post anything online that they would not want students, parents, teachers, or future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it cannot be completely retracted and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways the user never intended.

COPYRIGHT LAWS

Violation of copyright laws will not be allowed. Pirated software, music, or movies is not allowed. Software installed on district computers must be licensed. Software must be installed by the district technology personnel.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Users should never share personal information over the Internet without adult permission. Users should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet in person someone they met online without parental permission.

If users see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety or the safety of someone else, they should immediately bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or administrator if at school, parent if using the device at home).

VANDALISM

Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, network or agency that is connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading of any computer virus, attempts at gaining unauthorized access, willful damage to computers and peripherals, or changing on-line materials without permission.

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. Users should not send emails or post comments with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted individual and create for the targeted individual a hostile school environment.

Engaging in these behaviors or in any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in disciplinary action. In some cases, cyber bullying can be a crime. Users should remember that online activities might be monitored.

All students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other persons on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber bullying awareness and response.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The District has a policy that addresses Social Media, which applies to all employees and students. By signing the Acceptable Use Policy, users are acknowledging they have read and agree to abide by the Social Media guidelines. See UCSD Policy GABBA Social Networking Websites.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

UCSD will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware. While UCSD employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms, and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness.

UCSD will not be responsible or liable for, financially or otherwise, unauthorized transactions conducted over the UCSD network.

Violations of this policy may have disciplinary consequences based on disciplinary policies and procedures of the district.

STUDENT USER AGREEMENT AND PARENT PROCEDURES

Employees, students, and parents/guardians shall be required to sign the District's Acceptable Use Policy form in the back of the UCSD Student Handbook before Internet or network access shall be allowed. BOARD POLICY FORMS IJ-E (1) AND IJ-E (2)

Please notify the school Principal or Superintendent in writing within 10 days of the students first day, if you do not agree with this policy and choose to not allow your child access to UCSD computers, networked information resources and the Internet.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT/REGULATORY GUIDELINES

The UCSD will adhere to the Children's Internet Protection Act as outlined in School Board Policy IJB. The UCSD will comply with any additional state and federal regulations that pertain to technology use within the district and through use of the UCSD network infrastructure and servers that is forthcoming from the local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 11-46-9.

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

Grades K-6

Students in grades K–6 are not permitted to bring cell phones to school. If a device is brought, a parent or guardian will be required to pick it up. Continued violations will result in disciplinary action.

Grades 7-12

The Union County School District recognizes the importance of integrating emerging technologies with the academic learning process. Our cell phone policy has been crafted to utilize such technology while providing a safe and orderly instructional environment. Students in grades 7-12 may possess cell phones on campus, but they must be used in accordance with school guidelines below:

- Cell phones, headphones and smart watches may only be used before school, during scheduled breaks, during the lunch break, and after school.
Usage of cell phones in the hallways and during class changes are prohibited
- Students are not allowed to take pictures, including selfies, record videos, or post on social media sites that could lead to a disruption of the educational environment.

Violation of Cell Phone Policy will result in the following consequences:

1st Offense- The students phone will be taken up and sent to the office. The phone will be given back to the student at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense- Paddling, Break/Lunch Detention, or 1 Day of ISS(Parent must pick the phone up at School)

3rd Offense- Paddling, Break/Lunch Detention, or 2 Days of ISS(Parent must pick the phone up at School)

4th Offense- 3 Days ISS(Parent must pick the phone up at School)

5th Offense- 4 Days ISS(Parent must pick the phone up at School)

6th Offense- 5 Days ISS(Parent must pick the phone up at School)

***Each Offense after the 6th Offense will add one day of ISS to each step with the parent having to pick the phone up at the school.**

The Union County School District will not be held responsible for lost or stolen phones.
Electronic devices brought to school are the responsibility of the students.

DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

Any student who, while under school supervision, has in his/her possession any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, or other material (possession of which is punishable by law) will be subject to the strictest disciplinary action available. Also, any student suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be subject to being drug tested and law enforcement officials will be notified of the illegal activity.

Alcohol use:

No student, regardless of age, shall possess, consume, purchase, or distribute any alcoholic beverage on school property, at any place where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place, during the course of any field trip, or during the course of any trip or activity sponsored by the Union County Board of Education or its authorized agents. Likewise, no student shall aid,

abet, assist, or conceal the possession, consumption, purchase, or distribution of any alcoholic beverage by any other student(s) on school property, at any place where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place, during the course of any field trip, or during the course of any trip or activity sponsored by the Union County School Board of Education or its authorized agents.

Any student who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, the nature and extent of which may consist of one or more of the following: a three to ten day suspension from the school and its activities, expulsion for one semester or longer, placement in the Alternative School, or any other form of punishment that the local administration deems appropriate.

Drug use:

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance (depressant, stimulant, counterfeit, illegal drug) unless obtained from or pursuant to a valid prescription or practitioner. Any student who violates this policy shall be subject to expulsion from school and prosecution by law enforcement officials. Students shall also be notified that any person addicted to or dependent on a controlled substance may seek advice concerning such problems and information as to where they may obtain treatment and rehabilitation from a medical practitioner or hospital, college or university counseling bureaus, counselors or teachers in elementary, junior and high schools, ordained and licensed ministers, or staff members of a drug treatment center. Such advice can be sought without fear of arrest or being reported to law enforcement officials. The illegal possession of certain amounts of such drugs creates a presumption the person is selling these drugs. Violation of the illegal drug policy will result in one of the following: expulsion from school for at least one semester or placement in the alternative school. Also, law enforcement will be notified. If school officials suspect that a student is under the influence of drugs, a drug test will be required at a designated clinic.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO

Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco (skoal, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vape cigarettes, other electronic smoking devices, etc.) are not allowed on the school campus or school bus. The use of tobacco in any form may be harmful to your health. Appropriate discipline will be enforced (see discipline policy pg. 16) upon possession and use of tobacco. Possession of tobacco by anyone under the age of eighteen is against Mississippi law.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Mississippi Code Section 97-37-17 states the following:

The following definitions apply to this section:

- A. "Educational property" shall mean any public or private school building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any local school board, school, college or university board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution or during a school related activity; provided however, that the term "educational property" shall not include any 16th section school land or lieu land on which is not located a school building, school campus, recreational area or athletic field.
- B. "Student" shall mean a person enrolled in a public or private school, college, or university, or person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five years

from a public or private school, college or university, whether the person is an adult or minor.

- C. "Switchblade knife" shall mean a knife containing a blade or blades, which open automatically by the release of a spring or similar device.
- D. "Weapon" shall mean any device enumerated in subsection (2) or (4) of this section.

It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property.

Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5000, or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.

It shall be a felony for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than 18 years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5000, or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1000, or be imprisoned not exceeding six months, or both.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than 18 years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades, and any sharp- pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1000, or be imprisoned not exceeding six months, or both.

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY

The Mississippi Department of Education has set forth criteria for the identification of Unsafe Schools in Mississippi. The criteria are explained in the Unsafe School Choice Policy adopted by the Union County Board of Education. At any time a school in the Union County School District is identified as being unsafe based on these criteria, parents shall be notified and provided the opportunity for their child/children to attend another school in the district that has not been identified as unsafe based on this criteria.

Parents may obtain a copy of board policy JGFA Unsafe School Choice Policy by contacting either the Union County School District Central Office at 662-534-1960 or their local school.

SEARCHES

The Union County School Board and its administrators uphold the concept that a person or his/her property cannot be legally searched without reasonable suspicion or permission from the individual who is the object of the search.

- (1) All random searches must be pre-approved by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal. No other district employee has the authority to authorize a random search.
- (2) Student lockers and backpacks are subject to random searches as long as the intent is not to single out any individual student. Lockers and backpacks are also subject to specific searches based on reasonable suspicion that a school or district policy or a public law has been violated.
- (3) Searches of desks or other school property may be searched at any time with or without reasonable suspicion.
- (4) Vehicles driven to school by or for students may be searched by visual inspection without reasonable suspicion. Vehicles may be stringently searched if there is reasonable suspicion that a school or district policy or a public law has been violated.
- (5) Canine searches may be utilized at any time to search vehicles, possessions, desks, lockers, and other school property without reasonable suspicion. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion, and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the discretion of the school administration or law enforcement officials.
- (6) No student shall be strip-searched except in case of emergency. No student will be asked to remove any article of clothing in the presence of a member of the opposite sex.
- (7) When conducting a search, a staff member of the same sex as the student must be present.

SECRET SOCIETIES/GANG ACTIVITY

It is unlawful in the State of Mississippi to organize fraternities, sororities, or secret societies in public high schools. It is also unlawful for public school students to be a member of such organizations and to solicit membership in such organizations. Students in violation of this policy are subject to suspension, alternative school placement, or expulsion.

Gang activity, which initiates, promotes, or advocates activities that threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupts the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute which implies membership or affiliation with such a group presents a clear and present danger. Students displaying interest, involvement, or affiliation with a gang shall be subject to disciplinary action.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Union County School District strives to maintain a school environment for all students that are free from the hostile atmosphere created by sexual harassment or intimidation. Such conduct will not be tolerated from students or staff members. If you are subjected to sexual

harassment or intimidation by any individual, including other students or staff members, you should immediately report the incident to your teacher, counselor, local administrator, Title IX Coordinator, or superintendent. All reports shall be filed within five working days of the alleged violation.

Sexual harassment is defined as any such conduct which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment. The Title IX Coordinator for the Union County School District is Mindi Stout. Her office telephone number is 534-1957.

TITLE IX GRIEVANCES

Step One

1. A student with a grievance shall present it to his/her principal. The principal shall discuss it with the student as soon as possible and attempt to work out a satisfactory solution within the policies and administrative regulations of the district or the principal may contact the Title IX Coordinator. The hearing shall be held within five days of the request and a decision shall be given within another five days.
2. If such a hearing is not held within five days or a decision is not given within five days of the hearing, the aggrieved student may proceed to step two.

Step Two

1. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student at step one or a condition mentioned in step one, number two exists, the student may file the grievance with the Title IX Coordinator.
2. If the grievance is not filed with the Title IX Coordinator within ten days of the hearing in step one, the grievance shall be considered resolved.
3. Within ten days after the receipt of the grievance, the Title IX Coordinator shall meet with the student in an effort to resolve the grievance. He/she shall give a decision within ten days of the hearing.
4. If such a hearing is not held within ten days or a decision is not given within ten days of the hearing, the aggrieved student may proceed to step three.

Step Three

1. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student at step two or a condition mentioned in step two, the student may file the grievance with the Secretary of the Union County School Board.
2. If the grievance is not filed with the board secretary within ten days of the hearing at level two, the grievance shall be considered resolved.
3. Within ten days after the receipt of the grievance, the board secretary, in consent with the chairman and the superintendent, shall schedule a hearing before the board. The board shall render its decision within fifteen days of the hearing.

ASBESTOS

This notification is to inform people of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Asbestos Management plans for the Union County School District facilities. It is available upon request at the office of the superintendent or the offices of the schools. A reproduction fee is charged.

INSURANCE

As a service to parents/guardians and students, the school makes available at a nominal cost a school day accident insurance plan.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA is divided into five sections, which cover employment, public service, public accommodations, telecommunications, and miscellaneous provisions. The law supports efforts in non-discrimination against the disabled in employment and accessibility accommodations. Persons having questions or issues regarding this law should contact the Special Service Coordinator at 534-1957.

Special Education:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides a legal basis for administration of special education. Federal, state and local policies have been developed to create a referral to placement process that reflects the intent of this law. All disabilities recognized by the State of Mississippi are eligible for services under this law. Any students who may be eligible for services under this law should be referred to the Director of Special Education at 534-1957.

Special Education Grading Policy

Promotion for Students with Disabilities in Grades K-6

Student grades will reflect classroom performance with allowable accommodations. IDEA students who do not meet district criteria for promotion with allowable accommodations are subject for review by the IEP committee for promotion decisions. The IEP committee will review cases based on student performance as measured through academic growth on district assessments, reading/math achievement, classroom performance, and mastery of IEP goals. Data points include but are not limited to state assessments, district level assessments, and classroom grades and performance.

The Union County School District shall offer students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 105-17) options of studies; earn a Mississippi High School Diploma or obtain a Certificate of Attendance. Special education students who intend to graduate with a certificate of attendance will be instructed and graded using the objectives written in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Student grades will be generated by mastery of objectives written in the IEP for each course and attendance.

Promotion Requirements for 7-12

Special education students who intend to graduate with a regular diploma will complete all requirements for graduation as determined by the Union County School Board and the State of Mississippi.

Standardized Testing of Special Education Students

Special Education students will take standardized tests through the state's testing program. Decisions regarding this issue will be made through the IEP process. If appropriate, special education students will take an alternate assessment. Special accommodations outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education for students with disabilities in standardized testing situations, may be permitted.

Special Education Ruling

Special education students are responsible for adhering to the same rules of conduct as non-disabled students. State and federal regulations related to students with disabilities will be followed with implementing discipline procedures. Specifically, in the case of a special education student charged with a violation of this policy, before any change in placement occurs with respect to such student, the IEP committee shall first be convened and a recommendation made to the superintendent.

LEGAL REFERENCES

Ms. Ag. Op., 1999-0606 – November 12, 1999

Ms. Ag. Op., 2000-0459 – September 12, 2000

Mississippi Attorney General's "Mississippi Youth Violence and School Safety Initiative"

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Multi Tier System of Support

In accordance with Mississippi State Board of Education Policy IEI Union County School District implemented the Tier III Process to use as a progress monitoring instruction model. The Tier model 1) ensures quality classroom instruction based on MS College and Career Readiness Standards, 2) focused supplemental instruction, and 3) intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

This process is used to determine if students are making adequate progress, to identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind and modify instruction early enough to ensure each and every student gains essential skills.

504 Procedures

Any student who needs or is believed to need special education or related services in order to receive a free appropriate public education may be referred by a parent, teacher, or other certified school employee to the 504 Coordinator to begin the process for identification and evaluation of the student's individual education needs.

If the District has reason to believe that a student may have a disability and may be in need of special education and/or related services in order to participate in the school's programs, the district must first follow its procedures for a comprehensive evaluation for IDEA, including the consideration of the Three-Tier Intervention Process. If the student is found ineligible for IDEA, then the student shall be considered for eligibility under 504.

One exception to this rule is that the student may be considered for 504 eligibility without going through the Three-Tier Intervention Process if chronic health problems exist, or if the school and parents agree that the student has a disability that would likely qualify the student for IDEA services and interventions would have little or no impact. Otherwise, the school must follow the Three-Tier Process as mandated by the Mississippi State Board of Education.

The above process also applies to a student who transfers to the District with a current §504 eligibility from either out-of-state or from another district within the State. The District has a right to conduct its own evaluation and will take steps in a timely manner to determine if the

student is a student with a disability who requires the provision of reasonable accommodations that cannot be accomplished without a § 504 Plan. A meeting will be held with the parents and District personnel to determine what accommodations are needed during the pendency of the evaluation process.

504 Coordinator - Heidi Brock (662) 534-1960

Refer to School Board Policy IDHDB.

CHILD NUTRITION

Union County Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and are “Offer Versus Serve” cafeterias. We strive to provide good, healthy choices to our students. We have trained and experienced staff to prepare meals that taste good, and meet USDA guidelines. Our breakfast and lunch program is supported by payment, donated food from the USCA, and government financial assistance according to participation. The health of each student is very important to our school district.

<u>Meal Pricing:</u>	Breakfast:	\$2.00 Paid	\$0.30 Reduced
	Lunch:	\$3.00 Paid	\$0.40 Reduced
Students who qualify for free meals receive one Breakfast and one Lunch per day at no charge.			
	Adults:	\$2.50 Breakfast	\$4.00 Lunch
Extra food may be purchased after receiving a full meal.			

1. UCSD operates under “Offer vs Serve” for grade PreK-12 this allows students to choose what they want to eat. At lunch, they must take 3 of the 5 components offered, this must include a fruit or vegetable. They may choose all 5 if they want. At breakfast, 3 of the 4 components offered must be chosen to complete a reimbursable meal. This also includes a serving of fruit or vegetable.
2. Students who bring lunch from home can only purchase milk, milk products and bottled water.
3. No food or drinks are to be sold on the school campus one hour prior to and during breakfast and lunch schedules at the school.
4. No food from outside vendors may be brought into the cafeteria for students. No outside logos or branding will be allowed.
5. Student meal charges are discouraged. Students may only charge a reimbursable meal. Students will not be allowed to charge second meals or purchase extra sales until their account is in good standing. Adults are not allowed to charge.
6. Please consider prepaying meals. Cash or check are also accepted at the point of sale. Pre-payments may be made online using “My School Bucks.” Go to the district website union.k12.ms.us. Click on the tab “Child Nutrition,” click on “My School Bucks” and get connected with the online payment portal.
7. Any request for refunds shall be submitted in writing to the Child Nutrition Director. Money not utilized during the school year will be carried forward to the next school year.

8. If your student requires substitutions due to allergies, their doctor must fill out the school district medical form giving recommended substitutions. If it is a milk allergy, they may be offered fruit juice or water. If you have questions or concerns about food allergies, please call your school nurse, or the Child Nutrition Department at 662-534-1960.
9. If you believe you may qualify for Free or Reduced benefits, please submit a Free and Reduce Price School Meals application for your household, and turn the form in as quickly as possible. These can be completed online or on paper. Not only could your child eat free of charge, it can also assist the school district with additional funding for educational materials for our students.
 - a. A new form has to be completed each school year, starting in July.
 - b. Students entering the Union County School District from another district will be considered “paid” until a Free/Reduced Lunch Application is submitted and approved in the Union County School District.

Child Nutrition Charge Policy

In accordance with the recommendation of the charging of meals by the Mississippi State Department of Education, the Union County School District shall comply as follows:

1. Adults are not allowed to charge meals.
2. Students may only charge meals as follows:
 - a. Charging a reimbursable meal will result in a negative balance on the student's account until funds have been added to the account.
 - b. Students with a zero or negative balance will not be allowed to purchase a second meal or any a la carte items until the account is in good standing.
 - c. When a student brings money, that will be applied to the purchase of the reimbursable meal; any remaining money will then be applied to negative balances on the student’s account.
 - d. No student will be denied a meal by the cafeteria. If a parent/guardian does not wish to allow their student to charge a reimbursable meal to their account, they must submit a written request to the Child Nutrition Department denying the right to charge.
3. Negative account balances will be carried out as follows:
 - a. Weekly charge notes will be sent home with students who have a negative account balance greater than -\$15.00.
 - b. Calls, letters or emails will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) at least monthly whose child has a negative account balance from the Child Nutrition Department.
4. Failure to bring the account into good standing within thirty (30) days will result in:
 - a. Further investigation by the school counselors and/or principals
 - b. Notification to the appropriate state agencies

- c. At the end of the school year, negative balances will be added to individual student fees for payment.

All food for classroom parties or projects must be serve-safe/pre-packaged items.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that school correct records, which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information, you may call 1- 800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call 1-800-437-0833. Or you may contact us at the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education

PARENTAL OPT-OUT FOR STUDENT DIRECTORY

The Union County School District is considering publishing a student directory for each school within the district. The directory will contain pictures similar to that found in a yearbook for each school as well as other information about each student in the directory.

The information published will not be any personal identification that could lead to harm coming to your child/children.

As a parent you have the right to opt-out of having your child/children placed in the directory. Written confirmation is required otherwise your child/children would be included in the directory. Opt-out requests should be turned in to the school office.

HOMELESS INFORMATION

Reference board policy JQN at union.k12.ms.us

STUDENT HEALTH NEEDS

Parents/Guardians should notify the School Nurse of any student with a health need prior to that student starting school or as a health issue develops. Health information may be sensitively shared with faculty and staff members when necessary to provide for safe daily care and to guide emergency procedures. Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws. Also, it is very important to make sure the proper contact numbers are on file with the school nurse and the office. If you change jobs, cell phone numbers, etc, PLEASE make sure to send these new numbers to the school. A student who threatens to self harm or harm to others must provide a risk assessment before returning.

****Asthma, allergy, seizure, and diabetic action and emergency plans are REQUIRED to be on file with the school nurse in order to guide procedures for best student care.**

ILLNESS

The Union County School District faculty and staff are trying very hard to keep germs isolated and to a minimum. In order to make this possible, we are asking you to pay close attention to the complaints your child may express.

1. If your child complains of a sore throat and/or headache, please check to see if he/she has a fever before sending them to school.
2. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FEVER, PLEASE KEEP THEM AT HOME.**
3. If your child has been vomiting/diarrhea during the night or is vomiting before school, please keep them at home.
4. If a student has a fever upon presentation to the school nurse's office, or if the student has an episode of vomiting of unknown origin, it is **REQUIRED** that the child go home from school.

Students must be fever-free WITHOUT medication (tylenol, ibuprofen), and no episode of vomiting/diarrhea, for 24 hours BEFORE returning to school.

****Parents will have to provide a parent or doctor's note for check out to be excused.**

MEDICATION

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS

Due to changes in the way Mississippi Public Schools handle over the counter medications, the Union County School District has made changes to their policy. These changes align with the recommendations from Mississippi Department of Education Office of Healthy Schools and the Mississippi Board of Nursing. School nurses will **NOT** be able to give over the counter medications(including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or Benadryl) **WITHOUT** a healthcare provider order.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

- Administration of prescription medication is foremost the responsibility of the parent/guardian. All medications that can be given outside of school hours without serious effects **MUST** be given before or after school.
- The following procedure shall be followed for a student who is required by a physician to take prescription medication during the school day:
 1. The district's "School Medication Authorization Form" shall be completed, signed and submitted to the school nurse.
 2. Medication shall be delivered to the school nurse by the parent/guardian of the child in the most current prescription bottle labeled by a pharmacist. Students should not transport medication on a school bus.

HEAD LICE

Head Lice are a common problem with school age children. Although they do not cause disease, they can be considered a nuisance. Children will be identified by screenings and by individual cases. Siblings of students or students that live in the same household of a student that is found to have head lice and/or nits (eggs) will be screened. Screenings will be done by teachers, school nurses, or appointed school personnel. If your child is found to have head lice, you will be notified to pick your child up from school. An information packet regarding treatment of hair and household items will be sent home with your child. Your child may return to school when he/she is free of lice, viable nits and is cleared for class by a school nurse or administrator.

Elementary

K- 6

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Morning Arrival

Please do not drop your child off before 7:20 a.m. School begins at 7:45 a.m. Students are tardy after 7:48 a.m. Parents, please remember that children/parents will be held accountable for tardies/absences. Three tardies equal one absence. Five unexcused absences results in notification of truancy officer.

It is extremely important that children arrive on time by 7:45 a.m. If a child arrives after 7:48 a.m. parent or guardian must accompany the student to the office. When absent, a student must present a note from the parent or doctor for the student to be excused. It is very important that your child be on time each morning and that absences are kept at a minimum to ensure successful achievement in school.

Students who are habitually tardy will be subject to the consequences outlined on the following discipline ladder:

- 1st Tardy Teacher records tardy
- 2nd Tardy Teacher records tardy; student warned, & K-6 parent notified
- 3rd Tardy Teacher records tardy; student warned, & K-6 parent notified
- 4th Tardy Teacher records tardy, loss of privileges, and will continue to do so for every tardy thereafter per semester

Dismissal

Bus and car riders dismiss between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. You may reference the pick up area at your designated school. Please do not pick up your child before 2:45 p.m. unless necessary. You will need to go to the office if you are picking up your child early.

Transportation Arrangements

If your child is going to ride a different bus, be picked up at a different time/place, or be picked up by a different person, please send a note to the teacher. If you call the school to change the arrangements, please do this before 2:30 p.m. in order to give the secretary time to notify the teacher. We understand that emergency situations arise but keeping your child's way home consistent is helpful to everyone and will ensure that your child makes it home safely.

Contact Information

It is very important that every child has an up-to -date address and telephone number at the school's office in case of an emergency. Notify the school immediately if you have a change of address or telephone number during the school year.

GRADING SYSTEM

K-2 Grading System for Math and English Language Arts:

90– 100	A
80– 89	B
73– 79	C
68– 72	D
0 – 67	F

K-2 Grading System for Reading:

Kindergarten

Students in grade K must meet the following requirements in order to be promoted to the next grade level:

- Must obtain a passing score on district comprehensive assessment
- Must have a second semester average of 80

First Grade

Students in 1st grade must meet the following requirements in order to be promoted to the next grade level:

- Must read on grade level according to a measure used by the UCSD
- Must have a 75 final average in Reading

Second Grade

Students in 2nd grade must meet the following requirements in order to be promoted to the next grade level:

- Must read on grade level according to a measure used by the UCSD
- Must have a 75 final average in Reading

Students in K-2 must make 68 or higher in ELA & Math to be promoted as well as meeting the Reading requirement listed above.

Grading System for grades 3-6 for all subjects:

90– 100	A
80– 89	B
73– 79	C
68– 72	D
0 – 67	F

Honor Roll is for grades 3-12.

Superintendent List - a grade of 95 or better in all subjects each 9 weeks.

Special Honor Roll – a grade of 90 or better in all subjects each 9 weeks.

Regular Honor Roll – a grade of 80 or better in all subjects each 9 weeks.

Third Grade

According to SB 2572, each 3rd grade student must pass a summative assessment in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In addition to passing the summative assessment, students must pass reading and math with a 68 or higher.

The summative assessment will be given in April. If a student does not perform on grade level, the student will be provided with two additional opportunities to retest.

Fourth – Sixth Grade

Students must pass all five major subjects including reading, math, language arts, science, and social studies.

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Union County School District students may qualify for participation in the gifted program, LINK (Lively Innovated Network for Kids). Students are referred and then tested for this program

according to Mississippi Department of Education guidelines. Policies and procedures can be found online at www.union.k12.ms.us in the Board Policy section IDDEAA Intellectually Gifted.

For additional information on this program contact the gifted program director at (662) 534-1957.

FEE POLICY

The school board of any school district shall be authorized to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following: Supplemental instructional materials and supplies.

All fees authorized to be charged under this section, except those fees authorized under subsection (1)(c) of this section, shall be charged only upon the condition that the school board of each school district shall adopt a financial hardship waiver policy that shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public. The financial hardship waiver policy must be distributed in writing to pupils at the time of enrollment. Any family who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program, as created by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USCS Section 1751 et seq.), shall receive a financial hardship waiver.

The board shall insure that a pupil eligible to have any such fees waived as a result of an inability to pay for those fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means. In no case shall any school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type of stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.

The confidentiality of the financial hardship waiver policy adopted by the school board shall apply to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized under subsection (1) of this section.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this section result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational enhancement.

Refer to Policy Code J

1:1 Technology Device Program for Grades K-6

The Union County School District is supplying students in grades K-6 with a device. This device is property of the Union County School District. The supplied instructional device's function will provide each student access to required educational materials needed for each student to be successful. The device allows student access to Canvas, Google Apps for Education, and educational web-based tools as well as many other useful sites. The supplied device is an educational tool not intended for gaming, social networking, or high end computing.

Refer to School Board Policy IJ.

STUDENT FEES

Any fees collected by the Union County School District shall be for actual costs. No profit will be made from fees. The following is a list of fees for the current school year:

Kindergarten	\$15.00
First Grade	\$15.00
Second Grade	\$15.00
Third Grade	\$15.00
Fourth Grade	\$15.00
Fifth Grade	\$15.00
Fifth Grade Science	\$ 5.00
Sixth Grade	\$15.00
Sixth Grade Science	\$ 5.00
Gifted Fee	\$10.00
Elementary Music	\$ 5.00
Elementary Art	\$ 5.00
Technology Fee	\$15.00 (grades K-6 th)

Classroom Party Policy

School personnel may plan special occasion parties for the Pre- K through 6th grade classes (such as seasonal parties) with a limit of two (2) parties per semester with approval from the building administrator. **Food for the party must be serve-safe/pre-packaged items with the calorie intake not to exceed 200 calories per student per party.**

All parties must have administrative approval.

High School

7-12

BOOK BAGS

Book bags and backpacks are permitted for school use. No rolling backpacks are allowed unless proven medically necessary by a physician.

FEE POLICY

The school board of any school district shall be authorized to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following: Supplemental instructional materials and supplies.

All fees authorized to be charged under this section, except those fees authorized under subsection (1)(c) of this section, shall be charged only upon the condition that the school board of each school district shall adopt a financial hardship waiver policy that shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public. The financial hardship waiver policy must be distributed in writing to pupils at the time of enrollment. Any family who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program, as created by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USCS Section 1751 et seq.), shall receive a financial hardship waiver.

The board shall insure that a pupil eligible to have any such fees waived as a result of an inability to pay for those fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means. In no case shall any school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type of stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.

The confidentiality of the financial hardship waiver policy adopted by the school board shall apply to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized under subsection (1) of this section.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this section result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational enhancement.

Refer to Policy Code JS

AUTOMOBILES

Driving and parking on school grounds is a courtesy offered to students and others by our school district. The parking facilities of the school district are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school or other school activities, which occur before or after the regular school day. Violators may be charged with trespassing. Students are responsible for locking their vehicles upon arrival, as the school district shall assume no responsibility for loss. Students who operate an automobile on campus are subject to the following:

1. A student who drives to school will have a valid license to drive and will provide proof insurance to school administration as well as a permit form in the back of the handbook signed by parent/guardian.

2. Students are not allowed access to vehicles at any time during the school day without administrative approval.
3. Once a student drives onto campus, the student cannot leave without appropriately checking out in the office.
4. All Union County students will obtain a parking permit from their local principal. No student will be allowed to park on campus without a school-issued permit.
5. Driving and parking privileges will be suspended for one semester if a student receives three transportation related warnings or violations within the semester. If the first or second violation is of a severe nature, school administration may revoke a student's driving privileges at that time.
6. All automobiles on campus are subject to a search.

CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENTS

Career and technical students may drive to the career and technical center if they receive proper authorization from the local school office. Students may not ride with other students to the career and technical center as this is in violation of board policy.

The School Board approves the Student Handbook with changes prior to printing and distribution to guardians, parents and students.

1:1 iPad Program for Grades 7-12

The Union County School District is supplying students in grades 7-12 with an iPad. This device is property of the Union County School District. The supplied instructional device's function will provide each student access to required educational materials needed for each student to be successful. The iPad will allow student access to Canvas, Google Apps for Education, and educational web-based tools as well as many other useful sites. The supplied device is an educational tool not intended for gaming, social networking, or high end computing.

Refer to School Board Policy IJ.

STUDENT FEES

Any fees collected by the Union County School District shall be for actual costs. No profit will be made from fees. The following is a list of fees for the current school year:

Science	\$15.00
ACT	\$46.00
Payment is only required for students taking the District ACT Assessment and will be collected by the school on the day of testing.	
Cyber Foundations I	\$10.00
Cyber Foundations II	\$10.00
English I	\$10.00
English II	\$10.00
Music 7-12	\$15.00
Computer Science	\$10.00
Algebra I	\$15.00
Art Fee (7-12)	\$15.00
Theater (Play)	\$60.00

7th-8th ELA	\$15.00
Band	\$75.00
	\$45.00
Second Child in Family	
5th-8th Grade Band	\$50.00
Color Guard	\$300.00
Lost Charger for IPAD	\$40.00
Technology Fee	\$15.00

7-12 GRADING SYSTEM for all subjects:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 – 59	F

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Seventh and Eighth Grade: Students must pass five major subjects including math, english/language arts, science, social studies and Cyber Foundations in both 7th and 8th grades.

Ninth Grade: A student promoted from the eighth grade or any student with less than six credits.

Tenth Grade: A student with at least six credits but with less than twelve credits.

Eleventh Grade: A student with at least twelve credits but with less than eighteen credits.

Twelfth Grade: A student with at least eighteen credits but less than the number of credits required for graduation.

Students who earn enough units at the end of the 1st semester to be classified as a different grade level will receive that classification at the beginning of the 2nd semester.

TEACHER/PARENT CONFERENCES

To schedule a conference with your student's teacher or building administrator, please contact the school or email the staff member directly. Conferences will be held during the teacher's planning period or after school by appointment.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/DROPPING CLASSES

Students are carefully counseled on their schedule for each school year. This is done to prevent conflicts in the needs of each student; therefore, students will not be allowed to change their schedules except with approval of school leadership. Students have a maximum of four days to request a schedule change. No classes will be changed after the first four days of each semester. Students will not be allowed to drop a class just because they are failing. Students are responsible for notifying teachers of any schedule change(s). Students taking dual enrollment may reference community college guidelines.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions will take place at the end of the 1st and 2nd semesters for students in grades 9-12. Students who have unexcused absences and an average of 95 and above may be exempt. A student is exempt from the semester exam if he/she has a semester average of 90 or higher with excused absence or an 85 with perfect attendance (no absences) per each class. Students who accumulate 5 or more unexcused absences will not have the opportunity to be exempt for that class. Students in 7th & 8th grade are not eligible for exemptions with the exception of state tested subjects.

EARLY RELEASE/LATE ARRIVAL

Seniors may receive early release/late arrival if they meet **one** of the following requirements:

- Meet MS IHL and Community College readiness benchmarks (ACT subscores 17 English and 19 Math)
- Earn a gold or platinum credential on the ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn a silver credential on the ACT WorkKeys **and** complete an industry certification or career pathway recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education

OR

Seniors must meet **ALL** of the following:

- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation
- On track to meet diploma requirements
- Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math **or** and/or College Literacy

Seniors must attend two of the four scheduled academic blocks or attend one academic block and be enrolled in a dual enrollment course per semester. Athletics/Band/Theater are not considered academic blocks.

Ending with the Graduating Class of 2027

Valedictorian and Salutatorian: To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must take all courses required for graduation, which are to include at least three of the following courses by the end of the fall semester during their senior year:

Chemistry, Algebra III, Foreign Language, Physics,

Dual Enrollment: English Comp I & II, College Algebra or higher

In case of a tie, the honors of valedictorian and salutatorian shall be shared. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be decided at the end of the 1st semester of the students' senior year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Freshmen:

In accordance with policy set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education all entering freshmen during the 2018-2019 school year must choose one of the three endorsement options listed below. These options are Career and Technical Endorsement, Academic Endorsement, or Distinguished Academic Endorsement. If you would like more information on any of these options, please contact your child's School Counselor.

- Student must identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade.
Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission

****Career and Technical Endorsement****

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	1 World History 1 US History 1/2 US Government 1/2 Economics 1/2 MS Studies
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year or in the student completion of a four-year sequence
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	Must complete a four-credit sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 1/2	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements:

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

****Academic Endorsement****

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II + 2 additional English classes above English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I + 2 additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I + 2 additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	1 World History 1 US History 1/2 US Government 1/2 Economics 1/2 MS Studies
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year or in the student completion of a four-year sequence
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 1/2	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements:

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

****Distinguished Academic Endorsement****

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II + 2 additional English classes above English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I + 2 additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	Biology I + 2 additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	1 World History 1 US History 1/2 US Government 1/2 Economics 1/2 MS Studies
Physical Education	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year or in the student completion of a four-year sequence
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements:

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

ENGLISH, CCR & Financial Literacy

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all 11th grade students will be required to take an 11th grade English course taught by school faculty on the school campus. Placement in the appropriate 11th grade English course will be determined by the school leadership team. Qualified students in 11th and 12th grade will still be allowed to take dual credit English courses in addition to this requirement.

Beginning with 11th grade students in the 2024-2025 school year, College & Career Readiness (CCR) will be a required course for graduation. No alternative courses will be allowed to replace the CCR requirement, unless it is determined that special extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit a student from taking the CCR course. No concessions will be made due to student personal preferences, only academic reasons. Such a determination would be made by a district team consisting of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, the principal from all four schools, and a superintendent appointee.

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, all 12th grade students will be required to take a Senior Financial Literacy course.

CURRICULUM OF DISTINCTION

Beginning with 2024-2025 freshmen and continuing thereafter, students must take courses found in the UCSD Curriculum of Distinction in order to be eligible for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Special Honor Graduate. **District-required courses are in bold.**

English: 4 Units -	English 1, English 2, English 3 English 4 <u>or</u> Essentials of College Literacy <u>or</u> Dual Credit English Comp
Math: 4 Units -	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 3 Dual Credit College Algebra can be taken in addition to these four.
Science: 4 Units -	Biology 1, A&P <u>or</u> Physical Science (students can take both), Chemistry <u>or</u> Physics (students can take both) One additional science higher than Biology 1.
Soc. St.: 4 Units -	MS Studies (or Out of State Equivalent) (½ Unit), Geography (½ Unit), World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics
Arts 1 Unit:	Any one Carnegie unit of visual or performing arts course
Advanced Electives 2 Units:	Any Foreign Language, Dual Credit, AP Course, Completion of any two-year CTE course (counts as 1 unit)
Tech/Computer Science 1 Unit:	CyberFoundations <u>or</u> Computer Science <u>or</u> Coding/Programming

Physical Education ½ Unit

Health ½ Unit

College & Career Readiness 1 Unit

Senior Seminar - Financial Literacy (Seniors Only) ½ Unit

Additional Electives to Meet Graduation Endorsement (Number of Units Will Vary)

*The CCR course will be required for all students. No alternative courses will be allowed to replace the CCR requirement, unless it is determined that special extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit a student from taking the CCR course. No concessions will be made due to student personal preferences, only academic reasons. Such a determination would be made by a district team consisting of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, the principal from all four schools, and a superintendent appointee.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Honor roll: *The* honor roll is for students in grades three through twelve. The following designates the types of honor rolls:

Superintendent's List - a grade of 95 or better in all subjects at the end of the 9 weeks

Special honor roll –a grade of 90 or better in all subjects at the end of the 9 weeks

Regular honor roll – a grade of 80 or above in all subjects at the end of the 9 weeks

Valedictorian and Salutatorian: Beginning with 2024-2025 Freshmen and continuing thereafter, Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be calculated in the following manner. First, in order to be eligible, students must meet the course requirements in the UCSD Curriculum of Distinction. Only the following courses will be used in the calculation.

English 1

English 2

English 3

English 4 or Essentials of College Literacy or DC English Comp

Algebra 1

Algebra 2

Geometry

Algebra 3

MS Studies (½) or Out of State Equivalent

Geography (½)

World History

U.S. History

Government (½)

Economics (½)

Biology 1

A&P or Physical Science (students can take both)

Chemistry or Physics (students can take both)

Health (½)

CCR

Senior Seminar - Financial Literacy (½)

Dual Credit English Comp 1

Dual Credit English Comp 2

Dual Credit College Algebra

Half-credit courses will count once in the calculation. Full credit courses will count twice in the calculation. Final grades from each course will be used, except for grades in the spring semester of 12th grade. Grades for that semester will be determined at the mid-point of the 4th nine-week grading period. A team consisting of the school counselor, a school administrator, and a district administrator will calculate the grade average by hand and by computer to ensure accuracy. The grade average will be measured to the hundredths place. The student with the highest grade average will be Valedictorian, and the second highest will be Salutatorian. In case of a tie, the honor will be shared. These honors will be announced no later than the last day of April.

Students are not required to take Dual Credit English Comp 1 & 2 or Dual Credit College Algebra to be eligible for Valedictorian/Salutatorian. However, those students that do take these courses will have their scores calculated with the district added weight. No other dual credit courses will be used in the Valedictorian/Salutatorian calculation.

Students must attend the school from which the diploma is awarded for three of the four years of high school to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Also, the student must attend the school from which the diploma is awarded their entire senior year.

Students who are graduating early will not be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors. A student who graduates before the class he/she entered ninth grade with shall be considered an early graduate.

Special Honor Graduates: A student must, at minimum, take the courses found in the UCSD Curriculum of Distinction in order to be eligible for special honor graduate. A student must have an overall GPA of 94.5 or above to be considered a special honor graduate.

Honor Graduates: Any student who has an overall GPA of 89.5 will be honored during graduation as an Honor Graduate.

Special Honor and Honor Graduates will be determined at the mid point of the 4th 9 weeks.

Allowable Graduation Cords/Stoles:

Purple - Distinguished Academic Endorsement

White - College & Career Readiness

Gold - Special Honor Graduate

Silver - Regular Honor Graduate

Red - Blood Donor

IMPACTO Program - Silver Stole

Gold - National Honor Society

BETA Stole

Military

Black and White - Cord of Literary Distinction

Blue and Gold - Anchor

Black and Gold—HOBY

Green - Theatre

Career & Technical Cords

Red and Blue- Girl's State

Blue and Gold - FBLA

Hall of Fame

Each year approximately 8% of the senior class at each Union County school will be chosen to be placed in the school's Hall of Fame. This is considered a very prestigious honor; therefore, qualifications and the process to be selected are stringent.

- Phase 1

To be eligible to apply for the Hall of Fame a student must have a cumulative 3.5 GPA at the time of application and have made a 20 or above on the ACT. All students who qualify will be notified after the 1st semester of their senior year. Students who qualify will be given a Hall of Fame application with an assigned essay.

- Phase 2

A Hall of Fame committee of 8 to 10 members will be formed of the staff at each school. This committee will tally points awarded on the application for each student, review and score essays, and fill out citizenship tallies on each student.

- Phase 3

The Hall of Fame committee will meet, and the top 8% of the senior class will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of their school.

Senior Beta Club Regulations

1. Induction

- a. For induction, a student must maintain an overall 90 average with no final grade below an 85 with at least 5 Carnegie units earned.
- b. An induction ceremony will be held at each school each year

2. Member Participation Guidelines

- a. Each new member pays a fee of \$32.00 to cover National and Local Fees.

- b. All returning Beta Members pay a \$5.00 local fee to cover items purchased for local members (ex: Beta Stoles)
 - c. All new members must participate in an induction ceremony unless excused by the sponsor and principal due to an unavoidable conflict.
 - d. Each member must attend Beta meetings and participate in Beta projects.
 - e. Each member must maintain appropriate attendance standards.
 - f. Each member must maintain a good moral standing.
 - g. Each member must maintain an overall 90 average with no grade below an 85 at each 9 week grading period (AP/Dual Enrollment courses will receive policy approved weighted grading).
3. Members failing to maintain academic standards
- a. A member failing to maintain academic standards will be placed on probation until the next 9 week grading period
 - b. During the probationary period the member cannot participate in recreational events or hold officer positions.
 - c. If academic standards are met in the following grading period, the student is returned to GOOD standing.
4. Dismissal from Senior Beta
- a. Any member who fails to meet academic standards for two consecutive grading periods will be dismissed from the Beta Club.
 - b. Any member accumulating two unexcused absences in a semester will be dismissed. The member will be placed on probation after one unexcused absence for the semester.
 - c. If a member fails **any** course in **any** grading period, he or she will be dismissed from the Beta Club.

A member can be dismissed for failure to maintain appropriate behavior and moral turpitude (criminal behavior, cheating, fighting, etc., or consistent non-compliance with Union County Student Handbook requirements).

Failure to participate in service projects and Senior Beta meetings can lead to dismissal if deemed excessive by the sponsor.

Service Projects

Each member must complete 10 hours of voluntary community and/or school service per semester.

Services may include school related activities such as assisting personnel, beautification projects, organizing events, or any other event pre-approved by the sponsor. Service projects may include but are not limited to church, personal ministry, or community need projects. Outside projects should be pre-approved by the sponsor.

Each member will be responsible for turning in a record of the hours to the sponsor signed by an authority figure witnessing the service by the beginning of Christmas Break for the first semester and the end of the school year for the second semester.

5. Officers/Counsel
- a. To be an officer of the Beta Club, a member should be in **GOOD** standing for the previous full academic year.

- b. Officers will be expected to lead meetings/programs and fulfill all obligations required of an officer.
 - c. An officer may be required to write, review, or revise by-laws and vote on issues pertaining to the school's Beta Club.
- 6. Beta Convention
 - a. A yearly Beta Convention will be announced when the date is made available.
 - b. Attendance at the Convention is recommended but the sponsor and principal make the decision on attendance.

Mississippi Scholar Graduate

In order to be considered a Mississippi Scholar graduate, the student must meet the following criteria:

English Language Arts

4 credits must consist of:

- English I (1)
- English II (1)
- Two additional English credits above English II and approved for admission to IHL

Mathematics

4 credits must consist of:

- Algebra I (1)
- Geometry (1)
- Algebra II (1)
- And one Carnegie Units of comparable rigor and content may come from Mathematics courses approved for Mississippi Scholars Credit (www.mississippischolars.ms)

Science

4 credits must consist of:

- Biology I (1)
- Chemistry (1)
- Any two Carnegie Units of comparable rigor and content may come from Mathematics courses approved for Mississippi Scholars Credit (www.mississippischolars.ms)

Social Studies

4 credits must consist of:

- World Geography (1/2)
- Mississippi Studies (1/2)
- World History Studies (1)
- U.S. History (1)
- U.S. Government (1/2)
- Economics (1/2)

Arts

1 credit of:

- One Carnegie Unit of visual and performing arts meeting the requirements for high school graduation or
- 2 units for completion of the 2 course sequence Computer Graphics Technology I & II

Advanced Electives

2 credits must consist of:

- Two Foreign Languages or a 5th Math or 5th Science of higher rigor

- Any 2 dual credit courses

Additional Requirements

- 80 Hours of Community Service or Volunteer Service during 4 years of high school for seniors
- 19 ACT Composite Score (Overall Score)
- 2.5 cumulative high school GPA on a 4.0 scale
- For students with more than 4 in-school suspensions - 3 letters of recommendation (one from each of the following –principal, guidance counselor, and business/community leader)
- 95% School Attendance during 4 years of high school
- No out-of-school suspension
- Mississippi Scholars must also complete any remaining State-mandated high school graduation requirements.
- Advanced Placement courses may be substituted in Mississippi Scholars subject areas.
- Dual credit and online courses are acceptable.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Eligible students may participate in the dual enrollment program established by this school district in compliance with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 37-15-38.

- (a) A dual enrolled student is a student who is enrolled in an Institute of Higher Learning or Junior College while enrolled in high school.
- (b) A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled in an Institute of Higher Learning or Junior College while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high school and college credit for post secondary coursework.

Eligibility

Students wishing to participate in the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Program must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Junior or Senior status with a 3.0 QPA in all courses
2. Appropriate ACT/SAT (or equivalent scores for placement)
 - A. **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for community college courses offered under a dual enrollment program may be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Payment for tuition and any other costs shall be made directly to the credit-granting institution.
 - B. **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the student.
 - C. **School district average daily attendance credit.** When dually enrolled, the student shall be counted, for adequate education program funding purposes, in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which the student attends high school.
 - D. **Ineligible courses for dual credit programs.** Any course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is not eligible for dual credit.
 - E. **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible student who desires to earn college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student shall be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit. The school district will fully pay for a maximum of 15 hours at the reduced rate.

All dual enrollment courses will be included in the student's GPA/QPA. All dual enrollment courses will be weighted at 1.10. This grade will be calculated in GPA only. Grades given by the institution will remain on transcript and on report card. Dual enrollment grades will be counted in the honor roll calculation. Dual enrollment grades will not exceed a score of 100 in the student information system.

If a student fails to make a C or better on a dual enrollment course he or she will not be recommended to enroll in another dual enrollment course.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Credit recovery is defined as a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion.

Students in grades 9-11 will be offered credit recovery if the student earned a final average of 50 or above in a Carnegie unit. Students in 12th grade will be offered credit recovery if the student needs the credit for graduation regardless of final average. To qualify for credit recovery, the student must take credit recovery in the semester immediately following failure of the course or the next time the course is offered if it is not offered in the subsequent semester. To complete credit recovery the student must demonstrate mastery of objectives the students did not master in the original course at 60% proficiency. If the objectives are mastered the student will receive a final grade that is the minimal passing grade for the original course unless the credit recovery is for a course with a state assessment. If the course has an end of course state assessment, then the student may master any and all objectives and will receive a final grade requisite of objectives mastered. These objectives will be identified by the teacher of the original course. Times to complete credit recovery will be assigned to the student by administration dependent on each individual student's schedule. Credit recovery procedures and policy can be altered or modified at the discretion of the school principal if it is determined by the principal credit recovery is appropriate for a student.

GRADUATION ALTERNATIVES

Certificate: Special education students who have satisfactorily completed an IEP will be awarded a high school certificate, which states, "This student has successfully completed an Individualized Education Program." The student will participate in graduation without special mention.

GRADUATION PARTICIPATION

A graduating senior without proper attire will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. The proper attire for a male student is an oxford-type shirt with a tie. Dress slacks or trousers are appropriate – blue jeans are not. A dress or skirt that meets the Union County dress code is appropriate for females. Dress shoes are appropriate for all students.

Students who have completed the necessary requirements at the close of the 1st semester may participate in spring graduation provided they remain in good standing with the Union County School District and adhere to graduation requirements.

ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletic activities shall be under the supervision of the principal or his designee. The program shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

Any student participating in any school sponsored athletic program, including cheerleading will have a physical examination prior to participation in any practice or inter-scholastic competition. The cost of such physical examination shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian and shall be performed by qualified medical personnel who shall certify in writing that the student is medically fit to participate in the athletic programs offered by the school.

All students must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation. If satisfactory progress is not being met, the Administration has the right to revoke privileges from students such as athletics, clubs, and early checkout.

ACADEMIC RULE

Junior High (7th and 8th Graders)

To be eligible **only** for middle/junior high activities, a student must have passed any four courses (that meet the equivalent of 250 minutes per week and meet MDE requirements) with a 2.0 average for the preceding semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

To be eligible for high school activities, the middle/junior high school student must have passed the four core courses (English, math, science and social studies) with a 2.0 average for the preceding semester (computed numerically or by GPA) . The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

Summer school or extended school year grades will replace the grade for a failed course in the spring semester GPA.

CHILDREN'S FIRST ACT 2009 – SECTION 2

A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than Grade 6 in a school district in this state must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district after a semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average is below a 2.0 or a 4.0 scale. The suspension from participation in extracurricular or athletic activities may not be removed until the student's cumulative grade point average in a succeeding semester is 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. A student with a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale at the semester of an academic school year shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular or athletic activities in the succeeding academic school year until the student's cumulative grade point average is 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Senior High (9th - 12th Graders)

To be eligible for athletics all classes taken during the year will be averaged as a whole, and the overall average must be 2.0 or higher to maintain eligibility. Example: If a student takes six classes and fails one, all six classes must be averaged together to find the overall average. The five units will be averaged as a whole, and the overall average must be 70 or higher in order to maintain eligibility. This will be done on a yearly basis.

A student athlete may become eligible only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the last semester of the previous year, by passing 5 units with a 70 average the first semester of the following year. This will be done in order to keep the student on track for graduation.

STUDENT DRUG TESTING POLICY

(For students participating in any extra curricular activities including Mississippi High School Activity Association MHSAA)

I. POLICY

The Union County School District (UCSD) recognizes that drug use by students participating in any extracurricular activity, including activities governed by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), present special concerns regarding the dangerous combination of drugs and school activities. While the misuse or abuse of illegal drugs, prescription, and non-prescription drugs is unsafe for any student, the physical demands placed upon students involved in athletics, band, and cheerleading in the practice and competition make such misuse or abuse dangerous. The student's use of drugs increases the risk of injuries and impairs judgment, coordination, and reaction, leading to injuries on the field, not only the student using drugs, also other teammates, or opponents. Conditioning can be continuous, so the concern for safety does not diminish during the off-season of a sport.

While the incidence of drug use by Union County School District School students, and especially students involved in competition and/or practice, is not great, the danger does exist to individual students and is magnified by physical exertion. Additionally, UCSD finds that, since physical conditioning, practice, and competition can often be a daily activity, the indication of drug use in the recent past means that (1) the student most probably exercised with the drug (or alcohol) in the student's system and (2) the student may exercise under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the future unless there is reasonable intervention provided in this policy.

In addition to focusing on the serious health risks posed by student's drug use, UCSD has elected to test students involved in any extracurricular activity or activities governed by MHSAA. These students generally are prominent members of the student body who are viewed with admiration and respect. This status places these students in a leadership role that gives them the power to influence another students' behavior. Accordingly, drug and alcohol use by students involved in extracurricular activities, including MHSAA activities, can have a negative effect on the general health and welfare of all students.

In response to health risks and other risks posed by these students' drug use, UCSD has implemented a student drug testing policy. This policy is designed to provide early detection of drug use and to eradicate or to significantly reduce the use and influence of prohibited drugs, alcohol and other chemicals by students participating in any extracurricular activity including MHSAA governed programs. In pursuit of these purposes, UCSD declares that the use of prohibited drugs and alcohol, or intoxication and physical influence thereof, by students participating in MHSAA governed activities is inherently unsafe. Such use, intoxication, or influence should be detected and prevented and such students should be counseled, educated, and monitored.

II. AUTHORITY

This policy was adopted and is implemented by the Union County School Board.

III. APPLICABILITY

All students in the Union County School District enrolled in grades 7th through 12th who participate in any Union County School program governed by MHSAA or any extracurricular activity shall be subject to drug testing to the extent and manner provided for in this policy.

IV. DEFINITIONS

"Anabolic steroids" mean a class of synthetic compounds which resemble the natural male hormone testosterone or which promote muscle tissue growth at a rate above that which can be obtained through training and nutrition, leading to increased muscle mass, power and strength. **"Drug and/or alcohol test"** means a chemical test administered for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a drug or alcohol in a person's bodily fluids.

"Illegal drug" means a prohibited drug as set forth below or a drug listed as illegal under Mississippi law or a drug which is illegal to use under Mississippi law without a prescription.

"Initial test" means an initial drug test to determine the presence or absence of drugs or related metabolites or of alcohol and its metabolites in specimens.

"Medical Review Officer" or **"MRO"** means a licensed physician, either a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy, or other medical or scientific expert knowledgeable in drug abuse disorders, employed to help the lab interpret, evaluate, and monitor its drug-testing program.

"Mississippi High School Activities Association Sanctioned Events" means athletics, band, cheerleading, chorus, debate and dance.

"Negative drug test" means a drug or alcohol test that does not show evidence of alcohol or a prohibited drug in a student's system.

"Positive drug test" means a drug or alcohol test that indicates the presence of alcohol or a prohibited drug in a student's system.

"Prescription or non-prescription medication" mean a drug prescribed for use by a duly licensed physician, dentist or other medical practitioner licensed to issue prescriptions or a drug that is authorized pursuant to federal or state law for general distribution and use without a prescription in the treatment of human diseases, ailments or injuries.

"Prohibited drug" means any drug which is considered a part of the group of drugs listed in Section V of this Drug Testing Policy.

"Random testing" means a neutral selection basis of testing for drugs and/or alcohol which provides a mechanism for selecting students for testing that: (1) results in an equal probability that any student from a pool of students subject to the selection mechanism will be selected, and (2) does not give UCSD and school personnel the discretion to waive the selection of any student selected under the mechanism.

"Reasonable suspicion drug or alcohol testing" means drug and alcohol testing based on a founded suspicion that a student is in possession of or is using or has used drugs in violation of this policy as indicated in Article X.

"Refusal" means the donor will only be allowed two (2) attempts to collect a specimen and if unable to provide specimen, it will be considered a refusal. A refusal will be deemed a "positive drug test result."

"Student" means all students enrolled in a Union County School who participate, or who have expressed an intention to participate, in any extracurricular activity. **"Specimen"** means a tissue or product of the human body chemically capable of revealing the presence of drugs or alcohol in the human body.

V. PROHIBITED DRUGS

The Principal shall designate those drugs for which tests shall be administered.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

All students participating in any extracurricular activity and their parents or guardians will be notified of this policy. The Principal shall be responsible for the fair, impartial, and complete implementation of this policy and for ensuring the no-notice, surprise nature of all testing.

VII. CONSENT/REFUSAL TO CONSENT

All students participating in any extracurricular activity including activities of the MHSAA and the parents/guardians of students shall be asked to sign a consent form acknowledging the policy authorizing the test for prohibited drugs as provided for in this policy and consenting to the release of the test results to the Union County School District and the parents/guardians of the student. Results may also be released to the Superintendent or his/her designee, the school principal, and coaches/directors/ sponsors on a need- to-know and confidential basis. A suggested consent form is attached to this policy. **If a student and/or the student's parent/guardian decline or fail to sign the consent form, the student will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity including activities governed by the MHSAA.**

VIII. RANDOM TESTING

Students as defined in Section IV of this policy will be tested on a random basis for use of prohibited drugs. The random testing shall not be announced or revealed prior to the time of commencement and shall be conducted on a no-notice, surprise basis. Administrative staff shall not be involved in the collection, storage, labeling, or handling of specimens from random testing. The UCSD Superintendent shall determine the percentage of students tested in any one (1) random test, not to exceed 20%.

IX. REASONABLE SUSPICION FOR ILLEGAL DRUG/UNAUTHORIZED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION POSSESSION OR USE

Any student who by reasonable suspicion is believed to be under the influence or has possession of drugs shall be subject to being tested. Reasonable suspicion may include, but not limited to specific observations which are articulated concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the student.

X. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Breath, urine, hair, and saliva specimens may be collected under reasonable and sanitary conditions. Individual dignity and privacy will be preserved to the extent practicable. Universally accepted standards for testing, labeling, storage, and transportation of specimens will be strictly followed by the testing agent. The MRO will request information before each confirmation test regarding prescription and non -prescription drugs and any other information, which could lead to a false positive test. Athletic Department staff members shall not be involved in specimen collection.

XI. TESTING PROCEDURES

Baptist Memorial Hospital, Union County has been designated by UCSD to perform all initial drug and alcohol tests. The hospital will be responsible for the handling and safe delivery of all positive specimens to the confirmation laboratory and such delivery will be accomplished through proper chain of custody procedures. The UCSD nursing staff may assist as needed.

XII. FINDING OF DRUG USE CONSEQUENCE

If the initial test for drugs indicates a negative result, no further test will occur unless there is good reason to suspect the quality of the specimen sample. If the initial test indicates a positive result, a confirmation test will be conducted immediately. Should the confirmation test also indicate a positive result, the Administrator will notify the student and the student's parent/guardian in writing of such positive test results.

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences are cumulative for an athlete during their 7-12 athletic participation.

Students who test positive during the off season of the sport in which they participate will be subject to the Consequences below once the season begins.

Refusal: If a refusal occurs, it will be considered a positive test result.

First Positive: When a positive result is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s), as defined in section XII and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The following will occur: 1.) The student will **not** be allowed to participate in any extracurricular school event or event sanctioned by the MHSAA for a minimum of seven (7) days after notification **and** until he or she tests negative. The student will be tested on or after the seven (7) days. If the student does not pass this test, it is considered the student's second positive. 2.) The student will not be allowed to participate in **physical practice activity** until he or she tests negative. Example: The student will not be able to run, lift weights, throw, etc. without a negative result. 3.) The student's grade may not be negatively impacted due to lack of participation in practice or event. Alternate assignments may be used. 4.) Any student who tests positive will be subject to subsequent testing once a month for the following six (6) months at the parents' expense. A school nurse or school designee will accompany for the follow up testing. Drug counseling is highly recommended by the district.

Second Positive: When a second positive test is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s), as defined in section XII, and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The following will occur: 1.) The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular school event or event sanctioned by the MHSAA for a minimum of thirty (30) days after notification **and** until he or she tests negative. The student will be tested on or after the 30 days. If the student does not pass this test, it is considered the student's third positive. 2.) The student will **not** be allowed to participate in **physical practice activity** until he or she tests negative. Example: The student will not be able to run, lift weights, throw, etc. without a negative result. 3.) The student's grade may not be negatively impacted due to lack of participation in practice or event. Alternate assignments may be used. 4.) Any student who tests positive will be subject to subsequent testing once a month for the following six (6) months at the parents' expense. A school nurse or school designee will accompany for the follow up testing. Drug counseling is highly recommended by the district.

Third Positive: When a third positive test is verified and confirmed, the school contact person(s), as defined in section XII, and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified. The following will occur: 1.) The student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular school event or event sanctioned by the MHSAA for ninety (90) days after the notification and until he or she tests negative. The student will be tested on or after the 90 days. 2.) The student will **not** be allowed to participate in **physical practice activity** until he or she tests negative. Example: The student will not be able to run, lift weights, throw, etc. without a negative result. 3.) The student's grade may not be negatively impacted due to lack of participation in practice or events. Alternate assignments may be used. 4.) Any student who tests positive will be subject to subsequent testing once a month for the

following six (6) months at the parents' expense. A school nurse or school designee will accompany for the follow up testing. Drug counseling is highly recommended by the district.

XIII. APPEAL

A student has the right to appeal a decision of the Athletic Department by following the complaint procedures as outlined in School Board Policy. Participation in extracurricular activities including MHSAA programs at Union County Schools is a privilege only and the student has no property right or interests in participation.

XIV. CONFIDENTIALITY

The results of a student's drug and/or alcohol test shall not be released to anyone other than the lab, the Principal, and the student's parents/guardians. Results may also be released to the Superintendent or his designee, and coaches/directors/sponsors on a need-to-know and confidential basis. No other person may receive the test results of a student without the express authorization and consent of the student and his/her parent/guardian.

XV. COST

UCSD will bear the cost of all drug and alcohol tests required by UCSD for students. The student or his/her parent/guardian will pay the costs of any additional testing.

XVI. DRUG EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

UCSD provides drug and alcohol education at several levels. UCSD highly recommends drug education and counseling as a prerequisite to continuing to participate in the athletic program.

XVII. USE OF PRESCRIPTION OR LEGAL NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

UCSD recognizes that from time to time its students, for medical reasons, may take certain drugs prescribed by their physician including certain prohibited drugs. UCSD also recognizes that students may, from time to time, for various medical reasons take certain non-prescription drugs. Any student who needs to take prescription or non-prescription drugs may (but is not required to) notify the school nurse or an athletic department staff member and provide a copy of the prescription, or in the case of non-prescription drugs, a note from the parent/guardian that the student has permission to possess and take the non-prescription drugs. The prescription or the note should state how long the student will be taking the drugs. Both the prescription and the note should be specific about the type or description of the drug to be taken. The school nurse and staff member shall keep the information confidential and in a secure location.

Prior to an initial drug and alcohol test, a student may voluntarily disclose the use of any prescription or non-prescription drugs, but will not be required to do so. If the initial test results are positive, the MRO shall request from the student and/or the parent/guardian information regarding what, if any, prescription and non-prescription drugs the student was using at the time of the test.

Information regarding a student's need for and possession and use of prescription and non-prescription drugs is considered confidential, sensitive, and private. The information is necessary and will only be used for the assistance of the student needing the medications, the safety of that student and other students, and, in the event of a positive initial test result, to assist the lab in determining possible causes of a false-positive test.



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a More Perfect UNION

APPENDIX / FORM

Parent and Student Handbook Agreement

Check the appropriate lines that apply:

Both student and parent/guardian must sign at the bottom.

___ I have received a copy of the 2025-2026 student handbook and I understand that it is my responsibility to read its contents and explain to my child.

___ We have read and understand the student handbook and Code of Conduct and pledge our support in helping to enforce the rules and regulations set forth therein.

___ We agree to allow our student to be photographed and/or videotaped during a school activity that may or may not be released to the media, in a press release or posted on the district's social media.

___ We understand that students have no right to privacy when using school/district Internet network(s), and I consent to the monitoring of my communications over the Internet by school/district staff. We understand that any conduct that causes conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of Internet access and possible disciplinary action.

___ The student accepts responsibility to abide by the school district's board-approved policy IJ/Acceptable Use on the Internet Network Access and by procedures stated on the Agreement. The student understands it is my responsibility to read the Agreement found on the resources tab of the UCSD website and understand the use of the Internet and access to it is a privilege and not a right. Policy @<https://tinyurl.com/4dmfv7ee>

___ The parent/legal guardian of this student has read the board-adopted policies on Internet Acceptable Use by Student IJ, the administrative procedures, and the Internet Network Access Agreement found on the UCSD website on the Resources tab. I agree to compensate the school/district for any expenses or costs it incurs as a result of my child's violation of Internet policies or administrative procedures.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and checked the appropriate lines that apply to you/your child.

Date Signed: _____

Print Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a More Perfect UNION

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION PERMISSION REQUEST FORM

Union County School District School Medication Authorization

School Year: _____

Student _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade _____ School _____

Teacher _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Medication _____ Dosage _____ Route _____ Time(s) to give _____

Reason for Medication _____ Start Date _____ Stop Date _____

Side effects/precautions _____

Provider signature _____

Print Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

My signature in the space below assures that:

1. I hereby give my permission for my child to receive the stated medication at school;
2. I assume full responsibility and will inform school staff of any medication changes or health status;
3. I hereby release UCSD, their agents, and employees from any and all liability that may occur as a result of medication administration;
4. I will provide a new medication form each school year and each time the dose/medication changes;

Signature of parent or guardian _____ Phone _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL NURSE

Signature of school nurse _____



Drug Testing Consent Form for Grades 7-12

PLEASE PRINT STUDENT'S NAME: _____

We, the parents or legal guardians along with the student athlete, acknowledge that we have received a copy of the Union County School District **Drug Testing Policy for MHSAA and extracurricular activities**. We acknowledge that we have had the opportunity to read and understand the policy and agree to comply with the rules and regulations of this program. We hereby consent to pre-season testing/ random testing, throughout the year and to testing for steroid use in the circumstance of reasonable suspicion. We authorize the confidential release of the results of the testing to the Principal, to the parents or guardians and as provided in the policy.

BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN BELOW Parent

Signature: _____

Student

Signature: _____ Grade: _____

Last 4 digits of SSN#: _____

Date: _____



PERMIT TO OPERATE AN AUTOMOBILE ON CAMPUS

By signing the following document, I am affirming that I have read and will follow the driving regulations set forth in the section entitled "AUTOMOBILES" in this handbook. I also affirm that I will operate my vehicle in a safe and courteous manner while on Union County School District property.

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____
(print name)

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

By completing and signing the following document, I am affirming that my child has valid MS driver's license and automobile insurance. I also affirm that I am authorizing him/her to drive to and from school.

Student's driver's license number

Name and address of automobile insurer

Phone number of insurance company

Insurance policy number

Tag# _____

Make/Model of Vehicle _____

Parent's name: _____
(print name)

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY BEFORE ANY STUDENT CAN OPERATE A VEHICLE ON THE CAMPUS OF ANY UNION COUNTY SCHOOL



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a More Perfect UNION

PARENT NOTE EXCUSE FORM

Student's Legal Name: _____

Date of Absence(s): _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Please excuse _____ (Child's Full Name) for being absent on the days listed above. Please check the absence reason that applies.

- _____ Illness or injury. *Any illness or injury longer than 3 days can only be excused by a medical professional
- Death or serious illness of immediate family member.
- Court appearance.
- Other reason.

Explanation

This excuse must be received within **2 days** of your child's absence. If an excuse is not received in the time required the absence will be considered unexcused. If you have any questions, please contact the secretary at the school.

Phone Number: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

